

St Mary & All Saints Newsletter



May 2023

Dear Parents,

This has been an extremely busy albeit short half term. It has sped past and the children have accomplished so much.

Well done to Year 6 for approaching their SATs recently with such a mature attitude and concentrated efforts. We are very proud of them. Equally Year 2, who have also completed their assessments last week, taking them in their stride and showing such positive attitudes. Well done!

It was wonderful to see the children in their hats last week, we have raised an amazing £508.56 through this event for Brain Tumour Trust. Thank you very much for your support

I wish you all a wonderful half term holiday enjoying the promised long awaited sunshine and am looking forward to all the planned events next half term.

Best wishes,

Headteacher
Mrs J Barnett

Celebrating the Coronation



On Friday 5th May, the children all enjoyed a day of celebration for the King's Coronation. They spent the morning working in their family groups to create a junk model of something for the King. There was a huge variety of royal models including castles, thrones, corgis and even a model of King Charles himself! The children all worked beautifully with their group and it was lovely to see the collaboration between the older children and the little ones. In the afternoon the children enjoyed a traditional picnic of sandwiches and scones. The rainy weather certainly did not dampen our spirits as we celebrated by playing games and learning all about the Royal Family and what happens at a coronation. It was a wonderful day that hopefully the children will remember for many years to come. Our thanks go to Miss Moss for organising this special day.



Headteacher

Mrs J Barnett BA(QTS)



An Oxford Diocesan
School

Summer Music Sessions



Over the past three weeks, we have been lucky enough to once again enjoy the SMAS Summer Sessions: a series of concerts designed to give any children who learn an instrument a chance to shine in front of an audience of their peers and parents, and to excite more children about the opportunity to learn an instrument. They began in UKS2 with a phenomenal display of individual talent including a huge range of instruments, beautifully accompanied by our fabulous choir. LKS2 came next with a very high-quality range of performers who played with such confidence and enthusiasm. Finally, we were treated to a musical extravaganza from KS1 and Reception, who, in addition to some excellent soloists, each performed a class or year group piece, giving us a welcome snapshot into what they had been studying in their music lessons this term. The energy, fun and excitement was palpable.

From the shining smiles of the performers to the proud faces of their parents and teachers and the heart-warming congratulations of their supportive classmates and friends, the whole series was a joy and a privilege to watch. We hear that there are many more eager performers-to-be who have been inspired to learn an instrument so we are excited to see what next year's Summer Sessions will have in store! Thank you to Miss Piekarska and the staff for organising the performances this term.



Our Values

Our focus values this term are;

- Relationships and Love
- Peace
- Creation
- Joy
- Compassion
- Truthfulness
- Changing me
- Courage
- Thankfulness
- Wisdom
- Trust
- Community

These are discussed weekly through Collective Worship and within classrooms.

Term Dates

Please click [**HERE**](#) to view school dates for 2022/23



Key Dates

5th June - School starts

5th June - Y4 Multiplication check this week

8th June - Mufti Day for Donkey Derby

9th June - Class Photographs

12th June - Y6 PGL

12th June - Y1 Phonics screening this week

15th June - Reception Trip to Mop End

15th June - Y2 trip to Restore HOPE

24th June - Donkey Derby

26th June - Sports Week

30th June - Sports Day & PTA BBQ

4th July - SMAS Transition morning

6th July - Y6 Leavers Performance 6.30pm

7th July - SMAS Transition morning

13th July - Open Evening

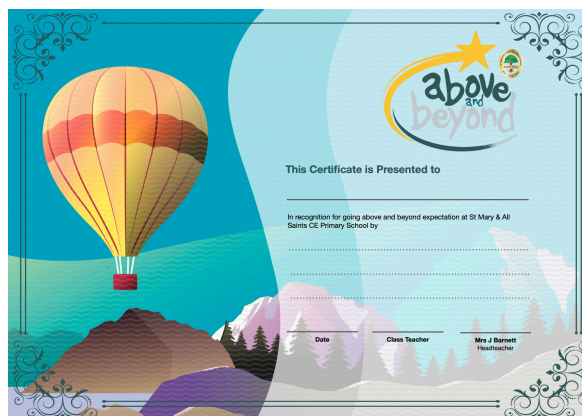
17th July - Y6 Leavers Celebration

18th July - Y4 Trip to Iwer Heath

21st July Y6 Leavers Service

21st July - School Finishes at 2pm

Beyond Expectations



We have introduced a new celebration award for our pupils, the 'Beyond Expectations' award. This will be given to one child in each class every month, for going above and beyond our St Mary and

All Saints expectations. The certificate will give details as to why this has been awarded to individual children.

