

THANKFULNESS



Week 3 22th September 2023

Value: Thankfulness

'Every time I think of you I give thanks to my God'

Philippians 1.3

We continue with our theme of Thankfulness. This week during worship we have been thinking about being thankful for people who help us at school.

Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church



As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, St Mary's Church Harvest Festival takes place on Sunday 1st October at 10.00am. Our children have been invited to take part in the service, so we would love to see children and families attending. Please let us know on parent mail if you will be attending so we include children in the service.

PTA

The PTA Annual General Meeting took place this week. Helen Webb, the PTA Chair has asked me to share this report.

"This last academic year, we have achieved amazing success in somewhat challenging circumstances!"

Throughout the year, the PTA board have organised events that not only brought our school together but also contributed significantly to our financial goals. These funds will now be used to support various initiatives aimed at enhancing the educational journey of our children.

I truly believe that any successful PTA is driven by a board who share a love for school and, most importantly, for all of our school children. Despite facing a multitude of challenges, including changes in headship, a shortage of volunteers and the ongoing cost of living crisis, we have done fantastic. Through our planned events, we have generated a profit of £3500, all of which will directly benefit our children.

I want to take a moment to thank Jennie and Gemma for their support, dedication and resilience, and thank all of the PTA members who have been able to volunteer their time to help. Volunteers are extremely difficult to come by, and we are extremely limited at the moment, but any contribution, even one hour at an event once per year, or the offer of behind the scenes help, is what makes the PTA work, and volunteers and support is what we need now more than ever.

Also, I'm very aware we are living in a world where the cost of living crisis weighs heavily on families, I am conscious that we need to get the balance right between fundraising and reinvesting in activities. I understand the challenges many of us as parents face, and it only reinforces our focus as a board to provide opportunities that can enrich our children's education.

Looking ahead, we will explore new and innovative ways to engage our school community, seeking more hands to join us on this journey. So please spread the word that we need help!

If we can pull together, to help share the load as parents, we can all contribute to make a positive difference in the lives of our children.

Thank you for your support to our fundraisers and our children at St Mary's. Please help if you can so we can continue to provide events for our children.

Many Thanks

*Helen Webb
Chair"*

It would be great if more parents could become involved in supporting the PTA, without the PTA many of lovely social events wouldn't take place.

PTA events this term

- Bags2school collection - 16th November
- Christmas Fayre - 24th November

Trip to the Pantomime

Unfortunately, due to insufficient interest we are unable to go ahead with the trip to the Pantomime in December. If you have paid a deposit, this will be returned shortly.

Photographer

The photographer will be in school on Friday 29th September. Photographs will be taken of individual children or siblings only. A form will be sent on Parent mail to specify which photograph you would prefer. Unfortunately, the photographer cannot photograph children who do not attend St Marys.

Safeguarding

I will be updating the format of our website this term. In the meantime, I just wanted to make you aware of two key safeguarding documents, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023 and St Mary's Safeguarding Policy 2023-4 which are on our website.

A sad farewell

Two of our longest serving members of staff, Mr and Mrs Taylor will be leaving us for pastures new on 6th October. They have both played such an important role in our school community over many years. We will all miss them and it will be really sad to say goodbye.

As we think continue to reflect on Thankfulness this week join us as we pray...

Dear God,

Please help us to remember to be thankful for all the people who help us at school.

Thank you for our families, and friends.

Please help us to learn at school and always try our best.

Help us to be kind to each other and to remember our fun times.

Thank you that we have so much in our lives.

Amen