Welcome to our newsletter. We hope everyone had a fun and safe Guy Fawkes Night. Christmas is fast approaching and there are lots of things planned for the children so please take note of the dates at the back or print the last page and put it on your fridge or noticeboard as a reminder.

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this week we introduced our new theme of peace. We discussed what the word harmony means and how we can all live in peace.
P.T.F.A (Parent, Teacher, Friends Association)

We would love to see some new faces on the PTFA. Our next meeting is 15th November at 7pm. The entrance will be via the High Street gate. Mrs Reynolds & PTFA are looking forward to seeing you there.

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.
St Mary’s PTFA

Cake Sale!

Thursday 9th November
3.30-4.30pm School Hall

All cake donations gratefully received
Please bring in on the morning of the sale
Come and meet the PTFA and help raise money for our school
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 – NOVEMBER 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.

Gaming devices

Gaming devices 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. All modern gaming devices offer parental controls to help you manage how your child uses their device, but these do need to be set up in order for them to be operational.

Three steps for parents:

Understand the capabilities of gaming devices and how you as a parent can support your child to be smart and safe in their gaming.

Find out about the parental controls available - it helps if you are the one to set up the gaming device so you are in control of these. Gaming devices have parental controls to help parents manage their children’s gaming, for example, to prevent internet browsing or restrict access to age-restricted games. Find out about PEGI age ratings to help you decide which games are appropriate for your child’s age.

Talk with your child about safe and responsible gaming and agree a set of family rules. Perhaps you could agree rules with your child about how long they are allowed to play for, how they should behave towards other gamers and agree rules about not meeting up with people they have only met online.

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.

Amber Mae Roberts  
Keziah Swift  
Riley Granger  
Daisy-Jai Amos  
Ryan Bowater  
Charlie Rippingale

Harvey Lawson  
Roman-Lee Parker  
Sophia Lorentzen  
Leo McMaster  
Amelia Ockleford  
Billie Manning

100% ATTENDANCE

We wanted to share with you that 3 classes won the 100% attendance this week. This accounts for 72 children who all got 100% achievement in 1 week. We are very pleased with this and thank all the parents for encouraging your children to come into school and not miss 1 single day. I know it can be hard because children do get poorly but if we can all limit the amount of time the children miss school through doctors appointments and medical appointments we may one day have a whole school of 100% attendance.

A very big well done to every child in the following classes:-

Year 1’s BIRCHES  
Year 2’s FIRS  
Year 6’s BONSAI

If your child is off poorly for any reason please can you follow up your phone call to school with a letter the first day they are back in.
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.

Billy Bowler
Frederyk Oliver

BEHAVIOUR AWARDS

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

John Paul Jackson  Jasmine Anniwell
John Mutemeyerwa  Kayden Cole
Lexi Barrow       Kiara Leotte Da Silva
Lilly-Ann Mullan  Evie Cheney
Lily Knighton     Meadow Bannard-Howes
Albie Dickerson   Oliver Rainbow
Harley Hunter

LUNCHTIME AWARD

This has been awarded to Mrs Barron’s and Mrs Broadribb’s Birch class for receiving 20 ticks at lunchtime. Well done. The class gets to keep the lunchtime trophy for a fortnight and have a lunchtime filled with exciting treats.

HOME ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Zoe Simmonds—Completing the Summer Reading Challenge
Jude Roberts—Completing 5m Breaststroke in Swimming
Josh Swift—For writing a story and it has now been printed
John Paul Jackson—For taking part in a dancing competition
Jake Oliver—For taking part in the Iron Run
Skyla Newell—For taking part in a treasure hunt
Riley Molcher - Football trophy for being man of the match for his team
Josh Swift for his cricket medal
Keziah Swift for completing a virtual 5km race
Summer Allwood Dell for gaining her level 1 in gymnastics
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
PE review Term 1

We are very proud to announce that St Mary’s Primary Academy has been voted the best PE school in the Kettering district at the recent Kettering Sports awards. Also well done to Ellis Panter (he left St Mary’s in July to go to secondary school) who was voted Young Sportsman of the year at the same awards night.

CLUBS

This term we are keeping up our efforts to offer a range of clubs to our pupils with gymnastics, basketball, street dance, football, netball and very soon archery on offer again.

TAG RUGBY

On Tuesday 17th October some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils competed in Tag Rugby Competition at Denfield Park Primary School to compete against other schools. They tried hard to apply the skills they had practiced and Mrs Armitage said she was so proud of their effort and determination on display as they finished in 3rd place overall.

