



St. Mary's Preparatory School

A love of learning for life

St. Mary's Newsletter — 29th March 2019

Dear parents,

Today we have been learning how to build Solar Buddy lights to help children living in poverty study after dark. Thank you to everyone for donating to Solar Aid on 'Light up' day. Cognita schools around the world have been supporting this initiative and between us we have built 2,500 solar buddies. Proof that together we can help to make a real difference.

It has been an interesting challenge for teachers and chefs to work with as little power as possible during the day. However, this has certainly not held us back in our learning. (For more photos do see our Facebook page). We encourage all families to extend the 'Power off' idea after school this evening and the School Council have come up with some interesting activity ideas you could do which don't require much electricity —see the poster below (please forgive the spelling mistakes).

Well done to everyone who took part in the St. Mary's Music Concert this week. We were treated to over 30 performances. It was a joy to hear the children play so confidently.

With just one week left of term, a reminder that school closes at the usual time of 3.30pm on Friday 5th April. We are then back to school on Thursday 25th April, in summer uniform please.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Rob Harmer



things to do after school

- Read a book
- Play a board game
- Draw / Colour in / Both
- have a conversation
- Cooking
- Get your homework done
- Practise your instrument
- Arts and crafts
- listen to Music
- Care for your pet
- have a early night
- Play foot ball

THE WEEK AHEAD:

MONDAY 1ST APRIL
REV. CARTER VISITING ASSEMBLY
Y1 EASTER EGG HUNT

TUESDAY 2ND APRIL
Y3 SHARING MORNING
Y3 DRAMA PRESENTATION
Y6 TO NEASDON TEMPLE NURSERY EASTER EGG HUNT
Y4 DRAMA PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL
Y5 TEENTECH CITY FINALS
U10/U11 NETBALL V WAVELEY
U10/ U11 RUGBY V WAVERLEY

THURSDAY 4TH APRIL
Y2 SHARING MORNING
Y4 TRIP TO SIKH GURDWARA IROCK CONCERT, 3PM
KINDERGARTEN TO SWISS FARM
OUTDOOR CLUB

FRIDAY 5TH APRIL
Y1 SHARING MORNING
Y4 SHARING MORNING
KINDERGARTEN EASTER EGG HUNT
NURSERY TO SWISS FARM
LAST DAY OF TERM



This week's challenge!
29th March

Remember to Hit the **RED BUTTON** - CHALLENGE COMPLETED!

What is Earth Hour?
Ask your parent/carer if you can support Earth Hour 2019 - Saturday 30th March
Switch off your lights from 8.30-9.30pm.
Maybe use the time for a candle-lit meal, a family game, or to gaze at the stars?

Important Notice - Monthly Payment of Fees

We have reviewed the payment options for parents that currently pay their school fees through the school's in-house monthly scheme. With effect from 1st May 2019, we will no longer be offering this payment option however, we are delighted to announce that we have entered into an arrangement with a new provider, School Fee Plan, which will allow parents to continue to finance their school fees and repay by monthly Direct Debit.

School Fee Plan has over 20 years' experience in providing this service to parents and we are confident that you will receive exceptional service from their dedicated team.

The service allows you to spread the cost of your fees and extras over 12 monthly repayments commencing in September and concluding in August.

If you wish to pay monthly from the Summer Term 2019 onwards, please refer to the below link and ensure you have registered by 15th April 2019.

<https://www.sfpschoolfees.co.uk>

The paperless online application process is secure, simple and quick to complete. Once you have signed up, you will continue to receive your termly bills from the school in the normal way but these will be for information only. No further action is required by yourself as the school will advise School Fee Plan directly of your termly invoice value. School Fee Plan will then provide you with a schedule of monthly repayments and this notification will occur a minimum of 10 days before the first collection from your nominated bank account.

Please note, credit is subject to status, affordability, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only.

There is no long-term commitment, since you can revert to paying each term in full on the due date at any time by notifying School Fee Plan. However, the fees for each term will automatically be added to your credit agreement until you advise otherwise.

Stonewall School Champion

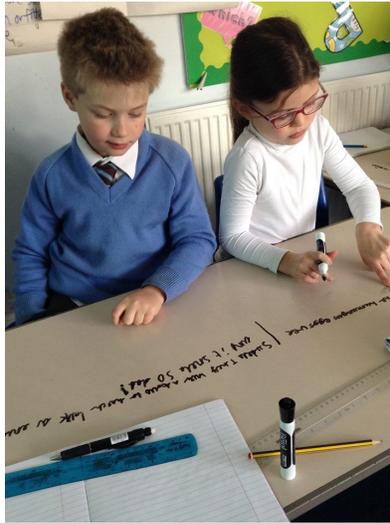
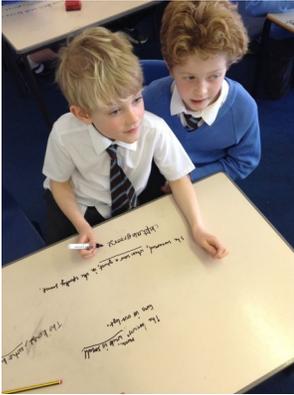
We are pleased to report that St. Mary's is now a Stonewall School Champion. We are committed to helping all educators tackle homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Mrs Bodle attended a 'Train the Trainer' session with other Cognita teachers earlier this month. If you are interested in learning more about this please do contact us.



A Gala Dinner is being organised by Emily Burkitt to raise vital funds for Breast Cancer Now and CoppaFeel. Please see attached posters for further details and visit <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bcncoball/> to book tickets.

Creative writers in Year 3

Year 3 enjoyed this literacy lesson, writing on the tables and using adjectives to create imagery for the reader.



