

**St Mary’s CE Primary School**

**Parent Newsletter**

**May 2016**

**One World Week**

We’ve been celebrating the wonderful diversity of our school this week with the children taking part in a variety of activities. Overleaf you will find a selection of pieces written by children in every year group, we hope they give you a flavour of the experience they had and how much they enjoyed it.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Our attendance figure to date is 97.0%. The current figures for each class are below:

**Foxes:** 94.5% **Hedgehogs:** 96.4%

**Robins:** 96.9% **Bluebirds:** 97.4%

**Dolphins:** 96.2% **Starfish:** 97.9%

**Giraffes:** 96.9% **Lions:** 97.4%

**Tigers:** 97.6% **Monkeys:** 97.9%

**Pandas:** 98.2%

A reminder to make sure you watch your child entering the building if you bring them to school. Children who are late must be accompanied to the school office so they can be registered.

**Important Dates**

**Half-term begins:** Friday 27th May

**Children return:** Monday 6th June

**EU referendum:** Thursday 23rd June – **closed to pupils**

**Summer term ends:** Friday 22nd July

Other dates: (correct at time of printing)

Wednesday 22nd June Class Photos

Friday 24th June FOSM Summer fare

Wednesday 29th June Guitar assembly

Thursday 30th June Moving up day

Friday 1st – Monday 4th July PGL residential Y5 and Y6

Wednesday 6th July 2S assembly

Wednesday 6th July FOSM disco/non-uniform day

Thursday 7th July 1B assembly

Thursday 7th July Y6 Waterworld

Monday 18th July Thank you assembly: KS2

Tuesday 19th July Thank you assembly: KS1

Wednesday 20th July Y6 Leavers’ show

Friday 22nd July Y6 Leavers’ service in Church

**Special Educational Needs Provision**

Much has changed in the way that schools deploy their help for children with Special Educational Needs. A short video explaining the approach across the city can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l8LhlVxx3s&feature=player_embedded>

Many thanks to those parents who expressed an interest in finding out more about dyslexia with Helen Ball from Pupil and School Support.  We have arranged a session on this subject for **Tuesday 12th July between 3.00 and 3.30.** Please let the school office know if you would like to attend.

**Message from St Mary’s Church: Fundraising**

The church is looking to expand the Church Hall in order to meet the growing need for places at the pre- and after school clubs. We have a target of £80,000 and we are trying to secure public funding. However, we are also asking local people - especially those who might benefit from the expansion to give generously. Soon we will be launching our 'buy-a-brick' scheme and we would want to encourage people to get involved.

**A Prayer** 

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us throughout all of our time in school. Please give us the courage and strength to tackle all of the challenges that come our way during the final weeks of the school year.

Amen

**Parent Survey**

As part of our ongoing development, we take into account the views of parents and families when making future plans. Please find a copy of a questionnaire alongside this newsletterwhich we would like you to complete. It uses the questions asked by Ofsted on their ‘Parent View’ site, this can be found at <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>.

We have based it on one per family but if you would like to make specific comments about a child (if you have more than one attending this school), please do so. We would be very grateful if you could return your submissions by Friday 10th June – many thanks for your support with this vital aspect of our work.

**Lost Property**

A reminder that the lost property store is in the cube at the start and end of the school day if your child has lost any items.

**‘One World’ Week at St Mary’s!**

**Reception**

Foxes and Hedgehogs have been learning about India and Greece. We have enjoyed dressing up, dancing, food tasting and making vases and decorating elephants. We have also learnt lots of fascinating facts about our countries.

**Year 1**

This week Robins class looked at Ghana. First we found out which continent Ghana was in and then we learnt all about the culture there. We loved working together to make a class 'Kente'. This is a colourful cloth worn for ceremonies, festivals, and other sacred occasions. We also had a great time taking part in a Ghanaian dance called Azonto.Come and look at our display board to see our Ghana Moon Masks, key facts, animal puppets and other items.

**Year 2**

Dolphins have been learning all about Iran. Roxana's mom came in to share lots of fascinating facts, show us photographs and even teach us a dance. We all had a go at writing our names using the Persian alphabet which was a bit tricky before tucking in to some Iranian candy floss which was delicious!

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**Year 3**

To celebrate One World Week, and in particular England, Giraffes have been learning about traditional English Country Dancing. There's been lots of ‘dosey-doeing’ and swinging our partners! On Thursday, as well as performing our finished dance, we enjoyed a tea party with cucumber sandwiches and fairy cakes, which we made ourselves.

In Lions this week, we have been learning about Turkey! We all learnt a traditional Turkish myth and dance. Everyone tried some tasty treats from Turkey and some children presented information they had found out about the country to the rest of the class.

**Years 4 and 5**

Tigers and Monkeys have had lots of fun learning about the islands, culture, history and food of the Caribbean for One World Week. Did you know there are roughly 26 countries which make up the Caribbean? Our learning culminated in our show, which featured Caribbean drumming, dancing, singing and even a cocktail bar!

**Year 6**

Pandas have been finding out about the Philippines. We have looked at the history, the geography, studied art and the festivals and celebrations of the region. We were extremely lucky to have received a crash course about the area from Mr & Mrs Carreon – they also prepared a traditional Philippino dish for us all to try – delicious! A HUGE ‘Thank You’ to both of them, especially as Mrs Carreon was up at 3am on Thursday morning preparing the food she brought in.

**Many thanks to all of the staff and children for making this week such a success. It was rounded off beautifully by our Church service this morning when we celebrated the diversity of our school through the theme of ‘Peace’. A display to reflect this is now in St Mary’s Church.**

**Each class has produced a display to illustrate the country they have studied this week. They are: Iran, Greece, Phillipines, Ghana, countries of the Caribbean, Northern Ireland, England, Turkey, India and China. They can be seen in the main corridor that runs from the cube to the new building and we would welcome you to come into school and look at these.**

School closes today for the half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 6th June.