

St Mary's CE (A) Primary School, Mucklestone

Mail on Tuesday

7th November 2016



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe bonfire weekend and you are ready for another busy week in school. Our daily assemblies will have the theme of 'remembrance' in the lead up to Armistice Day on Friday and children will be learning about the meaning of this throughout the week.

On Thursday and Friday Mark Smith will be in school to photograph children for this year's FOSMS calendar and our school Christmas card. This year, rather than ask children to design individual cards, we will be creating a fun design with all of our children. Please could children have a hat, scarf and gloves in school with them on Thursday so we can capture our wintery scene! Thank you. Please take a moment to read the section at the end of this newsletter which highlights more of FOSMS' news and the invaluable support they provide to enrich your child's education.



Poppy Appeal



Over the next few days we will be asking our Year 6 children to sell poppies at the start of the school day. If your child would like to buy a poppy to support the appeal we are suggesting a donation of 20p for a poppy and 50p for a wristband or reflector badge.

Cold Weather



As the weather is turning more wintery please could you ensure that children are appropriately dressed and have warm coats, gloves, hats and scarves in preparation for playtimes and lunchtimes.

P.E. lessons and Sports Clubs will continue to take place outside where possible so children should also have a long sleeved sweatshirt and sports trousers or leggings in school to enable them to fully participate in activities.



FOSMS News, Amy Hamdy:

Quiz update: A big thank you to everyone who helped with the quiz, donated raffle prizes and came along to the event. We raised £385 for the school, and had a good night out in the process. It was lovely to see so many people there, both from the school and our wider community. And well done to Mrs Keen and her winning team! Our next quiz will probably be in the Spring term - do hope you can make it as it's a great value for a fun night out.



Chinese Banquet, 13th December: This is one of the biggest fundraisers in the year. It's held at the New Ambrosia in Loggerheads (walking distance for many of us...) and includes a wonderful Chinese banquet in this beautifully refurbished restaurant. The event includes a charity auction and we're on the hunt for amazing prizes - please get in touch if you or family/friends/colleagues can offer a unique or interesting experience or prize. Examples of past prizes include tickets to a sporting event, a flight, a day hunting/fishing/riding, the opportunity to go lambing, a golf lesson, dog training, a personalised artwork or photograph of your family...Please put your thinking caps on - this is a really important event for us. Tickets are available from Graham Sedgeley or the school office.

Bags2School: Thank you to everyone who donated old clothes and textiles today. Hopefully it will raise some useful funds for the school.



Christmas Calendar: Parent, Mark Smith, will be in school on Thursday and Friday morning to take photographs for the calendar. If you do NOT want your child to be photographed please let the school office know by Wednesday at the latest.



Where the money goes: You may not realise just how much the money we raise helps your child, day in, day out. In this first half term alone, Friends of St Mary's School has paid £1,000 for new guided reading books for the children, across all three classes. Play equipment has been updated and the money has also subsidised the cost of trips: the funds raised at last month's quiz, for example, will cover the cost of the coach for the Class 1 and Class 3 trip in December. Without these funds, it would become increasingly difficult for the school to provide children with such an array of books, learning materials and enrichment activities. I am sure you all read recent new articles about the difficulties facing small schools: St Mary's is uniquely favoured, enjoying the support of parents, the community and the church to ensure we really punch above our weight when it comes to the school learning environment. We can only do this with the support and generosity of parents so please; do get involved and back our events. And, on behalf of all the children and staff, huge thanks for all your help and support - it really makes a difference every day.

Well done to all who received Awesome Alchemist Awards:



Awesome Alchemist: Class 1 – Bethany, Susan

Class 2 – Lily, Nicole, Cerys and Joe B.

Class 3 – Ella, Jess, Ben G, Sophie, Ashley and Callum

Winning House: Fire

C. Newman

Diary Dates

Please note key dates for this term, these are also available on our website. **(New dates are in blue)**



10 th & 11 th November	School calendar – photographs by Mark Smith
15 th November	Assessment for Parents Meeting 6pm
16 th November	School Photographs – family shots from 8:30am
18 th November	Flu vaccination (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
6 th December	Class 1 and Class 3 trip to Blists Hill Museum
8 th December	Nativity performance 2pm and 6.30pm
13 th December	FOSMS Chinese Banquet
14 th December	Parent Voice Meeting, 3.30pm
14 th December	Christmas lunch, children only
15 th December	Children's party afternoon
16 th December	Last Day of term – Christmas jumper day and 2pm Carol Service in church, parents welcome
3 rd January 2017	First day of term
3 rd January 2017	Keele Space Dome in school