Welcome to our first newsletter of the term. We hope you had a relaxing summer break and have settled back into school routines. As always, this is a very exciting and busy time of year, so please check the following page for dates of upcoming events to ensure you don’t miss out! We look forward to seeing you there.

**Collective Worship**

In Collective Worship, we introduced our new value of Friendship. We started by discussing that with a new school year, there are exciting changes, like new starts and new friends. We also thought about what it was that made a good friend and how we could all be good friends. The children shared ideas on how they had been a good friend that week or how someone had been a good friend to them. The children thought about different situations and what being a good friend would look like in each one. How will you be a good friend this week?
School Year Sept 2018—August 2019

W.c. Monday 24th September 2018—EYFS Full Time 8.50am—3.15pm
Wednesday 26th September 2018—Language Day
W.c. October 1st 2018—Maths Club Badges
Thursday 4th October 2018—Harvest Festival (Year 1, 2, 3 9.30am; Year 4, 5, 6 11am)
Wednesday 3rd October 2018—Walk in Wednesday
W.c. Monday 8th October 2018—Walk to School Week
Tuesday 16th October and Thursday 18th October 2018—Parents Evening
Wednesday 17th October 2018—Homework due in
Friday 19th October 2018—Training Day

Half Term—Friday 19th October—Friday 26th October 2018

Wednesday 7th November 2018—Walk in Wednesday—Maths
Friday 9th November 2018—Remembrance Day
Friday 9th November 2018—Reading homework out
W.c. Monday 12th November 2018—Anti-bullying week
Friday 16th November 2018—Children in Need
W.c. Monday 19th November 2018—Maths Club Badges
Friday 23rd November 2018—Christmas Craft Day
Friday 30th November 2018—Burton Latimer Light Switch on
Wednesday 5th December 2018—Walk in Wednesday—Reading
W.c. Monday 10th December 2018—Christmas Performances
Thursday 20th December 2018—KS2 Christmas Service
BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

Congratulations must go to the children who were picked as great role models for the school. These are:

- Albie Dickerson
- Jayden Gotts
- Maisey Tomlinson
- Ted Coles
- Willow Coles
- Shania Lenton
- Daisy Golding
- Elle Clark
- Anelis Salim
- Darcie Cardy

HOME ACHIEVEMENTS

It’s so wonderful to see children achieve outside of school as well as inside. Well done to the following children for their out of school achievements.

- Maisie McAlinden—being awarded a trophy for playing cricket
- Betsy Litster—Completing the library reading challenge over the summer holidays, reading 6 books including the Tiger Who Came for Tea.

*Don’t forget to book in with Mrs Reynolds for Home Achievement assembly on Tuesday.*
SPORT AT ST. MARY’S

This week, we were lucky enough to have members of the West Bromwich Albion community team come and visit us again. The team runs a programme that involves giving back to schools. All classes were lucky enough to participate in a 40 minute coaching session with the players. The sessions weren't centred around being able to play football, but the skill, thought and teamwork that goes with it. The children had to exercise control over the ball and work together in a range of team games, as well as learning some new fancy footwork along the way. It was great to see so many of the children enjoying the sessions, who previously thought they didn’t enjoy football!
READING AT ST. MARY’S

Reading is something that is very important to us at St. Mary’s. Here, you will now be able to find out about all of the reading activities in school, see the fortnightly reading leadership board for all classes, read a range of facts and information about reading and find ways that you can access different reading texts for your children.

Parents can do a lot to help their children ease back into the school-day routine. Helping them maintain their reading ability (or at least catch up before back-to-school) is one of the most important things you can do to set up your child for a successful school year. Here are ten back-to-school reading tips you can start doing right now:

1. Get back into a routine early. The sudden switch from holiday mode to school mode can be stressful for everyone in the household, so it’s always best to start as early as possible. If you had a regular reading time with your child in the afternoons or evenings, try to ease back into it as early as you can.

2. Give your child a special reading spot. After endless distractions over the break, it’s a good idea to make a special reading spot in the house which doubles up as a distraction-free zone. Make sure your child’s reading spot is quiet, comfortable, and within close range of a good selection of reading material.

3. Surround your child with books. Studies show that children who are constantly surrounded by books and reading material perform better in school than their peers who don’t. Try to make sure there is age-appropriate reading material around the house, on their devices, in the car and on-hand anytime your child has to wait.

4. Restrict television and video games. It can be hard for the humble book to compete with the bright lights and loud sounds of the television. Ease into having a set television or video game schedule and try to encourage reading time as a leisurely activity (hint: let your child watch you unwind with a good book – you’re their best role model!)

5. Be a good reading partner. It’s much more fun to read when you’re not forced to do it and don’t feel embarrassed about making mistakes. Take turns reading with your child and be patient and encouraging when they come across a word they don’t know. Make reading time a fun time to relax, unwind and bond after a long day.
6. **Re-read difficult sentences.** When your child has sounded out a difficult word, have them re-read the whole sentence one more time “with feeling”. Often children are too busy figuring out a word that they lose the meaning of what they’ve just read. Beginner readers will often guess wildly at a word based on its first letter.

7. **Create a book together.** Reignite your child’s enthusiasm for books and reading by creating your own homemade books. This fun activity helps children increase their concentration span and strengthen their reading and writing skills to ease them back into the swing of things at school.

