



# St. Mary's C of E (VC) Primary School

Devon County Council, Children and Young People's Services

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Dear Parents

Here we are at the end of another term and whilst the ice and snow has abated it seems we are still waiting for Spring to arrive. Hopefully it will over the coming weeks and you and your children will be able to get out and enjoy activities in our local area and beyond.

## **Bideford Area Schools Choir Festival**

On Tuesday our school choir took part in a choir festival with 9 other schools and around 300 children at Bideford College. The children represented our school superbly and were a real credit in the way that they performed. I hope to get them to sing outside the school soon so that you can hear how well they are doing. They performed the song Rhythm of life to an audience of over 400 and then joined with the 300 other children to sing O Fortuna by Carl Orff (in the original latin!) and All Together Now by The Farm. Videos of all three songs will be playing on the television in the foyer soon.

## **Easter Experience**

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March and Monday of this week we had visitors from St Mary's church in to lead the children through the Easter story, from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. This is a huge logistical undertaking but the children seemed to really enjoy it and take on board a lot of the story of the time. I would like to thank the church team for giving up their time to attend and bring the story to life for our children.

## **Dogs on Site**

Please can I remind you that NO DOGS should be brought into the school grounds from the roadside. This week we have had to clear up dog faeces from the front of the school, near the very front gate and this is not acceptable for health and safety reasons. Please can I reiterate that if you have to come into the school grounds and cannot leave your children at the gate then it is probably best to leave your dog at home during the school run. This is also pertinent if you tie your dog up across the road from the school as I have had a number of parents commenting on the fact that dogs have been barking whilst tied up and this can be frightening for some of our smaller children, whose faces are quite close to the dogs as they walk past.

## **Big Sheep Night**

Our PFSM Committee did a fantastic job of organising the end of term disco last week and the children all seemed to have a good evening. Their next event is a family evening at the Big Sheep on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The event will run from 6:30pm – 8:30pm and will cost just £2.50 per child to enter (ADULTS ARE FREE!) Please put the date in your diary. Tickets will be available after Easter.

## **School Dinner Money**

Please ensure that you have enough money in your Schoolsmoney account to cover the dinners that your child is ordering. Occasionally emergency situations arise which we can deal with but if your child has a dinner on a regular basis and they are not in Foundation Stage, Year 1 or 2 then these must be paid for and your account needs to have sufficient funds for this as we cannot afford, as a school to run a credit system. If you think that you may be eligible for Free School Meals then please contact me, or the school office to discuss this.

A partner school in the



## Atlantic Racquet Centre

Please see the poster below advertising an Inclusion Event at the Atlantic Racquet Centre, also remember that the ARC is a member of the Atlantic Coast Co-operative Trust so if your children are interested in attending the club then you will be entitled to a discount if you tell them that they attend St Mary's.

## School Events

This has been a busy term for us and the children have had lots of opportunities outside of their regular classroom learning, some of these we ask for donations for but others are provided free of charge or costs are covered by money raised by the Parents and Friends of St Mary's. I am really pleased with the amount of opportunities that we give our children and am sure that they value these.

- Years FS – 2 attended the Appledore Arts Studio to undertake some large scale projects
- All classes visited the Schools Exhibition at *The Burton*.
- M & M Productions came to perform the pantomime to the whole school.
- Children from across the school have been selected to attend Socrates Project workshops on a variety of subjects looking at higher level learning with children from across the Atlantic Coast Co-operative Trust, at different schools within the Trust.
- Year 4 have been swimming at Torridge Pool.
- Year 4/5/6 attended the Atlantic Racquet Centre for a festival
- Year 5 visited the Science Museum, *We the Curious (@Bristol)*
- Year 4 have worked with Jade the gymnastics coach
- Year 2 attended a multiskills festival at Bideford College
- Year 1 had a visit from the Fire Service who brought the 'Fire Engine' from Bideford Station.
- The whole school participated in World Book Day
- The KS2 choir went to Woolsery for a development day then performed at Bideford College
- Year 2 participated in a singing festival which was hosted here at St Mary's and involved 8 other schools.
- Exmoor Zoo visited, bringing a variety of animals, during National Science Week.
- Year 3/4 children received Level 1 Bikeability training
- Year 3 went for a walk to look at the River and Quay in Bideford, as part of their topic.
- Mrs Cairns led the Reading to Guinea Pigs project with some of our children who are reluctant to read.

So as you can see, it has been a busy term and we will continue to provide these kinds of opportunities during the summer term.

## Building Project

Over the Easter Break we have two projects which are being developed. The first involves levelling and tarmacking the area outside the back of the school hall and a shelter being placed over it. This will then have 4 picnic benches under it, giving an area where children can sit outside to eat, should they wish and an 'outside classroom' for use in curriculum time. The other project is the final piece of our accessibility plan, which involves putting a ramp from outside The Hub/Jays' classroom up onto the top playground. I am hoping that these projects will be completed early in the next half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a lovely break.

Adrian Scarrett  
Headteacher



**ATLANTIC  
RACQUET CENTRE**

# FREE INCLUSIVE TENNIS FESTIVAL

**2PM – 4PM SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

A great opportunity for people of ALL ages with physical and learning disabilities to try tennis! With specific sessions for Wheelchair users, Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired & Down Syndrome.



**FOR MORE INFO AND TO BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE VISIT:  
[www.atlanticracquetcentre.co.uk/inclusive-tennis](http://www.atlanticracquetcentre.co.uk/inclusive-tennis)**