



SHINFIELD ST MARY'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL

AUTUMN TERM 2018

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

19th September 2018



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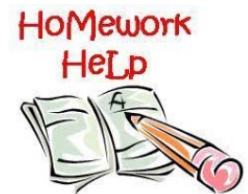
shinfield-st-marys.eschools.co.uk

Dear Parents,

We are having a very busy time at the moment – before we know it, half term will be upon us.

After School Help

Mrs Lawless and her team will be ready to help you with any problems you may have with My Maths, Accelerated Reader or E-Schools after school today; and from next week she will be available to help with homework – access as well as support. Please do avail yourself of this help, which Mrs Lawless and her team are very happy to be providing. We wouldn't want them to be sitting twiddling their thumbs!



Our World of Belief

It has been so exciting to see what the children are doing as part of this year's immersion into learning. In Year Three they are studying Hinduism – and the children have been telling me about the snakes and ladders boards they have been making to represent the fact that actions have consequences, considering Hindu beliefs about actions and their effects! In Year Four they are studying Judaism; in Year Five, Sikhism, and in Year Six, Islam. In assembly on Monday I read the children a Buddhist story, and they responded well to it. They have been thinking about creativity – this week's value. The many ways in which they recognise they are being creative has been wonderful to hear and see.



A Real Learner

I was so delighted by something that happened this week that I want to share it with you. A child in Year Three is having an extension built on his house, and he has been writing a diary of it. He brought it to my office at break time on Tuesday, and showed me his writing and pictures of the workers (Stan, Eddy and Alan, I believe) with their diggers, the sentences he has written, and the photographs he had stuck in. I just love this kind of thing! Please do encourage your children to write about their lives in this way – it is so good for them in developing a love of writing – and it is so lovely for us to see!



Year Six

Many of our Year Six children are in Wales this week, on the residential trip that all children here at Shinfield St Mary's have been able to look forward to for years and years, because of the efforts of our school adults, and in particular Mrs Debbie Warlow and Mrs Hazel Browne. Their organisation of this; their eagerness to give up their own family time to go on this trip, and their clear love of it, has made it always an absolute joy for the children, and I am so grateful to them for it. This week, our Year Six team – Mrs Perrett, Mr Knight, Mrs Louth, Mrs Smith and Mrs Ganpatsingh – are there with the children – and next week it will be the turn of Kestrels, with Mr Lappin and his team – more of which, then! They are having a ball. Mrs Perrett spoke to me this morning as she does every day, and they are having a lovely time, eating huge amounts of food at the ends of days filled with activities and challenges, and sleeping like logs.



Attendance for the week: 96.7%

Theme for the Week: Creativity

House Captains

Our House Captains were announced in assembly on Friday, and I have to say without any reservation that I was proud to tell the school that there were no surprises – the children that were standing before them are children who always make me feel proud: they exemplify all our values and can be relied upon never to stray from them, always being good role models for their peers. I am glad they will be representing the different houses of Druett, Piggott, Hulme and Feilde.



Quiz Night

There will be a family Quiz Night on October 5th. Tickets will be available soon! Please put this date in your diary as it is always so much fun, and will not be too late – 6.30 for a 7pm start. Teams should be no more than eight in size please, to keep it fair. Do start planning your teams – but if you do not know many people and wish to come anyway, do come along and join a team that has less than eight!

Bags to School

Please keep having your clear-outs and as soon as you have the bags, send them into us, stuffed with stuff that will raise money for our school. We have a really big project that we are very excited about, that is soon to be going ahead in our school, and although we are going to pay for it, we really need to find the funds elsewhere for it. Our PTA fund-raising really needs to be spectacular this year!

I will be telling the children about this on Monday in assembly with Mr Knight, who will be running and leading this exciting project in our school. Altogether, it costs £42 000 – but we have been lucky enough to have received a grant from The Prince's Trust of half this amount already. Having paid a deposit of half the remainder, we now have £10 500 to pay, which our PTA have already given us £3000 towards, and which they have said they will raise the rest. I told them about it last week and they were very excited – but I have asked them to stay quiet until Mr Knight has been given the opportunity to tell the children all about it. I am very excited about seeing their reaction!



A Reminder

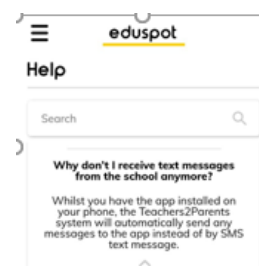


Please remember to return to school the forms saying that you give your consent for your child to be asked about colours, toys and a variety of preferences, for the research that is being done by Miss Minesso in our school.

Teachers 2 Parents

Some of you have told us that you are no longer receiving texts from us through the Teachers 2 Parents system. It would appear that if you have installed the app, you will no longer receive texts.

You may wish to consider whether or not the app is going to be helpful to you or not. It may be more reliable for us to be able to contact you by text rather than for you to have to remember to check the app.



Church Meeting

There will be a meeting at St Mary's Church on Thursday next week, 27th September from 7:30pm to 9pm to plan the church's 905th birthday celebrations. All are welcome.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 20th September—Piano Assembly

Saturday 23rd September—Children return from Rhos

Sunday 24th September—Second group of Year 6 children leave for Rhos-Y-Gwaliau

Monday to Wednesday 24th to 26th September—Year 6 Bikeability 3rd group

Thursday 18th October—School photographer in school

Friday 19th October—End of the first half of term. School finishes at 3:30pm as usual.