



Work, play, pray - together

# St. Mary's RC Primary School

## February 2016 Newsletter



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### Mrs. Graham - Head Teacher:

It is lovely to write this newsletter to you all as the newly appointed Head Teacher of St Mary's school. As I have been with the St Mary's now for the past nine years I am so pleased to be able to continue to share in the lives of St Mary's school and parish community.

I feel honoured to be leading the school into a new and exciting future. I am passionate about the school and I am committed to providing the best catholic education possible for all of our children. My priority as Head Teacher is to ensure that St. Mary's continues to move towards becoming an outstanding school. It is the aim of the whole school staff that your children; feel safe are happy and achieve well.

As my new career path starts, there are always changes for others. Mrs Southern has made a decision to retire from St Mary's to spend more time with her family. She has been teaching at St Mary's for 26years this year. We wish her all the very best of luck and we will arrange an assembly in school to thank her for her support and continuous service to our school.

### LENT 2016

Shrove Tuesday was exciting in school, following an assembly, Mrs. Simpson had made lots of Pancakes and we had a school pancake race with pupils and staff taking part. The following day on Ash Wednesday the children attended the Ash Wednesday mass and the school liturgy which was celebrated on the Thursday due to an inset day on the Friday was themed "water." The children learned about how clean water can make such a difference to people's lives. We have invited a lady into school to talk about water filters that the charity she supports provides to communities such as in Gambia. The children are being encouraged to donate small change during Lent to contribute to buying a water filter which will cost £250. Children will be bringing home Lenten bags to be shared with the family and school will be holding Holy Week Liturgies, further information to follow.

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### FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

The school Council will be holding a Tuck Shop each day in morning break commencing Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February.

#### What Fairtrade is about?

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers. It's about supporting the development of thriving farming and worker communities that have more control over their futures and protecting the environment in which they live and work.

Learning through Fairtrade opens up a fascinating world, revealing how we are all connected.

Prices:

Chocolate Geobar: 50p

Milky Buttons: 50p

Yoghurt Raisins: 50p



### THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



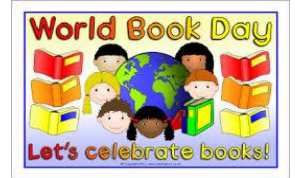
The Queen will be 90 years old on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016, school will be celebrating her birthday on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June, the day before her Official Birthday.

School will be holding a non-uniform day when children can come dressed as royalty or in red, white and blue. With the help of Janey our school cook; we will be having our very own 'Street Party' to celebrate! Watch out for further information nearer the date.

## World Book Day - Non uniform Day

School will be holding a non-uniform day for World Book Day; children can come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book (donation of £1 per family).

Each child in school will receive a £1 book token that can be redeemed at participating bookshops.



## Prizes for the best fancy dress costume!

### COMPETITION TIME!

Children have been tasked with taking a photo of themselves reading in a "strange place." The children are encouraged to start bringing in photographs this week and we will upload them to our website for you to enjoy at home. They will be judged in April by a special guest.

### EASTER EGGS

We will be holding our Easter Egg Raffle this half term.

The money raised will support HCPT Group 38 - The Pilgrims Trust who will be taking disabled children to Lourdes at Easter.



Tickets will go on sale in the last week of term (10p each per ticket).

As always donations of Easter Eggs would be kindly accepted - many thanks for your continued support.

### YEAR 6 - ST. MARY'S NEWSPAPER

Year 6 have been working hard to produce a St. Mary's Newspaper - watch out for further information!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Fairtrade Fortnight - Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> February - Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016
- World Book Day - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- Yr3 Mother's Day Lunch - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm
- School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 3.30 p.m. (Easter is early this year.
- School re-opens for the summer term on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 from 8.45 a.m. Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 is a Bank Holiday so the school will be closed
- Week beginning Monday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 is testing week for Y6 pupils- please note that no leave of absence will be authorised for Year 6 pupils before or during this week.
- Thurston Outdoor Education Centre Yr6 w/c Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Travelling Books w/c Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- Summer half term holiday begins on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 3.30 p.m.
- School re-opens on Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 from 8.45 a.m.
- Queen's Official Birthday Celebration - Non uniform (dress as royalty or in red, white and blue) Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> June
- School inset day 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2016
- School closes for the summer holiday on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2016