

# St Mary & All Saints Newsletter



Spring 1 2024

Dear Parents,

This half term seems to have passed by so very quickly. It has been a busy and productive start to the new year. The children quickly settled back into school life and have enjoyed a huge range of additional curriculum activities such as International Week and a range of curriculum days across the school. Please do see our social media pages for photos and updates. My thanks as always go to the staff for organising such a range of opportunities for the children.

The children have continued to enjoy our Family Group assemblies. It is a lovely way for them to make connections across the school and for our older pupils in Year 6 to develop their leadership skills. Next half term we will be focussing in on our values and our school vision Head, Hand, Heart. Please do ask the children about these assemblies and who is in their group.

I hope that you have an enjoyable and restful half term and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 19th February.

Headteacher  
*Mrs J Barnett*

## Upcoming Events

DATE	DAY	EVENT
FEB 09	FRIDAY	INSET Day
FEB 27	TUESDAY	REB Parents Evening
MARCH 07	THURSDAY	World Book Day
MARCH 08	FRIDAY	Easter Fair Mufti Day
MARCH 15	FRIDAY	Easter Fair
MARCH 25	MONDAY	3:30 - 4:15PM Book Look
MARCH 27	WEDNESDAY	Easter Service at St Michael & All Angels Church
MARCH 28	THURSDAY	School Finishes at 2pm for Easter break
APRIL 15	MONDAY	INSET Day
APRIL 16	TUESDAY	School reopens for Summer term



Headteacher

Mrs J Barnett BA(QTS)



school  
achievement award  
equipment for education and skills



An Oxford Diocesan  
School

## PTA Sponsored Read

Friday 9th February to  
Sunday 25th February



The PTA launched their annual Sponsored Read during assembly on Thursday 8th February. As well as raising funds for the school, we hope that this will encourage even reluctant readers to take part. There will be individual prizes for one sponsored reader in each class who has spent the most minutes reading, as well as 'Lucky Dip' prizes drawn from all of the children who participated - you really do have to be in it to win it!

Children brought home Sponsor Forms yesterday.

Prizes will all be awarded to celebrate the children's achievements shortly after the end of the Sponsored Read.

## School Calendar

Please click [HERE](#) to view school dates for 2024 - 2025

## International Week



From the intricate beauty of Japanese architecture to the vibrant flavours of authentic cuisine from Spain, India, Brazil and the Caribbean, this year's International Week was a captivating journey around the world.

Throughout the week, our pupils delved deep into the rich tapestry of global traditions, learning, and celebration. Japanese architecture became a canvas for creativity as Year 2 students moulded stunning



replicas of iconic buildings, while Year 4 explored the visionary works of Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi, crafting dazzling mosaics inspired by his genius.

But International Week was not just about artistic expression; it was





a gateway to understanding and appreciating diverse cultures. Through interactive activities and engaging discussions, students honed their research skills, gaining insights into the realities of life and the unique customs of

countries tied to their year groups.

The school came alive with a flurry of activities, from flag-themed Mufti outfits to captivating artworks. Each encounter was a testament to the beauty of cultural exchange and the power of education to foster global citizenship.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making International Week 2024 a resounding success. Your dedication and enthusiasm created unforgettable moments of discovery and joy for our students.

## Year 5 Space Curriculum Day



Year 5 recently enjoyed a digital planetarium experience to round off their topic about Space. Throughout the day the children had the opportunity to enter the space dome in the school hall to witness first hand the wonders of science and space. They particularly enjoyed gazing at the night sky and 'visiting' the Space Station.

Ava commented, "We were very excited about the Space

### Reminder: Inset Day on Friday, February 9th!

Just a friendly reminder to all our parent(s)/caregiver(s): Friday, February 9th, is an Inset Day at SMAS. No classes will be held on this day.

### Parents' Evenings

Thank you to everyone who has attended Parents' Evening this week. I do hope you have found them to be useful and informative, and have enjoyed the opportunity to look at your children's work in their books and around the school. If you have been unable to meet with the class teacher this week please do speak to them about arranging an alternative appointment after half term.

