

# Newsletter 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

<b>AUTUMN TERM</b>			
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Tuesday 28	School Nurse to visit Years Reception - Yr4		Nasal Immunisation Program against Flu
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Friday 1	Christmas Decoration Day		Children may wear their Christmas jumpers or T-Shirts
Sunday 3	Christmas Fayre	School Hall from 12pm - 3pm	<b>Helpers still needed! Please let us know if you can help set up or clearing away afterwards!</b>
Monday 4	School closed	Occasional day	
Friday 8	Christmas Tree Festival	Friday 6pm-8pm Saturday 12pm-4pm Sunday 12pm-4pm	Aston St Mary's Church Entry £3.00 children free. Our choir will be singing at 1pm on Saturday.
Friday 8	Football club		Last session before Christmas holidays
Monday 11	Multi Sports		Last session before Christmas holidays
Wednesday 13	School Christmas dinner		Children may wear their Christmas jumpers or T-Shirts
Thursday 14	Class Christmas Parties	Afternoon	A special visitor to visit the school Children may bring in a change of clothes
Monday 18	Christmas Church Service	9.45am and 1.45pm St Mary's Church	Tickets details to be announced next week
Tuesday 19	Christmas Holidays begin	1pm	
<b>SPRING TERM</b>			
<b>JANUARY</b>			
Wednesday 3	Back to school		
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Tuesday 6	Happy Bag Collection	Collection will be at 11.30am	If you have any clothes that you would like to donate please leave them in a plastic bag under the bike shelter.
Friday 9	Half term begins	3.15pm	
Monday 19	Back to school		

<b>MARCH</b>			
Thursday 1	World Book Day		Details to follow
Thursday 22	Parents Evening	Classroom from 3.20pm to 8.50pm	Details to follow
Thursday 29	Easter Service	9.30am St Mary's Church	Parents/Carers are welcome to go to St Mary's Church for coffee after dropping the children off and before the service.
	Easter egg decorating competition Egg rolling competition		The children need to decorate a HARD BOILED EGG at home and bring it into school with them on Friday morning and these will be judged in their classes. This is then followed by the egg rolling completion where the children roll their decorated eggs down a slope in the playground to see whose goes the furthest. <b>(Top Tip: try not to stick too much on the eggs when decorating them as they don't roll very well!)</b>  Prizes are given to the most interestingly decorated egg and also the egg that goes the furthest. There are not many eggs that survive the egg rolling competition so they are disposed of at school.
	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt	To be confirmed	
	<b>Easter Holidays begin</b>	<b>1pm</b>	

**Dates and events are subject to change.**

## **ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18**

### **Autumn Term**

Tuesday, 5 September 2017 to Tuesday, 19 December 2017  
Occasional Day - Monday, 4 December 2017 - **SCHOOL CLOSED**

### **Spring Term**

Wednesday, 3 January 2018 to Thursday, 29 March 2018  
Half Term - Monday, 12 February 2018 to Friday, 16 February 2018

### **Summer Term**

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 to Friday, 20 July 2018  
Bank Holiday - Monday, 7 May 2018 - **SCHOOL CLOSED**  
Half Term Break - Monday, 28 May 2018 to Friday, 1 June 2018

### **Inset Days - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Inset days - Friday, 1 September 2017 and Monday, 4 September 2017  
Inset day Monday, 16 April 2018  
Inset Days - Monday, 23 July 2018 and Tuesday 24 July 2018

## **DINNER MONEY FEES (£2.40 per meal)**

Please be advised that payments are due in advance. You can pay for meals online via the School Gateway or make cheques payable to Herts Catering Ltd (HCL). Cash payments are to be put in a clearly named, sealed envelope with the amount on the front. Receipts will be issued when being processed.

