Welcome to our last newsletter of this term. Please see below our positive quote for you to have a think about.

Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life. Tip toe if you must, but take the step.

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this week we have been looking at how Jesus was the Light of the World and how we can be the light in each others world. The children were challenged to make each other laugh and smile and everyone set themselves a goal to make a friend’s day happier.
St Marys will once again be opening their doors on November 24th with stalls and the very important Father Christmas. If you would like a stall at the fair, please call Andrew Stenson on 01536 420780. Stall are £15 each. The PTFA would also be very grateful of any raffle prizes.

The next meeting will be on 15th November, 7pm at the school. Entrance will be via the High Street children’s gate. It would be lovely to see more new faces.

There will be a cake sale in the hall on Thursday 9th November at 3.30pm. The PTFA will be around for you to ask them any questions and to get to know them all. There will be lots of yummy cakes for sale. If you would like to donate/bake for the occasion we would be very grateful. Please see Mrs Reynolds on the morning to drop them off in the hall.

The PTFA have very kindly booked a travelling pantomime to come to school on Wednesday 6th December. We are very grateful and cannot wait for the children to have this experience.

On Friday 8th December there will be a Christmas disco. EYFS & KS1 5.30-6.30pm and KS2 6.45—8.00pm. More details to follow.

Mr Stenson has agreed to hold a Christmas Carol session for the children on the last day of term. We cannot wait to have a good old sing song and celebrate Christmas.

The school would like to say a huge thankyou to the PTFA for their contribution to school last year. This was a whopping £4232.40. The PTFA paid for the World Book Day breakfast, an Easter Egg for every child, the Year 6 leavers party and t-shirts, part of the school stage and a donation for the Year 5 Rainforest project. Thank you for your continued support.
123 MAGIC

We are facilitating this at our school on 15th, 22nd, 29th January and 5th February 2018. If you are interested please let Carol Lipscomb, Family Support Worker know.

E-SAFETY NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2017

Parents often have questions about particular devices that their children are using or asking for. We are going to introduce some of the most popular devices, highlight the safety tools available and help empower you (our parents) with the knowledge you need to support your children to use these technologies safely and responsibly.

Smartphones

Smartphones are mobile phones with internet access. They are capable of a range of functions, including social networking, listening to music, playing games, browsing the internet, checking emails, taking photos and videos and watching tv—along with the usual texting and calling! Smartphones provide a variety of interesting activities and ways for young people to engage with their friends and families. However, it is important to be aware of what these devices can do and how you can talk with your child to help them to use this technology in safe and positive way.

Three steps for parents:-

1. When you sign up to a mobile contract, make sure that you and your child understand the contract’s internet data allowance—accessing the internet uses internet data and if you go over your allowance it may cost you.

2. Understand the capabilities of smartphones and how you as a parent can support your child to be smart and safe in their smartphone use.

3. Talk with your child about safe and responsible smartphone use and agree a set of family rules. Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about not meeting up with people they have met online, how much they are allowed to spend on apps, what websites are okay and not okay to visit, and whether their phone should be switched off at night. Remember that smartphones connect to the internet, so the same advice and rules for keeping safe online apply.

Mr Maddams
GOLDEN TABLE

Well done to the following children who (for exceptional behaviour) got the chance to sit at the Golden Table and enjoy lunch with Miss Whitlock. The children also got to experience waiter and waitress service from the catering team.

Well done everyone.

Evan Allwood-Dell  Eve Salter
Macie Tomlinson    Jared Taylor
Devon Lawson       Oliver Rainbow
Megan-Rose Harrison-Llewellyn  Kevin Kennell
Taio Rielly        James Wakefield
Lily-Rose Bennett  Brody Golding
Zoe Tamegger       Layla Hartgrove
Thomas Leak        Honey Berry

100 % ATTENDANCE

We wanted to share with you our fabulous picture of our proud Year 3’s who won the 100% attendance cup. Thank you to all the parents who helped to make this possible.
Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Do you qualify to have £200 a year?

Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium are entitled to have a personal budget of £200 per year at St Mary’s, to help towards the cost of trips, school uniform, after school clubs and activities that have a charge. This is for all children at school, who have had, or been entitled to Free School Meals at any point during the last 6 years – this is not the same as having a free meal as part of the government Universal Meals. An application needs to be made for each child in the family – the process does not register all children in a family with one application. Additionally, the school receives further funding to help your child achieve well at school.

Are you eligible?

