



NEWSLETTER

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Issue: 15 Date: 11th January 2019

www.st-marys-pri.wilts.sch.uk

Tel: 01249 460231

Some Diary

Dates

01/02/19
Eagles Class Assembly
15/02/19
Ospreys Class Assembly
15/02/19
End of Term 3
25/02/19
Start of Term 4
27/02/19
Woodpeckers Class Mass

Applying for a Primary School Place?

Will your child be four years old before September 2019? If so you must apply for a primary school place on

www.wiltshire.gov.uk
the deadline is midnight 15th January 2019.

HEAD'S NOTES

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and A Happy New Year!

I have been very impressed by the way the children have settled straight back into school this week. I think everyone found the first day rather challenging, as we transitioned from holiday time to the structure of work and school. The children in the newly merged Robins (Yr R), Owls (Yr 1) and Woodpeckers (Yr 2) have managed the change brilliantly, with new routines and for some, new teachers. Well done everyone! Just to remind everyone: Mrs Smith is teaching Owls for four days and Mrs Essex for one day on a Thursday. Mrs Warburton is teaching Robins for four days and Mrs Essex is teaching them on a Friday.

Teachers will be sending home their class newsletters this week. We have agreed on an overall SPACE topic for the school this term and there will be lots of opportunities for Science, Art, Music, Geography, History computing and DT as part of this. Our Catholic ethos and RE Curriculum lends itself brilliantly to asking questions about the universe and beliefs about God the creator and to explore our sense of awe and wonder about our world and how we care for it.

One of the key areas we have been developing over the last term has been Maths throughout the school. The local authority Maths adviser has been working closely with us, as has our Advisory Head Teacher, Miss Lisa Tudor. Our Teachers have visited other schools to observe other practitioners and we have invested in Professional Development Meetings together to discuss planning, teaching and learning and assessment approaches.

As a result, we have bought a new Maths scheme for the school called Power Maths. This scheme is one of two that are endorsed by the Department for Education and includes a very clear, consistent approach across the school. The expectation is that every child can do Maths and they are encouraged to have a growth mind set: to be determined, flexible, curious and brave, using practical resources and verbalising their reasoning. The teachers have had training in using the scheme and I have invited the trainer to lead a Parents' information meeting, so that you can understand how this scheme works, (date to be confirmed). We have started using the scheme in classes this week and feedback from the children so far, is very positive.

Weekly formal Maths homework will no longer be set for Years 1-5. Instead the children need to practise and embed their times tables, including all inverse division facts, square numbers and square roots. Extra challenge can include multiplying by fractions and decimals. By the end of Year 4 children are expected to know and instantly recall all times table facts and inverse division facts up to 12 x 12. This can always be done in the old fashioned way, by chanting, but also we are currently setting up individual logins for 'Times Tables Rocks', for the children to access at home. Daily individual reading and spelling homework will still be set each week.

Have a lovely weekend and God bless.

Mrs Howie-Lee

School Dinners

The new menu has now been decided and will be operating from next week, starting on Week 1. A copy is attached for your information, however printed copies are available from reception.

Reminder of New Class Names from this term

Nursery:	Wrens
Reception:	Robins
Year 1:	Owls
Year 2:	Woodpeckers
Year 3:	Kingfishers
Year 4:	Kestrels
Year 4/5:	Ospreys
Year 5:	Eagles
Year 6:	Falcons

School Houses

We are in the process of reviewing the members of each School House as some are oversubscribed. If you have a particularly strong desire for your child or children to be in a particular house please let us know along with the reason and it will of course be considered.

We have purchased a new House Point collection display which hopefully will enthuse the children and encourage their sense of belonging.

Yr 4 Residential Trip

You will be receiving some information regarding the Yr 4 trip to Swanage very soon. In the meantime the dates for your diary are 24th-26th April.

AWARDS OF THE WEEK

Wrens:	Martha G-S	For being kind and helpful to others. Well done!
Robins:	Caelan C	For settling in so well into Robins Class – well done!
Owls:	Charlie S	For making Mrs Essex feel very welcome in our class!
Woodpeckers:	Damian S	For a super retelling of a Bible story
Kingfishers:	Adrianna M	For being a great learning partner in maths
Kestrels:	Oliver C	For being a great friend and writing a super poem. Well done!
Ospreys:	Marvin F	For fantastic explanations in Maths & RE
Eagles:	Megan D	For trying her best in all her learning
Falcons:	Ellie H	For consistently neat handwriting

Headteachers Award

Sochi E - For giving a warm welcome to Mrs Howie-Lee in Wrens