

**Friday 24th February 2017**

Our Christian Value for the term: Forgiveness

'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others' Colossians 3.13

Dear Parents,

## **National Funding Formula**

Many of you will have read or heard the news that the Government is currently consulting on a new National Schools Funding Formula. Historically there have been huge variations in how schools are funded around the country; schools with children of exactly the same age and needs can currently receive as much as £2,000 less per pupil in one part of the country compared to another. Gloucestershire is one of the counties that has been very poorly funded compared to others. Professionals and politicians have campaigned for many years to address this and the government has now come up with a new formula for distributing money to schools. As a result of this formula some schools are going to be a lot better off but many will be even worse off than they were and St. Mary's is one of them. With the introduction of the new formula we will be losing a further £18,000 a year. The Governors and I have written to Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, our MP, to express our dismay and concern and I know Head teachers of other local schools are doing the same. Mr Clifton-Brown was on national radio this week saying that he would vote against the introduction of the National Funding Formula and we are reassured that we have his support, however, it is important that you as parents know what the situation could be. The Governors will do all they can to minimise the impact of these cuts on standards and we will all continue to provide the best education and opportunities we can for your children.

## **Road Safety**

We are delighted that Terry Minal has joined our staff team as our new 'Pedestrian Escort' outside school. Mr Minal will continue the excellent job Colin Turley did in ensuring children's safety at dropping off and picking up times – I am sure you will be very welcoming to him and assist him in his role by driving and parking safely. Thank you.

## **World Book Day**

Don't forget it's that time of year again – World Book Day is on Thursday next week. Children can dress up as their favourite book character. Wahoo! We are looking forward to seeing all the costumes next week!

Mrs Jo Woolley

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**Class Service Dates** – all service start at 2.30 pm in the school hall

10<sup>th</sup> March – Lime Class

17<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Class

24<sup>th</sup> March – Maple Class

31<sup>st</sup> March – Pear Class

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## School Diary

27 February	<b>Bikeability</b> (Bikes and Helmet needed in school)	15 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Evening 4.00pm – 7.00pm
27 February	My Maths 3.30 in the hall		
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book day – dress up as your favourite book character	17 <sup>th</sup> March	Ash Class Assembly 2.30pm start
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Grab a grown up with KS2	24 <sup>th</sup> March 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Maple Class Assembly 2.30pm start Red Nose Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Friday) March	Scholastic Book Fair	31 <sup>st</sup> March	Pear Class Assembly 2.30pm start
6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Scholastic Book Fair	7 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of Term
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Lime Class Assembly 2.30pm start	24 <sup>th</sup> April	First day of term
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents evening 3.30pm – 5.30pm	7 <sup>th</sup> June–9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Wilderness Residential

## DT Workshop at SWR

On Wednesday half of our year 4's took part in a Design Technology workshop at Sir William Romney School. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have learnt a range of new skills. The children made their own wooden homework hangers using a variety of tools including a coping saw, a belt sander, drill and a glue gun. The children also learnt all about 3D printing and laser cutting, which they found fascinating. The rest of the years 4s will be taking part next week.

Many thanks to Mr Wagner for a wonderful afternoon that was enjoyed by all.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** Children and staff will be dressing up as their favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day. Your child will be bringing home their World book day Voucher on Monday, this can be used at high street bookshops and at our Book Fair.

## Scholastic Book Fair



We will be hosting the Scholastic Book Fair again this year, to coincide with the World Book Day. The fair will run on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, after school in the school hall. A leaflet will be in the book bags with the World Bookday voucher on Monday. Children are able to browse during the day on Thursday and Friday next week, during school hours. Please come along after school with your child **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> next week** and **Monday and Tuesday week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March** to buy your books. We had a fantastic response last year and raised a lot of funds for the school. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Reminder for My Maths workshop, afterschool, on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, in the hall at 3.30pm (Please come through the main office) If you have any questions or if you want to know more about My Maths please come along.

## Parents Evening – Online Booking System

Parents Evening will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Using a User ID and password you will be able to see the available appointments for your child's teacher and select the most convenient one for yourself. Your User ID, password and weblink will be issued next week and will be sent to you via email. It will come to the email address through which you currently receive the weekly newsletters. **If you have had structured conversations with your child's class teacher as part of the Achievement for All program you do not need to make a Parents Evening appointment.**

If you do not have internet access you will be able to book appointments on this new system through Mrs Glover and Mrs Howe in the School Office.