Complete this form and see:


We use the funding to run small intervention groups, do 1:1 work with pupils, buy resources, etc.

To qualify for this, parents need to apply for the Pupil Premium.

Visit this site to make your application:

https://northamptonshire.firmstep.com/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=SmB67Hjtvu#_ga=2.187303722.382531352.1505728790-531519983.1493714384

This site has lots more information about the Pupil Premium www.theschoolrun.com/pupil-premium-explained, but please come and ask any staff if you are unsure, or need help finding out, if your child is eligible. We need to have this information by the end of September, so we can claim the money at school for this year and so that you can start to access the £200 personal budget.

If you are having difficulty accessing the internet, please come and ask at reception where we will be happy to help you through the online process.

Mel Barron
Inclusion and Pastoral Leader
ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Congratulations!

Well done to all the children below who were nominated by their class teachers to receive Achievement Awards. Please encourage your children to keep up the good work.

Shania Lenton          Harry Brassington          Toby Oliver
Keera Gray            Ted Coles                 Destiny Cooke
Macie Tomlinson       Lilly-Anna Bruce          Shelby Percival
Arun Winters          Lily Seminega              Layk Maher
Isabel Edwards        Archie Nolan              Aaron Scott
Brody Golding         Robert Bloomfield         Katie Ambler
Grace Eydmann         Jake Oliver               Jake Mitchell
Cinenna Shortland

BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

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

Alfie Church          Cienna Shortland
Rihanna Smith         Bella Threadgold
Luke Eydman           Amelia Mercer
Ruby Duggan           Lucy Bloomfield
Sophie Lorentzen      Harrison Hale
Samuel McNab          Zoe Simmonds
Ashley Willie         Jillur Rahman
Liam Jackson           Emmie Nash
Scarlett Dorothy      Samuel Joiner
Lilly-Anna Bruce      Chloe Mercer
Sophie Obuszak
**Reading Challenge**

We have raised the importance of reading at school and now need your help at home. Each week we expect the children to read between 3 and 5 times a week and for you to put comments in their reading records. The reading records will be checked once a week by the class teachers and the average score is then taken to Collective Worship. The winning class will be awarded a trophy to keep for the week.

Over the last fortnight, the trophy was won by:-

**Mrs Eddy’s Elm with an average score of 4.5 reads**

**Mr Cumbleton’s Cypresses’s with an average score of 5.9 reads**

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**Class Maths Award**

Each week KS1 and KS2 have a maths fact test. The average score is brought to Collective Worship and the winning class gets to keep the trophy in their class for a week. The class which won was:-

**Miss Evan’s Elders with 9.6%**

**Mrs Baker’s Bonsais with 8.7%**

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**CLASS ATTENDANCE AWARD**

Every week the class with the highest attendance is recognised in our Achievement assembly. The class that achieved the highest attendance over the fortnight are:-

**Miss Sander’s Sycamores with 100% & Mrs Tebbutt’s Twinberries with 100%**

**Miss Price’s Pines with 99.25%**
We would like to welcome our new School Councillors for this school year. Each class elected a girl and boy to represent them. The new School Councillors are:

Mrs Broadribb/Mrs Barron  Joe Nicell-Foster and Bella Threadgold
Mr Maddams  Saul Cross and Daisy Amos
Miss Farrer  Muhammad-Felix Safwan and Keera Gray
Miss Price  Toby Oliver and Taylee Cooke
Miss Sanders  Frederyk Oliver and Elle Clark
Mrs Tebbutt  Jayden Mutchui and Lily-May Beckley
Mrs Eddy  Reese Willie and Elsa Nicell-Foster
Miss Kelly  Daniel Borrett and Gemma Cox
Mrs Price  George Simmonds and Zoe Tamegger
Mr Cumbleton  Lucy Hale and Max Igo
Mrs Baker  Stanley Matthews and Abra Obeng-Anaafi
Miss Evans  Kevin Kennell and Ashley Willie

The School Councillors will be responsible for meeting once a fortnight to discuss their views and opinions about certain matters in the school. They will then feedback to their class and collect any other thoughts and views to bring to our meetings.

At our first meeting, the children had some fantastic ideas about positive changes they would like to put in place at St. Mary's. I am very excited to see what other thoughts and opinions our new School Councillors have in the coming weeks. Watch this space!