Nursery trip to Fire Station



Nursery had a very interesting and informative time at the Henley Fire Station this week.

Year 2 trip to Acacia Lodge

Year 2 have been enjoying regular visits to Acacia Lodge this term, spending time getting to know their buddies at the care home.

Last week Year 2 passed on their papier mache pots full of marigold plants and asked questions they had carefully compiled to find out about their buddies. We all learnt a great deal about how the residents used to live as children.



Year 1 at the farm

Year 1 had a wonderful trip to Bucklebury farm this week and met some very friendly animals!



Year 4 at the Living Rainforest

Year 4 busy here sketching the wildlife during their trip to the Living Rainforest this week.



Year 6 winners!

Very well done to Sophie Hucker, Olivia Borlase, Alex Marthinusen, James Mennie, Drummond Seraille and Henry Roseff who all took part in the Abingdon Prep School Business Challenge—and won the marketing prize! Fantastic result Year 6. Congratulations!



Happy Holi Year 6 have been having a great time learning about Holi, the popular ancient Hindu festival. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Roseff for providing us with lawn space for our celebrations and to Mrs Scannell for providing amazing Indian food that we all enjoyed.

Celebrations

Thank you to Olivia Borlase for making this beautiful work of art at home. Very inspiring!



We were pleased to hear that Rose Hillier created a lovely Easter bonnet in aid of Wear a Hat Day for Brain Tumour Research. Well done Rose.

We are thrilled that we have so many published authors on Pobble now and it is lovely to read some of the comments from parents. Thank you to everyone for getting behind this initiative.

Special thanks to..

Thank you to the Bell Bookshop for donating some World Book Day books to Key Stage 2. Year 6 are really enjoying one of the books called Everdark, written by Abi Elphinstone, who also kindly wrote a letter to the pupils!



Well done to Allegra Benarr who has secured her 25m swimming badge and to Isaac Fitzpatrick for achieving his grade 6 in gymnastics.

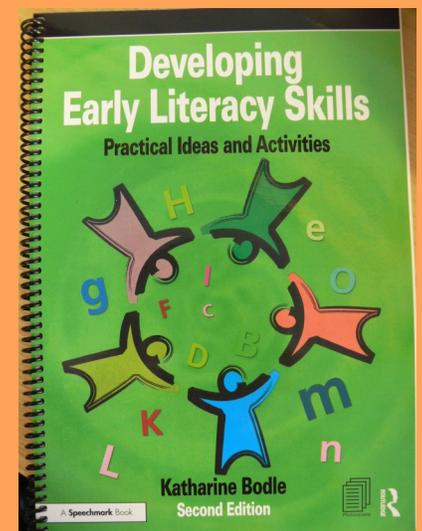
Congratulations to Tommy Lane and Max Jobson who play Henley Lions U10—the team that won the league! Tommy also plays for Henley Hockey Club and they are through to regional rounds in May. Good luck!

Well done to our Peer Supporters who have been doing a fantastic job helping out in the playground. In their new bright bibs they are easy to spot and are on hand to help out children in all year groups.

It's not just the children who have reasons to celebrate this week...

Well done to Mrs Bodle who has had a book published this week!

'Developing Early Literacy Skills' is a valuable resource for professionals working with pre school children or with older children lacking basic literacy skills. Packed full of practical activities to develop the early skills crucial in literacy we are sure that many children will benefit as a result of her book.



Sports news

Touch rugby:

St. Edward's U9 7 - 7 St. Mary's Dragons

Try scorers Theo Berry x 2, Ollie Thomas x 2, Arthur Massie x 3

This was a very entertaining and close game with both teams playing some good touch Rugby. It was a good all round team performance with some good defending and tries scored by St. Mary's.

St. Edward's U9 5 - 10 St. Mary's

Try scorers Charlie Nelmes x 6, Milo Vann x 3, Albie Ball x 1

A great game of touch rugby with both teams defending well. Some good tries ensured St. Mary's came away with a victory against a well organised St. Edward's team.

Handball:

St. Mary's U9 12-14 Badgemore

Player of the Match - Charlie Wilks

A tough game which saw St. Mary's rally in the second half, playing with determination to close the lead that Badgemore had secured. The team passed the ball well and used the full width of the pitch superbly, to equalise however Badgemore snuck ahead by 2 goals. Brilliant goalkeeping by Abigail Lawrence.

St. Mary's U8 12-2 Badgemore

Player of the Match—Eleanor Borlase

St. Mary's dominated the match ensuring the ball was in their half for most of the game. Fantastic passing between Kalypso Vogel, Daniella Southgate and Sophie Broom.

St. Mary's Tag Rugby Festival:

St Mary's mixed Tag Rugby Festival went really well with Badgemore pipping St Mary's Tigers to the trophy by just one point! In third place came Valley Road B , 4th place Valley Road A and 5th place St Mary's Dragons. There were some great tries scored by all teams and some great individual tries scored.

The final table were

Badgemore 1st 31 points

St Mary's Tigers 2nd 30 points

Valley Road B 3rd 25 points

Valley Road A 4th 24 points

St Mary's Dragons 5th 9 points



Oxford Literary Festival

The annual Oxford Literary Festival takes place from March 30 to April 7 this year. There are many suitable activities for all ages, from craft sessions for our youngest pupils to more challenging encounters with writers and illustrators for the older children, and of course, many entertaining events for adults. The sessions which took my attention were " The Skies above my eyes" on March 30, suitable for 5+ years - a journey to space, "Lesser Spotted Animals 2 " with illustrator Martin Brown, who has worked with the Horrible History series, and "Moomin Story and Crafts on April 6.