

# St Mary's News



Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of St Mary's news. In this paper you will find out about all the interesting activities that our fellow pupils have been getting up to. You will also read about the latest changes to the school and the most exciting events that our school has taken part in recently. Some of the children have helped contribute to our school newspaper by writing some fantastic articles to keep you informed. Each article has been written by the children themselves and proof read by us, the editors for this academic year.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the next edition of the St Mary's News please speak to your editors (Madison or Bethany) or give the information to the school office before Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March, ready for the next edition just before the Easter Holidays.

We hope that you enjoy reading this newspaper!

By Madison and Bethany



## Valentine's Day Facts

- Every year over one billion Valentine's cards are sent all over the world.
- In the Middle Ages, young people drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for a week.
- More than thirty-six million chocolate boxes that are shaped as hearts are sold on Valentine's Eve.



## School Council News

The School Councillors at St Mary's have been working hard again this term to make improvements to the school, listening to the ideas and suggestions of the other pupils. This term school councillors have carried out a survey of the children and found out the most popular snacks to sell at the Healthy Tuck Shop on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday break time. Some of our Teaching Assistants work hard to make sure that the Tuck shop has enough stock each week and our school councillors help to run it during the week. Our school council will be looking at how much profit has been made so far this year and what this money could be spent on.

The School Council have also thought about which charities they might support this year and have decided to support Rowcroft Hospice this term, which was chosen by council as one of our pupils has been directly affected by the work that Rowcroft carries out. The children are working hard to plan a Sponsored Obstacle Race, which you will be invited to support later next term.

By Madison, Eloise, Jasmine, Brian, Ellie B-D, Joseph, Hannah T and Louis

## **Building Work**

The builders at our school started to plan the hall three years ago. They had to draw out the plan first before they could get started, now the rest of the school improvements have been finished the school hall is last to be completed and should be finished by June. We heard that the new school hall will be the same size as the Southpark Community Centre.

Every day all of the builders get up and get things ready to start work, some of the builders are on site by 6.30am and some by 7.30am in order to get as much work done as possible. The builders can't do any night shifts as there are no outdoor lights.

When we interviewed the builders, they said that they liked their jobs but prefer it when the weather is sunny as it makes working conditions easier.

By Hannah M and Eleanor L



## **Cookery Club**

One of the newest St Mary's after school clubs is the cookery club, which was set up by Mrs Owen, a teaching assistant at the school. She was asked by members of the School Council if she would be willing to run this activity after school and agreed to do so. Cookery club takes place every Wednesday from 3.45 until 5.00pm and costs £1 per session to cover the cost of the ingredients. Some of the recipes that have already been made are rice crispy cakes, cheese scones and peanut butter cookies. Mrs Bradford, one of the parents, said, 'I really liked the recipes that have been made and the food has been delicious'. The club has been so successful that Mrs Owen already has a waiting list of children wanting to take part in the Summer Term.

## **Drama Club**

An exciting new drama club is being run on Tuesday lunchtimes by Miss Beddows and Miss Porter. Pupils take part in a range of activities such as making up short plays and improvisation techniques. Each session has a theme, for example one week was based around 'Fairy tales'.

By Kerys

## **Multi-skills Club**

Every Tuesday after school, children from Venford take part in a multi-skills sports club. Sometimes children play dodge ball, football or other ball games. Everyone enjoys the club because it is good exercise and it stops you being lazy. The children learn how to play together as a team.

By Rory and Maximus

### Stover Netball Tournament

Pupils at St. Mary's like to learn lots of different sports. At the end of last term, some pupils in Year 5 and 6 entered a netball tournament, held at Stover School near Newton Abbot. Lots of schools in the South Dartmoor Sports Partnership entered the tournament on a very cold and quite wet afternoon. Mr Carty who took the netball team said, 'They played an excellent couple of games, especially as it was the first time they had all played together as a team'.