### Book Fair - Monday 5th February to Thursday 8th February 2024

The school has hosted its annual Scholastic Book Fair this week. It has been wonderful to see the children so excited perusing the new titles available. Thank you for all of your support with this event. The school receives a commission on the total number of books sold and in previous years has received approximately £1500 to spend on books. Miss Fraser works hard to ensure this money is reinvested into books and reading opportunities across the school. Thank you to Mrs Massie & Mrs Scott for manning the book fair.

## Adopted Children / Free School Meals

Schools can receive additional funding for children who are adopted or who qualify for Free School Meals. Each adopted child is eligible for the additional funding provided the adoptive parent(s) informs the school in writing about the adoption and meets government criteria. All children who have been adopted, placed on a special guardianship or placed on a residency order since 2006 will qualify, but this does not include those children who are currently looked after and eligible for PPG+.

Parents who are receiving Income Support can also qualify for Free School Meals.

Please contact the school office for further information if you should have any questions.

## Attendance



The school is required by the DFES to send in termly attendance figures. The attendance figure for Autumn Term 2023 for the school was 94.8%. National attendance for this age range is 95%. At SMAS we aim to exceed 96%. Please ensure the office is advised of any absence by leaving a message on the absence line at the earliest opportunity.



Dome Visit this half term. We were taught so many amazing facts that have enhanced our Space learning and we were able to enjoy a Space experience in our school hall!"

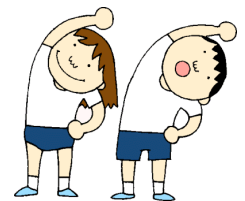
## Uniform & PE Kit

It is lovely to stand at the front of the hall and see the children looking smart in their uniform. Please can I ask parents to ensure that children are wearing correct uniform, including our school tie, with shirts tucked in and black school shoes to ensure our high standards are continued. Our uniform policy is available on the school website.

During the colder months the children are allowed to wear sweatshirts and tracksuit bottoms for PE. Please see the uniform list below. All uniform is available from the School Shop in Beaconsfield.

PE uniform should always be in school for the appropriate lessons and consists of:-

- Yellow polo shirt (crested) and black shorts
- Black plimsolls and trainers
- Brown sweatshirts (crested) and plain brown or black tracksuit bottoms may be worn outside if it is cold.



## Footsteps Training

The children in Year 2 have previously received regular Footsteps training throughout the school year. This training raises their awareness of the road and teaches them how to cross the road safely. This is usually delivered by parent volunteers, following a short morning training session with Buckinghamshire Council.

As we have been unable to carry out this training for the last few years, we are now looking for new volunteers to attend a training session themselves and then deliver the training to our Year 2 children, as well as a Footsteps Coordinator. The Coordinator would work closely with our Travel Plan Coordinator and the school to help organise Tutor Training, plan when the training can be delivered to children and organise a rota for tutors. If you are able to offer support with Footsteps please contact the school office in the first instance.



# Happy Chinese New Year - The Year of the Dragon!



As we embrace the festivities of the Lunar New Year, our Reception students are diving headfirst into the vibrant tapestry of Chinese culture. This term's curriculum day was abuzz with excitement as they immerse themselves in the traditions of Chinese New Year.

From the captivating allure of the dragon dance to the mouthwatering aroma of popular Chinese dishes, our little learners are on a journey of discovery and delight. With help from our dedicated teachers, they've learned the intricate steps of the traditional dragon dance, channeling the spirit of celebration and unity.

Today marks a special occasion as our students embark on a culinary adventure, tasting an array of popular Chinese dishes. A celebration of flavour and tradition, igniting their senses and fostering cultural appreciation.



Through these immersive experiences, our Reception students are not just learning about Chinese New Year; they're embracing the values of diversity, harmony, and togetherness that define this auspicious occasion.



We extend our warmest wishes to all families celebrating Chinese New Year. May the Year of the Dragon bring you joy, prosperity, and countless blessings.

Gong Xi Fa Cai!

## Year 4 Discovers the Art of Pizza Making!



In an exciting culmination of their Design and Technology topic, Year 4 students embarked on a delicious adventure: making pizzas! But the excitement didn't stop there. They took their culinary skills to the next level with a visit to Pizza Express in Beaconsfield, where they learned from the masters themselves.