Miss Price.
LUNCHTIME RELIEF STAFF

We are always looking for people who can spare us a few hours at sometimes very short notice to cover the lunch hall. The commitment will only be for 2 hours, 11.30 till 1.30pm. You will need to be able to come in at very short notice, normally on the day with sometimes only 30 minutes notice. If you think this will interest you, please leave your details with the school office or see Mr John Currall for more information.

BRIGHT SPARKS

We are now able to take childcare vouchers from the following voucher providers:-

CHILDCARE CHOICES

(This is a government funded scheme. To find out more please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

COMPUTERSHARE

CO-OPERATIVE CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

KIDDIVOUCHERS

If you already are able to access vouchers from any of the above, please search for us when making payment. If there are any problems with payment, please let us know.

Please visit the childcare choices website if you want to check eligibility for government contribution to your childcare costs.
PARENTS EVENING

Parents evening has been scheduled for Tuesday 7th November (5pm-8pm) and Thursday 9th November (3.30-5.30pm). Usually we send books home before these dates so parents can look at what the children have been learning about. This year we have arranged an open day in school for you to come in and look at your children’s work instead. This will be on Wednesday 1st November at either 8.45—9.15am or 2.45—3.15pm. If you are unable to make these times then please speak to Mrs Reynolds who will make sure you can view your child’s book at a more convenient time. A letter went out on Friday 13th October, if you haven’t the letter please contact your class teacher.

PARENT FORUM

Mrs Reynolds is looking for volunteers to be part of a Parent Liaison Group. This group would be to help the school move forward with various initiatives. If you would like to be a part of this group please speak to Mrs Reynolds for more information. Mrs Reynolds would like to meet with interested parties next week.

A PRESENCE ON THE PLAYGROUND

Just a quick reminder that either Mr John Currall or Mrs Emma Simmonds will be available on the school playground from 8.45am to answer any queries or take messages at the beginning of the school day. You will be able to spot them easily as they will be wearing their Hi-Vis jackets. From 8.50am they will be located at the gate by Latimer Close. They can both take any messages and action them for you and also take any forms/medication from you.

Please do speak to whoever is out on duty to help us to free up the office space first thing in the mornings for any urgent or confidential issues only.
PARKING OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES

You may have seen our new banners about parking or dropping children off on the Zig Zags.

We still have repeated offenders who park outside the gates to drop off and collect children and also park on the double yellow lines and on the corners of Latimer Close.

You may have also seen the red signs at the back of school which shows the road is a private road and residents only parking. Please be respectful and do not park on this road.

Children are very precious and we want to make sure their entrance in and out of school is clear and safe.

THE ZIG-ZAGS ARE THERE FOR A PURPOSE:
To provide a clear area to assist children and parents crossing outside schools.

Because of their size, children cannot see if the road is clear from behind parked cars.

Drivers cannot see small children hidden behind parked cars.

When children go to and from school, there is usually a lot of traffic.

These factors all increase the risks to children as they travel to and from school.

It could be your child!

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN WHEN YOU PARK.

NO IF'S.... NO BUTS.... NO EXCUSES....

SAFER PARKING SAVES LIVES!
PASSIVE SMOKING

A reminder that our school site is a non smoking site and we would politely request that parents/carers do not smoke outside our school gates.

Passive smoking is the inhalation of smoke, called second-hand smoke (SHS), or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), by persons other than the intended "active" smoker. It occurs when tobacco smoke permeates any environment, causing its inhalation by people within that environment.
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX APPEAL 2017

The time has come for St Mary’s to have a little think about a very important time of year for us. As Christmas approaches and all the children get excited, we take the time to pause and think of those less fortunate than ourselves and those children who are caught in the midst of war, natural disasters and poverty.

For the last few years the children of St Mary’s have enjoyed filling a shoe box wrapped in Christmas paper with various items suited to particular age groups and we have sent these through St Mary’s Church to different countries. Tony Armstrong who heads the project has kindly allowed me to encourage the children to beat last year’s target of 100 shoeboxes. As a school we would love to be able to reach a new target of 130!! The boxes can be for a boy or a girl and filled with pens, pencils, balls, writing pads, sweets (with an expiry date no less than March 2018), toothbrushes, toothpaste and cars etc. We must stress that due to the nature of the children’s environment we cannot accept toy guns or knives. If you are unable to complete a full box, we would also be grateful for small items to make up some school boxes. You can also make a cash donation to school in a clearly marked sealed envelope, which would go towards shipping costs for these boxes.