Although everyone involved enjoyed the experience, the school did not win the tournament and came 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. This caused disappointment for the whole team, but they are looking forward to the next tournament, when the other school teams had better watch out!

By Sophie N



### Tag Rugby Festival

Last term some of the pupils from Burrator went to a sports tournament for Tag Rugby at Newton Abbot Rugby Club, along with sixteen other Devon Schools. We travelled to the tournament with Miss Slack or Mr de Young and played some games like 'eye spy' and 'yellow mini' to pass the time in the car.

Once we got to Newton Abbot we were all a bit nervous before our first match. Unfortunately we lost this game, but the more we played, the better we got. At the end our Head teacher, Miss Slack, gave us a bottle of water to keep us going until we got back to school as it was quite a hot day!

Eventually we watched the last match between the two finalists and then we were presented with our certificates.

We learnt all about teamwork and how important this is for a successful game. We were all pleased to discover that our team had played really well and were placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the tournament. I think that we would all love to play as a team again if there is another tournament later in the year.

By Luke

### Sign2Sing

Recently the children of our school took part in an exciting event called Sign2Sing. In the weeks before the event we were learning a song, and signs to accompany the words using British sign language. The event was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2014 and involved over 300,000 primary school children and adults in over 1,000 schools in the UK and abroad. At any time of day on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February the children taking part could sing and sign to be part of the record attempt. The song chosen by St Mary's Primary School was called 'Get up and Sign'. For the event we all brought in a pound and a scarf because the monkey of Sign2Sing (Olli) is always seen wearing a scarf.

SignHealth is the charity that came up with the event Sign2Sing. SignHealth wants to see a world where deaf people are as healthy as hearing people. Deaf people can possibly find it hard to get equal access to health care and health information and because of this deaf people are more vulnerable to becoming ill. SignHealth has been working for over 20 years to improve the health of deaf people.

The children and staff at St Marys all had a great time doing this worthwhile event. A pupil at our school said "It was great fun and we really enjoyed signing along to the song. I enjoy supporting others who need help, and this is such a good way to do it."

By Bethany

## Around the classes ...



## Brother Bear Tour

Children from Venford went on a trip to Buckfast Abbey to find out about how a monk spends his day. We were able to visit where the monks actually live, which is next to the Abbey and we learnt some of the prayers that they say. The monks get up at 6am and they go to pray in the Abbey and sing a hymn. They also say prayers and sing a hymn in the afternoon and at 10pm. After we had finished our tour, everybody got their own little bear, which was dressed as a monk – it was great visiting the Abbey!

By Louis

## Healthy Humans

As part of Fernworthy's topic this half term, we invited two visitors to our school to talk about how to stay healthy. Sasha Burt, a local dentist, explained what happens when you don't clean your teeth correctly. We used disclosing tablet to see how clean our teeth were. Most people had pink teeth which shows the presence of plaque that has been there for 24 hours. Some people had the tiniest amount of purple plaque which shows that it has been on the teeth for over 24 hours.

Dr Barnett (one of our parents) also came into school to talk to the class. She explained about different parts of the body, how the body works and how to look after our bodies.

The whole class found the talk very interesting and we would like to thank both Dr Barnett and the dentist for sparing the time to talk to us.

By Ellie B-D

## Burrator's visit to Bygones

Last term children in Burrator class went to a lovely place in Torquay called Bygones. This is a life like indoor Victorian village full of talking waxworks and a breathing Queen Victoria – what is there not to like?

Also in the museum was a replica of a World War One trench, this was a definite favourite with the pupils. Ellie R said, 'I liked it because it felt like you were actually there and could feel how hard it would have been in the war.'

Before the tour of the museum began, we dressed up as Victorian children. The boys wore waistcoats and were made to look like chimney sweeps. The girls wore lacy caps and pinafores. I know that all the children enjoyed the trip and some hope to return to the museum in the future.

By Jasmine



Please send any ideas or suggestions for St Mary's News to the School Office or email the information to [admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk) .