



**Our school is a friendly and vibrant community, where all of God's children flourish and gain the knowledge, wisdom and skills needed to care about themselves, their community and their world.**

**Friday 15th March 2024**

### **Headteacher's Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weather hasn't been kind to us this week and there have been quite a few wet play times – but it hasn't dampened our spirits and we have had a lot of things to celebrate.

First of all, St Mary's has been chosen by the British Council for a special film that will be used with schools all around the country, explaining the benefits of working towards an International Schools' Award. We have largely Mrs Cotton to thank for this honour, as her reputation goes before her and the British Council have sought her out. Anyway, the camera crew will be in next week and no doubt cause quite a stir!

We also need to celebrate Father John, who has served the school for a number of years, taking assemblies and supporting staff with their professional development. John is retiring and relocating to Wales and we wish him every blessing as he begins his new adventure in such a beautiful part of the world.

We have also celebrated on Monday the fantastic achievements of the school's gymnasts who entered a local competition - where in Year 2, we got third place individual overall and second place team overall, and in Years 3 and 4, first and second place individual overall and second place team overall.

At St Mary's we celebrate so many things in so many ways: in class we have Dojo points which can be awarded for anything from good learning behaviours to demonstrating one of our school values. Every Friday we have Celebration Assembly where we celebrate outstanding pieces of work or acts of kindness, or a new pen licence or good attendance and of course, we have our Hot Choc Champs as well. We are so proud of each and every achievement that the children make and love seeing how proud they are of themselves.

Why is celebration so important? Because celebrating personal achievements benefits our mental and physical wellbeing: it helps us to forget our troubles, brings us relief from stress and helps us to feel appreciated by being recognised. Let's take every opportunity we can to celebrate one another.

Have a lovely weekend,

Amanda



### **Prayer of the Week**

Dear God,

Please help us to be kind, helpful, selfless and not to judge one another.

Please help my family and all of us.

Amen





# EASTER EGG HUNT

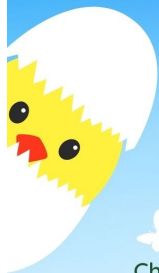
Thursday  
21st March

3pm

50p Entry

KS1 Playground

Weather conditions permitting  
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



## Reading Volunteers

We are looking for Parents/Carers to come in to school to support the children in developing their reading skills.

Listening to a child read is important for many reasons and plays a crucial role in their overall literacy development.

If you have some time to spare and would like to help, please contact the class teacher or speak to Mrs. Harrison.

Thank you



## Can you help us?

If you have any pre-loved, good condition waterproofs that your child has grown out of, we would love to have them for use in our Forest School.

We are looking for puddle suits, waterproof coats and trousers. The ones we have are being used daily at the moment and are wearing out.

Thank you in advance.



## Easter Egg Decoration Competition

The PTFA are inviting all children to take part in an Easter Egg Decoration Competition.

Prizes will be awarded to each year group winner.  
Eggs can be made using any resources you may have available.

Please can we ask that all entries are brought into school by Thursday 21st March.

Entries will be on display during Parents' Evening for all to see.  
We are egg-cited to see your wonderful creations!



## School Term Dates 2023/2024

### Term 4

Start of Term 4	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
End of Term 4	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
Staff Development Day	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March

### Term 5

Start of Term 5	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
End of Term 5	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May

### Term 6

Start of Term 6	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June
End of Term 6	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
Staff Development Day	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
Staff Development Day	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July