Newsletter February 15th 2019



This half term has again been very productive. Thank you to all for your continued support at St Mary’s.

We are working hard to develop all aspects of school life. All staff are very committed to our challenge in getting to good. There are many systems and processes that we are working on. We have regular visits from CAST advisors who continue to identify the steps forward we are taking. There is still much to do.

Those parents who attend our Friday celebration assemblies will know that we are using our school values to ensure that children know what good learning looks like, what they each need to do in lessons to achieve that and what they need to do next to aim higher. Building these learning powers has been a key focus and it is wonderful to recognise that the vast majority of our children have the skills and attitudes to maintain these all of the time. Children that haven’t got there yet are being supported and challenged to develop the motivations to be ‘green’ learners.

Eagle Class had parent consultations this week and feedback on pupil work and learning attitudes was positive. All classes will have consultation evenings at the end of the spring term but if you have any worries or concerns, suggestions or feedback please do speak to your child’s class teacher.

Wishing you a safe and happy half term break.

**School Council Projects**

The school council have completed a project started by last student councillors last year ; 50 things we should have done before we leave St Mary’s. The document combines thoughts of all children in school. We are currently typing it up and will share it with you early next half term.

The school council have been auditing areas of the school to look at how tidy they are. From this they have been looking at ways to recycle and next half term will be working with the Recycle Devon team on ways to improve our recycling.

**Owl Homework Project Success**

Parents may have noticed children arriving in to school this week carrying a range of models and artefacts. Owl class were given an extended homework reflecting their class learning. The children ( and their families ) have responded with great enthusiasm. The theme has been our planet. Well done to everyone who has taken part. We will be celebrating this in our celebration assembly today.

**BBC 2 500 words –https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1**

The 500 words competition closing date is not until 7pm on 8th March 2019. It is open to children aged from 5 to 13. Please check out the site. There are lots of videos and activities. If your child does submit a story they will receive a certificate. I could make a very good half term holiday activity.

**Our daffodils**

We’ve got a few daffodils brightening up the front of our school. It is looking as though the full colour will happen in the half term break. These daffodils are from the bulbs we planted as part of our Autumn term whole school project; we can do small things with great love.

There is a single daffodil for every one of our pupils and these will eventually be planted in our memorial garden in memory of Mrs Pauline Harris a much loved support teacher who lost her battle with cancer last year. Daffodils are the symbol for Marie Curie, a charity that nurses and supports people and their families through this most difficult time.

A few weeks ago Mrs Burrough arranged a quiz event at Tigar Way The event raised £800.00 for the works to transform the memorial garden. We are very much looking forward to it being completed soon.

**Our journey from Lent to Easter** will begin with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season when we share the events in Jesus’ life as he prayed and fasted for 40 days and then was charged by the Romans and eventually died and then rose again. For Christians Easter is the most significant season in the year.

There are many opportunities for us to stop and learn about ourselves and what we value and care about. During Lent we will have a series of whole school celebrations:

Ash Wednesday

Before we break up for Easter we will mark the events during

During Lent we will take part in The Cafod fund raiser ‘Give it Up’ so that we can send funds to help some of the very poorest children and communities across the world. Further details will be shared as soon as we return to school.

**Mouth guards**

All children in Owls, Kestrels and Eagles will need mouth guards along with shin pads after half term for their P.E lessons. Please make sure your child has what they need. We are selling mouth guards in school at £1.50 each.

**Swimming**

Owls Class will be having their final swimming session on the week we return after half term. Woodpeckers Class will then start their lessons on Wednesday 6th March. Please make sure your child has their kit in school every Wednesday for this.

**PTFA Events**

Friday 1st March- Easter Bingo and non school uniform day

Wednesday 3rd April- Easter garden competition

Friday 5th July-Summer Fete and sponsored dance

**Road Closure**

We have been informed that there will be a road closure from **27th February to 4th March**. This will be from the entrance of Stoney Lane up the Lyme Road as far as The Lamb pub. This means there will be no car access to any one during this time. As such, parents will need to make alternative parking arrangements and walk their children on the pavements to school.

**HALFF**

We are hoping to be involved with an exciting new project with HALFF charity in Axminster surrounding the fitness, diet and wellbeing needs of everyone that lives, works and goes to school in Axminster. HALFF would love to get your views to find out what can be done to help us live a fit and healthy lifestyle. It only takes a few moments to complete and can be done so anonymously. This questionnaire is for parents to complete and we will be working with the children in school to get their views and ideas. Please use this link which will take you to the questionnaire <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewt88OnDGcKwXnrlGcklizdhnujPqT6h46eqagbwNhkaCDeA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1>