## Ash Wednesday 2017

This year we are again having a special service in school on Ash Wednesday for Key Stage 2. Poppy explains more;

I hope you're prepared for Pancake Day on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February! Then, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we begin Lent - a time when we try especially hard to live as Jesus would want us to live: being loving and generous, making peace with others and taking care of creation.

As we begin Lent, we remember when we have made mistakes and made wrong choices. Again this year, in our KS2 service, we will follow a centuries-old tradition of "ashing" – with each one of us being invited to have the sign of the cross marked on our forehead in ash. The cross is a symbol of being sorry, and turning back to God as we begin our journey through Lent. The Ash Wednesday service will be taken by me, and do please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about what is involved (01666 502 333).

With love and prayers, Poppy



Sainsbury's  
**Active Kids**  
Eat well • Move well • Live well

Active Kids is back. You can now collect vouchers from Sainsbury's stores or online shop, there will be box in the school office area for you to pop your vouchers in.



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## Breakfast club

Please remember to pre-book your place in breakfast club. Please call the school office. If we know when children are coming we can accommodate bookings where possible.



**24 March  
2017**

**On Sale now....**

**The School Prefects are busy selling 'The Red Noses' please remember to bring in you £1**

## Fish tank for Elm class

We have a leak in our class fish tank in Elm class, would anyone have an old fish tank sitting in a garage /shed not wanted. We would love it in Elm class. Please let the office know if you have one to donate to the class. Many thanks

## Club News

### CLUBS

#### New Club for year 5/6

From 2<sup>nd</sup> March a new gym club will start for the year 5/6. Please complete the club slip at the end of the newsletter and return to the school office. Open to all year 5/6 (those in other gym clubs welcome)

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## Textile Recycler

The bin is located in the carpark by the Yr3/4 playground and all your donations are gratefully received. Please keep filling it up. If it is full when you use it please let us know in the School Office so that we can arrange for it to be emptied.

## "Thank Cookie its Friday"

We will be selling delicious cookies after school every Friday by the main notice board every week. Just 50p per cookie!

## Trim Trail

The second phase of the trim trail for the Year 3/4 playground has now been ordered and it is scheduled to be installed sometime after Feb half term.



**Easyfundraising.com** If you are doing any shopping online or booking any holidays, click via <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmarystetbury/> to raise money for the school without costing you a penny! The retailer pays a percentage of your total without any charge to you. Retailers include Amazon, Ebay, John Lewis, Tesco, Expedia, Waitrose, flybe and many more.

## Parent/Teacher Representative

The PTFA have been asked to organise a parent representative for each class to ensure everyone is fully informed about activities within each class.

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After some research we have set up an app called Classlist. Parents can register by following this link [www.classlist.com](http://www.classlist.com)

Click 'Join Here' and search for 'St Mary's CE VA Primary School, Tetbury'

Once registered, go to your profile and adjust your personal settings to change what all parents can see as all contact info is set to public by default.

The benefit of using this app, is that all contact information can be private but you can still be included in the communications.

If you would like to be the representative for your class, please register as above and let the PTFA know by emailing [ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-marys-tetbury.gloucs.sch.uk)

Cherry – Caroline Swinburne		Chestnut – Katie McGrath			
Lime – Gemma Wood		Maple			
Pear – Caroline Swinburne		Beech			
Plum		Oak			
Juniper		Ash			
Holly		Elm			

## PTFA Meeting

The next PTFA meeting takes place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at the Royal Oak upstairs meeting room. 8pm start.

## Community News

### Tetbury Library

Free family half-term activity at Tetbury Library - Bug Bunting! Running all week, so just drop in and make a colourful row of mini-beasts to take home and decorate your room. All welcome.

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Tetbury Library can't wait to celebrate World Book Day! So join us on Saturday 25th February at 10.30am to listen to our wonderful Story Teller as she tells stories by World Book Day authors. Suitable for 4 - 7 year olds and their families with free follow-up craft afterwards. Just turn up!

## **CLUB APPLICATION SLIP - One slip per club and child please**

**CHILD'S NAME** ..... **CLASS** .....

I give permission for my child to attend the ..... club

I will collect them from school\* Emergency telephone no:

They have permission to walk home from school\*

(\*please delete as necessary)

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....

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