It would make such a difference to help make a child happy this Christmas or as we normally say with this project, sending “love in a box”. Empty boxes and leaflets will be available in church from Sunday, 15th October and the deadline for boxes to be handed in to the school for church collection will be Friday, 17th November. Leaflets will also be available from Miss Weller in EYFS.

We would appreciate as many donations as we can get to send “love in a box” to those less fortunate so that they know they will not be forgotten this Christmas.

Thanking you in advance

Miss Weller.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti Bullying week is from Monday 13th November to Friday 17th November 2017 of which the theme will be promoting difference and equality in schools with the tag-line ‘All Different, All Equal’. The idea is to help children and young people celebrate what makes them, and others, unique and help them understand why it’s important that every child feels included in school and to be able to be themselves without fear of bullying.

We will be supporting this week with a range of activities to help our children to take action to prevent bullying. We will also be reiterating how we as a school create a safe environment for them.

Children have been asked to apply to Miss Whitlock to become Anti Bullying Ambassadors for the school, we will announce the lucky children that got chosen in our next newsletter.
HOMEWORK

We have changed our approach to homework in light of our Ofsted feedback and parent views. Each term we will have a different curriculum focus starting with reading. Your child should have brought home a reading booklet explaining all you need to know. If you have not received this please see your child's class teacher. To support you with this Miss Farrer and Mrs Reynolds will be available from 2.45pm in the hall on Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th October. If you cannot make these times please contact Mrs Reynolds via the school office who will ensure she meets with you at a mutually convenient time.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

It was overwhelming to see so many parents at the Harvest Festival. Thank you for celebrating this day with us and all your generous donations. I am sure you will agree that then children performed very well and made everyone proud. Thank you to Jez and Tom for being a part of our celebrations and to Yvonne and Emma for their support.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We are supporting Children In Need on Friday 17th November with a Spotacular day. We would love for the children to come into school in mufti for this day, in spotty clothes if you have them along with a £1 donation. All proceeds will go to Children In Need. Please see posters around school. On Friday we will award the most “Spottiest” person with a Children In Need sticker during collective worship.

TRAINING DAYS

Please note we finish this half term on Thursday 19th October 2017. Friday 20th October is a school training day so please do not send your children in. We return to school on Monday 30th October 2017.
School Year Sept 2017—August 2018

Tuesday 17th October 2017—Flu vaccination EYFS, Y1,2,3,4
Thursday 19th October 2017—Under 11 ESFA Girls Football Competition

Last Day of term Thursday 19th October 2017
Friday 20th October—Training Day
Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October HALF TERM

School re-opens Monday 30th October 2017
Wednesday 1st November 2017—Parents open day 8.45-9.15am or 2.45-3.15pm
Tuesday 7th November 2017—Parents evening—5pm-8pm
Wednesday 8th November 2017—EYFS Screening
Thursday 9th November 2017—PTFA Cake sale in the hall 3.30pm
Thursday 9th November 2017—Parents evening—3.30pm—5.30pm
Thursday 9th November 2017—Whole school photographs
Friday 10th November 2017—Remembrance Day and Poppy Art project
Monday 13th November 2017 until Feb 2018—Yr 3 & 4 swimming every Monday
Wednesday 15th November 2017—PTFA Meeting @ school
Friday 17th November 2017—Christmas Craft Day
Friday 24th November—Christmas light switch on

Wednesday 6th December 2017—PTFA Christmas Panto @school
Thursday 7th December 2017—Yr 5 Soundstart Concert
Friday 8th December 2017—EYFS & KS1 PTFA Disco 5.30-6.30pm
Friday 8th December 2017—KS2 PTFA Disco 6.45—8.00pm
Friday 15th December 2017—Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8th December 2017—PTFA Christmas Disco
Tuesday 19th December 2017—KS2 Christmas Service 1.30-2.30pm
Thursday 21st December 2017—Mr Stenson’s Christmas Carols @ school

Thursday 21st December 2017—Last Day of Term
Wednesday 3rd January 2018—Training Day
Thursday 4th January 2018—First Day of Term

Wednesday 10th January 2018—EYFS Screening
Monday 15th, 22nd, 29th January 2018—123 Magic course 1-3pm
Monday 5th February 2018—123 Magic course 1-3pm

Half Term—Monday 12th February 2018—Friday 16th February 2018
Thursday 29th March 2018—Training Day
Half Term Friday 30th April 2018—Friday 13th April 2018