

**Newsletter 19th July 2019**

**Staffing 2019 to 20**

Children have been meeting their new teachers over the last week.

We are all very excited about having such a strong and positive team of adults at

St Mary’s next year.

Eagle Class Miss Bray and Mrs Gill with Mrs Desanges and Mrs Walters

Kestrel Class Mrs Fudger and Mrs Hogarth with Miss Crouch

Owl Class we welcome Mrs Burnell and Mrs Hutton

Woodpecker Class we welcome Miss Wood with Mrs Sakowska

Robin Class Mrs Burrough, Mrs Slade and Mrs Foley

In addition, we welcome Mrs Charlotte Gibbs who will be teaching some of the music classes this year.

Mr Munane will continue to teach PE across the school.

Miss Clist will continue to work as the pastoral support worker.

Our lunchtime staff will continue to make play and lunch a very positiveexperience: Mrs Walters, Miss McGovern, Miss Taylor and Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Galloway

Our office will be managed by Mrs Newcome and Mrs Blathwayt.

Not forgetting our caretaker Mr Wilson and Mel our catering manager. Although both technically work for Devon Norse they are very much valued as members of our staff team.

Last but definitely not least we are delighted that Mr Swift, our lollipop man, will **be staying with us next half term.** As you know he planned to retire but in the absence of finding a replacement he has kindly agreed to stay with us. We are hoping that he will still be with us in October when he will celebrate 10 years in his role. If you get a chance, please do take a moment to thank him for his work. He is there come rain or shine, always with a smile and often a joke or two. Thank you to all those who have kindly donated money for a leaving gift. We will keep this until he retires in October.

**National Test Results**

Our Year 6 have worked positively and we were delighted for them when they achieved the following results :

Reading 92% Writing 84 % Maths 100%

Across the school our data results were very positive and showed that our emphasis on maths this year has had a very positive impact. Mrs Gill and myself have worked with leaders from High View primary in Plymouth. This is a long term outstanding teaching school. Mrs Burrough took part in a research study with the school and has worked with their Early Years Lead. Next year through this partnership we have been accepted to begin a research project with the Jurassic Maths Hub: a national maths teaching centre which runs through The Woodroffe School in Lyme Regis.

**Partnership Learning**

As well as working with High View and the national Maths Hub we have worked with Colyton Grammar and Axe Valley this year on a range of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths ). A development of one of the projects resulted in two of our year 5 pupils making it through to a science final project at Colyton and one of our year 5 and 6 maths teams winning a Colyton Maths Championship against 8 other teams.

**Ofsted Visit**

We were notified by telephone on Monday 1st July that we would have a two day inspection on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July. The HMI inspector had spent several weeks reviewing data and information about our school and had set specific areas of focus in advance of the inspection. During the two days he talked to children, staff, parents and governors and much of the time I shadowed him and we had many meetings, sharing detail and evidence about all aspects of school life.

It was a very focussed and intensive two days.

The inspector did explain that Ofsted have 17 days to return the final report which could mean we will not have this before the end of term. We are all hoping it will be finalised before we close for the holiday. I will email information as soon as it is released.

**Invited Experts**

Kestrel Class worked with a brain surgeon last week. Dr Cheserem was born in Nigeria. As a child she aspired to be a doctor but was told because she was female and from a background without money she would never be able to achieve this. She told us that this drove her to prove the world wrong. Once she qualified as a doctor she then decided that she would be a brain surgeon as this is one of the highest achieving specialist roles within medicine.

Now a consultant brain surgeon in Cardiff she enjoys giving up some of her time to work with young people to share what she does and also to encourage them to aim high and show resilience: two of our learning values.

The children really enjoyed the experience and were truly inspired by.

Photos and details of the above can be found on our website.

**Year 6 leavers journey**

SAT, school play and residential (almost) over, all completed with skill and enthusiasm, Year 6 will take their final steps on their journey next week.

We are all so pleased for the young people they have become. Each one of them a very special individual, offering such different talents and skills to the world, they have each had a most positive year and are excited to step into secondary where we are sure they will each continue to be a success.

On Monday morning they will celebrate the final mass and then Tuesday morning will be their leaver’s assembly. Please support them if you are able to.

**Library Summer Read and Workshops**

We enjoyed a visit from one of the Axminster Librarians this week.

So many children were keen to sign up for the summer read and to take part in the Saturday workshops running through the summer. Both of these opportunities are free so please do make use of them if possible. Every child taking part in the summer read will receive badges and a medal on completion as well as having the fun and benefits of reading books over the summer. I have attached a poster with further information

**Public Speaking**

Congratulations to Uriel , Will , Poppy, Louisa and Emanuella for their part in our school Public Speaking Finals 2019. Jonas and Finley were selected too but were unable to attend due to family commitments.

The theme was ‘people who make a difference’. Their speeches were really well researched and presented. Judges discussed at length the different strengths of Poppy and Louisa’s speeches and after much deliberation agreed that Poppy should be this year’s winner.

Inspired by Emily Pankhurst, Poppy explained how she stood up for what she believed in and the difference she has made to women for ever.

It was a most inspiring event

**Moon Landing**

We have shared with the children the moon landing on 22nd July 1969 in advance of the 50 th anniversary of this incredible event. We looked at in relation to our own values to have a go and to aim high as well as the amount of resilience and team work over many years.

The event has been on the radio and news over the last week and the original recordings of the famous ‘"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Have been replayed a lot over the last week.

If you have the opportunity then do take time to check out this historic event on line where you will find photos of the original Apollo 11 and of the astronauts.

**Some forward information**

Live wisely, think deeply and love generously.

During the Autumn term we will share this theme with a variety of whole school and class events. We have some confirmed events and some still in the planning stages so we will look forward to sharing these with you in September.

Our year 4 and 5 have this year worked on a range of projects to look at democracy and rights as well as positive actions to make a difference. This has been a thread running through Kestrel and Eagle Class this year. On September 26th they will be going to Parliament in London for workshops on debate and to see the chambers where decisions are made. This is part funded through an initiative with our local MP, Neil Parish. A letter will be sent to parents at the very start of the term with further details.

**Catering Update**

Our catering providers have reviewed their policies and practice in light of a recent allergy incident. They sometimes will switch meals from those selected by parents. An example would be if the child has tried noodles but has not liked them then a baked potato will be given to them. They have informed us that they will no longer do this so ask that you do check with your child what is being ordered and ensure that it is food they are happy to eat.

We also always ask our children not to offer or eat food from others lunch boxes and hot meals and a reminder form you would be appreciated.

If you are aware that your child has an intolerance or allergy that you have not reported please do let us know immediately. Please book your child’s meals via parentpay ready for when we return in September.

Wishing you a very positive, and safe summer break.

Best wishes from all of the staff

And we look forward to Wednesday 4th September when school re starts.