



February 10th 2023 - St Mary's CE School Newsletter

SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD

From Mr Liddle



Dear Parents and Carers,

Can you believe that we have reached the halfway point through the academic year! It only seems like yesterday the children were settling into their new classes and meeting their new teachers.

This week has been another busy one for everyone at St Mary's and I think that we are all looking forward to the half term break.

On Monday our Year 6 Netball team, who were only formed this year, played in a tournament within the Aylesbury School Sports Partnership.

On Wednesday Miss Flower organised the KS2 Interhouse Cross Country event.

You can find a more detailed sports report later on in the newsletter.

As you may be aware we secured the Platinum Award, the highest level, for our school travel plan and we have now been nominated for the 2023 National STARS School Travel Awards. This follows our work that the JRSOs have done to promote walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel for the journey to school. Please see below for further details.

Today, Year 5 have had workshops from Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) the UK's leading anti-racism educational charity. Established in January 1996, thanks in part to a donation by then Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop, SRtRC utilises the high-profile status of football and football players to help tackle racism in society.

This week we have also been supporting Children's Mental Health Week with its theme of 'Let's Connect'. We started the week with a special Collective Worship when we discussed and encouraged everyone to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. Throughout the week classes have completed activities around this important theme and we ended the week with a Dress to Express day: an opportunity for self-expression and celebrating a diverse range of emotions. The day also provides a great opportunity to be open about mental health and start conversations within our community.

Wishing you all a happy and safe half term break whatever you have planned with your family and friends! We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 20th February!

Take care and stay safe.

David

Sport at St Mary's



It has certainly been a very busy week for sport at St Mary's!

On Monday, a group of 9 children in Year 6 went to the Aylesbury Schools Netball Tournament. It is the first time in 5 years that the school has had a netball team, and this was the first opportunity for them to play together. There were eight teams in total and, after drawing their first two matches, the team went on a winning streak all the way through to the final, which they won 3-2 against Ashmead. A massive well done to all the children who took part – we are incredibly proud of you – and a big thank you to Mrs Richards and Mrs Honeybourne who have been working so hard with

them in training. We have a number of other matches coming up over the next half-term, so let's hope we can replicate our success at these.

Wednesday afternoon saw the return of inter-house competitions, with a KS2 cross country event. We very lucky with the weather – the sun shone and the field was nowhere near as muddy as it has been in the past! The staff were incredibly impressed by the determination and perseverance that all the children displayed, as well as the support offered by the spectators to those running. Congratulations to everyone who took part. As you can see it was a very tightly contested event, won by Lee by just one point:

1st

Lee - 233 points

2nd

Hampden - 232 points

3rd

Cook - 199 points

4th

Rothschild - 177 points

We will also be using the results of this competition to select our team for the upcoming inter-schools cross country event in March, held at Ascott House. Letters will be coming out after half-term.

Finally, on Wednesday evening, a group of year 5 and 6 girls took part in an inter-schools football event. Whilst some children had the opportunity to work on their skills, with the aim of improving their confidence before future matches, others participated in a mini tournament against 7 other schools. They demonstrated a real team spirit and a fantastic work ethic throughout the evening. All the matches were very closely fought with some fantastic goals scored by St Mary's.

2023 National Travel Awards

We would like to share with you the great news that we have been nominated for the **2023 National STARS School Travel Awards**.

This follows our recent success in achieving Platinum Level in the **Modeshift STARS accreditation** for the work that we have done to promote walking, cycling and other forms of sustainable travel for the journey to and from school. Of the 3,500 schools that are signed up to Modeshift STARS, we are one of just **117** schools across the country that have been nominated for the **2023 National Awards. There are 10 schools in Buckinghamshire!**

We have been invited to attend the **Modeshift STARS Regional Awards** for our region along with the other nominated schools from our area. The regional awards are an opportunity to thank us for the hard work our Junior Road Safety Officers have put in and to celebrate our amazing Modeshift STARS journey.