NETBALL & FOOTBALL

On Thursday 19th October our Year 5 and 6 netball and football teams played their first fixtures of the year.

Our football team started the season strongly and are unbeaten after 3 games. All 7 players worked as a team, passing and tackling as a unit and wins against Denfield and Great Adlington (last year’s champions). Thanks you to the St Mary’s parents for their great support.

Our netball team also started their seasons with some closely fought matches. The team wanted to thank the staff and governors who coached them from the side lines and their parents for their support and for bringing them ‘happy vibes’. Both teams are looking forward to more fixtures later in the academic year.
**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:-

**Miss Evan’s Elders with an average score of 5.2 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 8.4%**

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**CLASS ATTENDANCE AWARD**

Every week the class with the highest attendance is recognised in our Achievement assembly. The classes that achieved the highest attendance were:-

**Mrs Barron & Mrs Broadribb’s Birches with 100%**

**Miss Farrer’s Fir with 100%**

**Mrs Baker’s Bonsai with 100%**
PARENTS EVENING

Parents evening has been scheduled for Tuesday 7th November (5pm-8pm) and Thursday 9th November (3.30-5.30pm). You should have now all received time slots, if however you have not please contact your class teachers urgently.

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 on Friday 17th November @2.30pm. If you cannot make the 1st meeting please let Mrs Reynolds know and she will send you the minutes and arrange a catch up meeting at your convenience.

A PRESENCE ON THE PLAYGROUND

We are starting to see an increase in the amount of parents that are popping into the school office first thing in the morning before school to drop forms in. You can return forms via your childs book bags and they will put into class trays that come up to the office. Also 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.
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.
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 years 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.
School trips

EYFS TRIP TO WEST LODGE RURAL CENTRE—DESBOROUGH

CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

The Early Years Foundation stage are again going to West Lodge Rural Centre to enjoy the fantastic Christmas Experience. This is a special and magical event for the young children and one we think they will enjoy as they get to see the magical man in red, take part in a “live” nativity and receive an early Christmas present. A reminder to all parents that meal orders and permission slips are due in by Monday 27th November and all monies are due in by Friday 1st December. Please note this trip is not a curriculum trip so the monies are not a voluntary contribution.

If you have not received a letter or have any concerns please contact Mrs. Owens in the School Office.

Curriculum Trips for all other Year Groups

We will be starting these after Christmas so please look out for letters coming home in your child’s book bags in the new year.
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. Our ambassadors will also be “spotting” children who are being fantastic friends.

OLD £1 COINS

If you still have any old £1 coins laying around you can still donate these to Children In Need even though they have now gone out of circulation. If you do want to donate any please send them in a separate envelope clearly marked as they have to be banked differently. So get searching down the back of the sofas, check your money boxes and see how many you can find.

Donating them to BBC Children In Need will help them to change the lives of children and young people throughout the UK.

We are also lucky enough to have Pudsey Bear visit us at school this week. The children are very excited to meet him.
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Poppies will be on sale in the school office if anyone would like to pop in and buy one. There will be various Poppy Appeal items for sale next week, nothing over £1. These will be available at playtimes on the playground, please see schedule below

Early Years, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 - Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th November

Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 - Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th November

Please send any money in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it. We raised an amazing amount last year for the Poppy appeal so please give generously for a very worthwhile cause.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING ANY CONCERNS

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s education please could we ask that you in the first instance come to the class teacher and have a chat. More and more issues are getting put on social media sites without us having the chance to investigate this issue and try and help. We would like to work with parents and pride ourselves on being very approachable and open to any concerns parents may have. If you feel the class teacher has not looked into your complaint or you are not happy with the outcome you can then go to a member of SLT (listed below) who will look into it and escalate to the Deputy or Principal if necessary.

SLT Members:-

Melanie Barron
Michelle Evans
Emma Baker
Emma Farrer

If you are still not happy with the outcome of your complaint you can then go to Head of Governors:-
Please send in your 50p’s via your child’s class for the attention of John Currall in a sealed, clearly named envelope so he can allocate you a ticket.
School Year Sept 2017—August 2018

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
Wednesday 15th November 2017—Parent liaison meeting @ 7pm
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
Monday May 2nd 2018—Bank Holiday
Monday 28th May 2018—Bank Holiday
Half Term—Tuesday 29th May 2018—Friday 1st June 2018
End Of Year—Monday 23rd July 2018—Friday 31st August 2018