### **AUTUMN 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF TERM £2.40 per meal**

30.10.17 to 19.12.16 inclusive

All week	(36 meals)	£86.40
Wednesday	(7 meals)	£16.80
Friday only	(7 meals)	£16.80
Wed & Fri	(14 meals)	£33.60

### **PTFA Film Afternoon - CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, we have had to make the difficult to cancel the film afternoon on the last day of term, due to lack of people available to run this event. All children will need to be collected at 1pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Christmas Decoration Day**

Next Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> December, will be our annual Christmas Decoration Day. Children may come into school with Christmas jumpers and T-shirts.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE - SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER FROM 12-3PM**

We are very excited about our Christmas Fayre next weekend (3<sup>rd</sup> December). Please come along and support our event. There will be lots of fun things happening and we are hoping Father Christmas will be able to pop along. We will have our delightful Vintage Tea Rooms, plus mulled wine and Prosecco for the adults. It would be great to see lots of you on the day!

### **HELP STILL NEEDED FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

If you are able to help set up on Friday (1<sup>st</sup> Dec) after school or Saturday morning or help clear up on Sunday please let the office know or speak to Sarah Cooper or Charlotte Claydon.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE TICKETS**

Please support our school by selling as many raffle tickets as possible. Don't forget to bring the raffle tickets stubs and money back into school.

### **PTFA Evening Wreath Making Evening - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Limited places are still available. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie whilst you make your very own beautiful decorated Christmas door wreath. Tickets cost £26. If you would like to join us, please send the money into the office by Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Non-uniform Days**

Thank you for supporting our two non-uniform days. We are delighted to have raised £128.58 for Children In Need, plus a large amount of chocolate for our Christmas Fayre chocolate tombola stall.

### **The Poppy Appeal**

The Poppy Appeal raised £226.20. Thank you for your support, without your help the Royal British Legion would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.

### **PE KITS**

All children will require their outdoor PE kits until at least Christmas. Please ensure your child has the appropriate outdoor PE equipment in school.

## **An update from India - Miss Keen**

It has been a while since my last update from our friends at our link school in St Mary's Singla, India. I thought I would share with you what has been happening there over the past few months.

Back in June, a 104-day long strike began in the area of West Bengal where Singla is located. There has been a long history of strikes in this area. The purpose of this strike was a demand for an independent state of Gorkhaland to be formed, separate from Bengal. It was sparked by fears of Bengali language being imposed in schools in the areas where a majority of the people are Nepali-speaking Gorkhas. Nepali is the official language in the hills of Bengal and indeed of the children at St Mary's Singla.

As the weeks went by, the situation grew worse as the region became paralysed by the strike. All businesses and shops were closed including the tea gardens which turned into forests. The transport disrupted, all schools were closed, food was in scarce supply and violence was everywhere. In what sounds like a terrifying time, the police conducted house raids and the constant violence and protesting left people scared to leave their houses.

In an infringement of their human rights, all internet and media connections were stopped in the area. This made communication with the school hard but Mr Preston and myself were still able to maintain a small amount of contact.

Thankfully after 104 days, the strike is now over. Normality has begun to return to life in the hills but there has been much damage to the communities and economy. St Mary's has reopened and most of the children have returned. Unfortunately, some older children were left with no choice but to seek employment during the strike, in larger towns and cities as far away as Delhi. Therefore, some children have been unable to return. The school now faces the difficult challenge of preparing children for their examinations, despite having missed 104 days of schooling!

We have also received updates on young Sabu, who you so generously raised money for last year. As a tea picking family, they have been among some of the worst affected by the strike. Despite this, I am pleased to say Sabu has now returned to school and is doing well in his classes.

The school and village now face a tough few months ahead as they recover from the repercussions of the strike. Once they have established a greater sense of normality, we as a school will of course continue to build upon our strong link and the children can return to exchanging letters and cards etc. once more.

In the meantime, Singla continues to be in our thoughts and prayers. We pray for the remarkable teachers; I continue to be in awe of the work they do in the most challenging of circumstances. We pray that the children can catch up in their studies and that they may continue happily with their rights to a prosperous education without any further

**14.11.17 and 21.11.17**



**SHINING STARS** were awarded to Isabelle, Muctarr, Jake A, Mika, Matthew F and Valentina.



**MERITS** were awarded to Muctarr, Harlee, Molly, Danny, Max W, Jack C, Leyla, Isabelle, James R, Lacey, Amelia, Poppy-Belle, Oscar W, Spencer, Connie, Harry C, Abbie, Natalie, Jack M-B, Jamie W and Chloe E.

**A THOUGHT TO SHARE - "Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out..."**  
Frank A Clark