St Mary’s Catholic Primary School

Newsletter Number 9 09.02.18

**Thank You to You**

Dear parents and carers we have felt so welcomed by parents since our start on 4th January. We have really appreciated the way that you have all responded to the new routines for the start and the end of the day and the efforts made to ensure that children arrive on time and prepared for the school day.

We wish you a safe and happy half term and look forward to welcoming you back next half term.

**Sad goodbye**

We said goodbye to Mrs Hays on Wednesday. Mrs Hays has been a very important member of our admin team and will be much missed in the school. We had a special assembly sharing cards and gifts to thank her for her commitment and enthusiasm. We are sure that you will join us in wishing Mrs Hays a very successful time in her new full time role as business manager in an Exeter school.

**Safer Internet Tuesday 6th February**

This annual event provides us with an opportunity to focus on the positives of accessing the internet and also the challenges that young people might face. More and more children at younger ages are accessing on line resources and we need to be educated to ensure that we can provide them with the tools to stay safe. A reminder that the website [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk) is a valuable resource for parents and children.

Thank you to the school council for their support with this event.

**School Council**

St Mary’s have a very positive group of elected school councillors this year. Weekly meetings have already allowed us to organise a whole school pupil questionnaire that identified what children think is going well and what they thought could be improved.

It was lovely to read that St Mary’s children enjoy their friendships and recognise the many kind and polite children in the school. To build on this we are introducing a whole school behaviour system that allows those who are always well behaved to know that we recognise and value their attitudes for friendship and learning. This will start after half term.

Children also identified that they would like more activities for playground play. The cold, wet weather does limit play to our large hard court area so we have been delighted with the skip a thon activities. To begin to develop this further the PTFA have kindly agreed to fund two activity boxes; one for Owls and Eagles and a second for Robins and Woodpeckers. After half term we will be trialling some activities and getting feedback from the children about further ideas and activities.

**School Trips**

Children fed back to the school council that they enjoy school trips and would like more. Trips can really add to children’s learning experiences, given them first hand and shared experiences to develop their knowledge and skills. Teachers carefully select relevant trips and lots of work goes into planning and organising these to ensure that they are as cost effective and beneficial as possible. Without your financial support we are unable to make these trips happen.

We will try to give as much notice as possible to help parents plan in making any payments. Thank you very much in advance for your support.

**Skipathon**

Mrs Burroughs coordinated the skipping ropes the lessons and the timetable for our Skipathon in aid of the British Heart Foundation. Thank you for your generous support – we will keep you updated about how much the children raised in sponsorship.

**Fire Drill**

On Wednesday this week we had a fire drill. This will happen half termly to ensure that children and staff are clear of the procedures that will keep us all safe. Children were very calm and were quickly returned to the work following the drill.

**Quicksticks Festival**

On Thursday 8th February we hosted a quick sticks festival for local schools. Our year 5 and 6 pupils represented St Mary’s. The afternoon was a great success and St Mary’s were delighted to be named as champions. Well done.

**Swimming**

Owls have now completed their swimming session. Well done to the children for their hard work and success and to the parent volunteers who made the weekly walk to the Leisure Centre possible. Next Woodpeckers will start swimming on Tuesday afternoons starting straight after half term. Parent volunteers very welcome to accompany the children to and from the Leisure Centre. If you are able to contribute then please do let the office know if Miss Robbins is not already aware.

**Government offer – Robin and Woodpecker children are all entitled to a daily school meal and to fresh fruit, which are provided by the Government. If your child is having a packed lunch from home but you would like them to enjoy a hot dinner then please do look up the menu on ParentPay or pop into the office to collect a paper copy and consider opting for a hot meal.**

**Please check if you qualify for the pupil premium grant for your child. This is an additional payment that the Government makes to allow us to access extra funding.** [**freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk**](mailto:freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk) **Helpline 0845 155 1019**

**Friday Celebration Assembly**

Our celebration assembly is now every Friday at 3.00p.m. Father Anthony joins us each week to celebrate the children’s achievements as well as sharing with us wise words and blessings. We look forward to welcoming parents and grandparents.

**Future Diary Dates**

Monday 19th February Children back to school

Tuesday 20th February Woodpeckers class swimming 1st session

Friday 23rd February Ash Wednesday Service 2.30pm

Wednesday 28th February Bags to School

Stockland Cross Country

Thursday 1st March Robins class cake sale 3.30pm

Monday 5th March Year 6 Residential payment deadline



Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on the world.