8. **Find everyday opportunities to read.** You can’t overestimate the power of reading everyday items with your child, especially for beginner readers. Read aloud anything with words and encourage your child to see reading as a way of discovering the world. Read road signs, billboards, menus, and cereal boxes – anything with words on it!

9. **Restock your library.** Whether they’re the hardcovers on your bookshelf or the tap-and-swipe e-books on your device, you can inspire your child to get back into the reading habit with a fresh collection of new titles. Let them choose their own books and create their own personal collection to get them excited about diving back in.

10. **Choose books that are at the right level.** If your child has taken a long break from reading, you can help them pick it up again and avoid any discouragement by choosing a book that’s not too challenging or too boring for them. Use the Five Finger Rule to quickly and easily determine if a book is suitable for your child’s reading level.

The Five Finger Rule is a quick and easy way to see if a book is suitable for your child to read on their own. Before they start, turn to a random page in the book and ask your child to read the page. For every word that they don’t know, hold up a finger. Use the following guidelines according to how many fingers you end up with:

- **0 or 1** – Most probably too easy for your child
- **2** – A good choice that will give your child a reasonable challenge and allow them to learn new words.
- **3** – Your child might need some help, but still a good choice if they’re up for a challenge.
- **4** – May be too difficult for your child to read on their own. If you are on hand to give them help or read along with them it can be suitable, but if they are reading on their own, choose a different book.
**Immersion Day**

**Year 1/2 -**

We had a very exciting delivery on our first day back. In the hall, was an old, rusty chest with all sorts of treasures inside. We carefully took out each artefact at a time and began to piece together where and when the chest had come from and who had sent it. There were some interesting clues like a letter from Queen Victoria, a nurse’s kit, a photograph of a lady with a lamp, some golden syrup and some interesting household items (including a metal iron). We worked as detectives to find out who the treasure belonged to and discovered that it had been sent from Florence Nightingale in the Victorian Era! We were very excited and can’t wait to find out more.

**Year 3 -**

After spending the morning learning about events in history and putting those and ourselves in chronological order we got down to business! Since all the digging and road works as you drive out of Burton Latimer started there have been lots of archeological finds. Our classes were given trays of the mud and dirt and asked to record any findings. We had great fun discovering artefacts in the soil and we discussed from what era they came from before creating a timeline from artefacts, from Stone Age to Iron Age.

**Year 4—**

In year 4 we had fun trying to order historical events. We needed to use our maths skills in order to help us. We were introduced to the Anglo Saxons and looked at where they came from and possible reasons why. We also had to become history detectives in order to solve the mystery of the empty grave. We studied different artefacts and used these to help understand who they belonged to.

**Year 5/6 -**

On our first day in Year 5 and 6 we learned about the amazing wonders of our world’s history. We were putting historic events and periods in order and talking about them in our groups. As part of our work we used chrome books to research facts about people on our historical time line. We thought about questions we wanted to answer linked to some of the events. Also, we acted out what would happen if “air raid” was shouted and people would hide and shelter under the table like they did in WWI. When the air raid siren stopped they came up again. It was a reminder of how terrifying war can be! We enjoyed our day and really liked discussing the different periods of history.
123 Magic
We will be facilitating this at our school again on 29th October, 8th November, 15th November and 22nd November. If you are interested please let Carol Lipscomb, Family Support Worker, know.
There are also a range of other 123 Magic courses being held across the county:
- Compass Academy on 11th, 18th October, 1st, 5th November at 1:00 – 3:15PM
- St Edward’s Primary – 10th, 20th, 27th September, 4th October 2018
- St Mary’s Primary, Kettering – 22nd, 29th January, 5th and 12th February 2019

BEFORE SCHOOL
This is just a gentle reminder that children should not be using the equipment or activity trail in the playground before school. Also, could we please ask that footballs or any type of balls are not brought onto the playground in the morning. Thank you for your support with this.

PTFA
The next PTFA meeting will be held at school on 3rd October 2018 at 7.30pm

HARVEST FESTIVAL
Due to the size of our school growing, we have had to create 2 harvest festivals this year. This year, it will take place on Thursday 4th October. Year 1,2,3 will begin at 9:30am and year 4,5,6 will begin at 11am at the church.

LANGUAGE DAY
This year, we wanted to celebrate languages at St. Mary’s. Next week on Wednesday 26th September, we will be having a French themed day where we would like everyone to dress up in ‘French style’ clothes or colours. We look forward to seeing your outfits!

TWITTER
Please check out our St. Mary’s twitter account to see all of the exciting things happening at school! Visit @st_primary for any updates.
Open Evening Dates 2018

Kettering Area Secondary Schools

- Tuesday 25th Sept  Southfield School for Girls
- Thursday 27th Sept  Kettering Buccleuch Academy
- Tuesday 2nd Oct  Montsaye Academy
- Thursday 4th Oct  The Latimer Arts College
- Tuesday 9th Oct  Kettering Science Academy
- Thursday 11th Oct  Bishop Stopford School

Closing date for applications is
Wednesday 31st October 2018
A WARM INVITATION
TO OUR OPEN EVENING
FOR YEAR 5 AND 6 PARENTS
Wednesday 3rd October 2018 from 6pm

- An Ofsted rated good school with some of the best results in the area.
- Visit us and discover what Huxlow Science College can offer your child.
- We will also be holding a tour on Thursday 4th October from 1.30pm.