**St Mary’s**

**Small Things with Great Love**

Dear St Mary’s families, welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. I trust that you had a safe and happy half term.

 It will be a busy half term in school. In addition to all of our learning and sports activities we will be carrying on our giving theme.

Last half term as part of The Macmillan Coffee morning we collected for daffodil bulbs. Every child has planted a daffodil bulb in one of the tubs that are in our front playground. We have placed them there so that when they do flower in spring everyone can enjoy them as a sign of light and hope. We will then plant them in the remembrance garden in the school grounds which is to be dedicated to Mrs Pauline…., a much loved teaching assistant who sadly lost her battle with cancer last year.

**Shoe Box Appeal**

Mrs Foley is coordinating the Shoe Box Appeal. Involving your children in filling a shoe box with items can be a very worthwhile activity. If you are not able to fill a whole box then please think about bringing in a single item.

For young children then the must have items include : toiletries, note books, pens, stickers and small toys.

Shoe box items should be in school by Tuesday 6th November

**Remembrance Events – be a peacemaker**

We will be combing the Remembrance events with the theme of being a peacemaker which fits into our work on respecting and valuing others. In school every child will make a poppy which will be displayed as our ‘be a peace maker’ work.

On Friday 9th November we will gather in the school hall at 10.40 for a short service of thanks for those who gave us the freedoms and peace we all enjoy today. At 11.00 we will have a one minute silence. Families are welcome to join us.

9th November 2018 10.40 in the hall remembrance service – to be lead by older pupils

On Sunday 11th November at The Minster Church some of our oldest pupils will lay a wreath as part of the Axminster Remembrance Day Service. St Mary’s families are very welcome to attend this event.

**Respect and value**

Week beginning 12th November is Children in Need, Choose Respect Week ( Anti Bullying Week ) and UK Parliament Week. Each class will be taking part in different class based activities and we will have shared assemblies on Monday and Friday. On Friday 16th November will be our Children in Need fundraiser – £1 for children in need – our theme will be ‘wear something bright’.

Wednesday 14th November is World Diabetes Day, which KS2 will mark in school with an awareness assembly, as we have children and families who live with diabetes.

**Advent and Christmas Services**

Sunday 25th November is the first Sunday in Advent. In the noise and the business of preparing for the excitement of Christmas, Advent gives us a season to stop and reflect on ways to find inner peace and joy.

Firm dates will be shared as soon as possible for these events :

Week beginning 10th December – KS1 and KS2 services TBC

Week beginning 17th December Christmas Carols in School

Friday 21st December 10.00am Christmas Mass