In recognition for their outstanding efforts, the children given the award each month will join Mrs Barnett and Mrs Philpott for a treat.

A huge congratulations to the recipients of this new award in April and May. Hot chocolate, marshmallows and biscuits were enjoyed by all! The next awards will be presented soon so watch this space.

April

RAC - Hugo	REB - George
1SH - Marlie	1SB/CR - Zach
2EM - Anya	2SM/SL - Gia
3KO/KP - Luca	3SA - Henry
4CF - Hannah	4CR/TL - Albie
5CR - Issy	5MC - Ashlyn
6DV - Sam	6LG - Tony

May

RAC - Daisy	REB - Alice
1SH - Matilda	1SB/CR - Oliver
2EM - Ada	2SM/SL - Anna
3KO/KP - Freddy	3SA - Carys
4CF - Abaia	4CR/TL - Ava
5CR - Ariadne	5MC - Florence
6DV - Alice	6LG - Charlie

Governor Visits into school

Throughout the year Governors come into school to speak with staff and spend time in and around our school. This year, we have once again been able to invite Governors in for our whole school Governor morning where they spend time in classrooms with the staff and children. The Governors really enjoyed being able to come into school and see it in action.

Below are some comments from the visit morning;

'Children spoke very positively about their teachers and the school staff, and they were extremely kind and respectful to each other. In class they appeared to be genuinely enjoying their learning and keen to progress'.

'Brilliant class lesson plans with excellent involvement of all children in the class. Great work in groups and pairs and questions from the teacher to check the learning was embedded. Good challenge questions for the children'.

'I was impressed by the way the wonderful resources we have in school are used to help with the children's learning, especially the Smart Boards'.

'Teaching methods were consistently engaging, reinforcing and innovative. The enthusiasm and skill of the teachers I met was exceptionally high'.

'Pupils are well behaved - they move around the school quietly and calmly - to and from assembly; to and from break; to and from the fire drill. They are motivated and enthusiastic ... confident and articulate'.

'Staff know their pupils well and work with them in a way that is most effective for each child to learn and grow in the best way for them'.

School Trips

It has been wonderful to be able to recommence school trips this academic year post Covid. The children really enjoy them and they certainly enhance our curriculum experience in a unique way which we cannot achieve in school.

I realise that these trips do come at a cost to you as parents and thank you for your continued support in enabling these to go ahead for our children. Unfortunately we are in a situation whereby if enough voluntary contributions are not received then we have to consider cancelling the trip. Since September as a school we have had a shortfall of £2636.92 related to trips which we have needed to find. I have to acknowledge that this is not something we will be able to sustain indefinitely.

I would also like to take this opportunity to address the myth that we factor this into the cost of the trip. This is not the case, the cost is calculated by splitting the cost of the coach by the number of children in the class and the cost per pupil to attend the trip which gives the final amount.

I do hope that we will be able to offer trips as part of our curriculum and once again thank you for your continued support.

Staffing Update

As we approach the end of this academic year I wanted to update you in respect of some staffing changes for September 2023. Unfortunately, at the end of every year, due to a variety of reasons, we end up saying goodbye to some much loved staff members and this year is no exception. In July we will be saying goodbye to Miss S Haig and Miss S Adams. Miss Haig is moving to Milton Keynes and has secured a teaching position nearer to her new home. Miss Adams has decided to try something new and will be taking a break from teaching. We will be sorry to see them go and thank them for all their hard work at SMAS. They will be much missed.

We are, however, very happy to welcome some new staff members to our team - some of which you already know. Miss M Page and Mrs C Reynolds will be joining us as permanent members of staff in September and we have also employed Miss C Lucas who used to come here as a pupil so is very excited to return. I know you will welcome these new members of staff and join us in doing everything we can to make them feel part of the SMAS community.