Under the guidance of the talented professionals at Pizza Express, our young chefs delved into the secrets of crafting the perfect Italian classic: the Margherita pizza. From kneading the dough to achieving that signature smoothness, every step was a lesson in precision and passion.

But the magic didn't end with the dough. Students discovered firsthand the importance of fresh ingredients in enhancing the flavour of their creations. With Pizza Express' renowned passata (tomato) sauce, gooey mozzarella, and fragrant basil, they transformed their dough into culinary masterpieces.

Each student got to personalise their pizzas, adding their own creative flair to the process. But the best bit by far was – the taste test!

A huge thank you to Pizza Express for generously sharing their expertise and passion with our students.





## NEWSLETTER



### SPORTS OVERVIEW: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT AND TEAM SPIRIT

At SMAS, sports play a central role in fostering teamwork, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle among our students. From thrilling matches to inspiring victories, here's a snapshot of our sporting achievements and activities:

- Football and Netball Fixtures: Our Football and Netball teams have been actively participating in leagues and competitions, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship on the field. Despite the occasional pause due to winter weather, our students eagerly await the resumption of fixtures post half term.

- Cross Country Event: Our Year 5&6 students demonstrated exceptional resilience and determination at the Cross Country event before the winter break. Running through tricky and muddy conditions, they exemplified the spirit of perseverance and grit.



- Football Festival: Girls in Year 5&6 had an enriching experience at a football festival conducted by external coaches. Engaging in a variety of skill-building sessions, they embraced every moment with enthusiasm and joy.

- Upcoming Challenges: As we look ahead, our U11 Boys Football Team is gearing up to represent our County in the Regional Finals of the ESFA 7-a-side Competition. Their victory at the County Finals Stage underscores their talent and dedication.

Through sports, our students learn valuable life lessons such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience. We applaud their efforts and celebrate their achievements, both on and off the field. Here's to a future filled with sportsmanship, camaraderie, and success!

## Cycling and Scooting

We would like to remind parents and children to dismount from their bicycles and scooters when entering the playgrounds at the beginning and end of each school day.

### Younger Siblings

Please could parents also ensure younger siblings are kept nearby at dropping off and collection time. Please could you also ensure your children do not climb on the circular brick wall in the Key Stage 1 playground. Thank you for your cooperation

## Values

We will be focussing on the following values across the Spring Term with the children, both through collective worship and during classroom reflection time:

- Dreams and Goals
- Perseverance
- Hope
- Creation
- Peace
- Healthy Me
- Respect
- Wisdom
- Friendship
- Truthfulness
- Easter

Please ask your child about what they have learnt.

# Emergency Procedures / School Closure



In case of an emergency or when the school has to be closed at any time (due to severe weather etc), there is a set of procedures that is laid down by the County for schools to follow. Once a decision is reached to close the school:

1. County website - The Headteacher will contact the County about details of the school closure. The information about school closure will then be placed on the County's website, [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk). The local Radio stations will also broadcast the closures. To access the School closure page, you can visit this website and from the home page click on 'Education' (located on left-hand side) - Schools - Closures. Alternatively, you can access the web page directly at: [closures.buckscc.gov.uk](http://closures.buckscc.gov.uk)

Parents are advised NOT to ring the local radio station but to stay tuned in for further details and/or to visit the County website. You may wish to make this a 'Favourite' for easy access should the need arise.

2. We will also send out a communication via ParentMail to inform you if school is closed.

3. School Website - We will update our school website to provide any additional information [www.stmaryallsaints.co.uk](http://www.stmaryallsaints.co.uk).

We will endeavour to provide as much notice as possible of any school closure. This is of course difficult on the first day of closure due to snow, however should the school have to remain closed for more than one day we will normally advise parents by 5pm. This will allow parents sufficient time to make arrangements for the following day.

We would ask parents to avoid phoning the school for information during extreme weather forecasts, but to rely on the websites above.

If appropriate, work will be provided for all children via our Remote learning platform - Seesaw. The children should all be familiar with this as it is used to set weekly homework. Please though allow time for staff to prepare and upload work to the site.

While we will endeavour to keep the school open, I believe it is prudent to be well prepared. I hope the above measures are not needed this year and in the event that they are, I hope the arrangements we have put into place prove to be reliable and efficient.