The event will consist of a 1-hour, online webinar, on the 10th March, which all the children will take part in and will culminate with the presentations of the **Modeshift STARS 'School of the Local Authority'** and **'School of the Region'** awards. The winning **'STARS Schools of the Region'** will be invited to London to represent our region at an in-person **National STARS School Travel Awards** event that will take place in **June**.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and commitment in helping us get this far and hope that you are as excited as we are.

Star of the Week



Each week a child, who has exemplified our Christian Values (Love, Hope, Respect, Compassion, Forgiveness and Truth) from every class is chosen to receive the Star of the Week Award.

Well done to the children who are Star of the Week this week: Kieran C, Albie B, Jaxon H, Poppy H, Anastasia C, Teri G, James G, Anaaya K, Kayla C, Oana M, Petru S, Imogen F.

Learning Power Awards



We use Learning Powers to develop our 'Language for Learning' in school and this enables us to engage all pupils in a dialogue using a common language to support and develop our understanding of how we learn.

It is our intention that the children use the language for learning to explain ways in which they achieved or approached tasks and how they can move on to the next chapter in their learning.

These learning powers are; have a go, don't give up, concentrate, be curious, keep improving, ask questions and cooperate.

Congratulations to the following children who have received a Learning Power Award this week:
Annie B, Emily M, Raylan B, Aleeza A, Millie M, Aaron M, Stanley D, Nancy S, Iustin C, Corey S, Tyler S, Lucas G.

Good Learning Board



Many congratulations to the children who will have their names displayed on the Good Learning Board:

Kaia M, Oliver H, Nathan T, Layla L, Toby S, Karis P, Freya W, Sophie B, James F, Neri A, Sajesan V, Euan H.

Super Scientist Award



The following pupils have been awarded the Super Scientist Award:

Poppy B, Elsie G, Olivia B, Pablo P L, Max M, Olsan S, Ted R, Dominic H, Evangeline S, Sophia C-M, Isabelle H, Alfie F.

Congratulations goes to all of them.

House Points



Congratulations to Hampden who have won the most house points this half term and have won a Mufti day on Friday 24th February.

Wear green with pride!

PTA News



Name Labels

With the amount of lost property in school growing on a daily basis in mind (how can they lose so much!), the PTA have links with the following companies that provide us with commissions from

each sale. These are also useful for Year 4 and Year 6 parents thinking about preparing for the residential trips.

- MyNameTags.com¹ - We will earn 24% of the value of each order for the school! Our school ID is 24718.
- <https://www.stikins.co.uk>² - School code 20765
- <https://stamptastic.co.uk>³ - School Code HP197WF

Easyfundraising

Easyfundraising.co.uk is a quick and easy way to raise money for the school whilst doing your online shopping. All you need to do is register as a member of our school on easyfundraising.co.uk, then go through them to your normal shopping sites. This then earns the school money and does not cost you a penny more!

Dates for your diary:

3rd March - Disco for all year groups

17th March - Someone Special Shop (Mothers' Day)

16th June - Someone Special Shop (Fathers' Day)

24th June - Summer Fayre

7th July - Leavers Disco (Year 6 only)

Contact us:

stmarys.pta@hotmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarysfairfordleys/?ref=share>

School Website



Please remember to check the school website⁴ for the school Calendar and other useful information.

¹<https://mynametags.com/>

²<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>

³<https://stamptastic.co.uk/>

Safeguarding & E-safety



If you have a concern about a child please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Bennett, or the Deputies, Mr Liddle, Miss Rolfe or Mrs Ilyas via the School Office on 01296 482094 or alternatively if out of school hours, weekends or holidays visit <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/concerned-about-child/> to report your concerns.

For more safeguarding information please visit our website. E-safety Unsure about what apps or games your child is accessing? Need some advice on how to support your child online? Visit the NSPCC Net-aware website by clicking here⁵ to get all the information you need or visit our school E-safety information by clicking here⁶.

⁴<https://www.st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk/>

⁵<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

⁶<https://www.st-marysylesbury.bucks.sch.uk/e-safety-2/>