

News on the Nineteenth

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OCTOBER 2012

Congratulations to pupils, staff, families and governors of Ponsbourne St. Mary's

We have recently received data regarding the attainment of our pupils at the end of Y2 and Y6 in comparison to schools nationally, known as RAISEonline.

At the end of KS1:

100% of children achieved a L2 and above in Reading
92% of children achieved a L2 and above in Writing
83% of children achieved a L2 and above in Maths
100% of children achieved a L2 and above in Science
42% of children achieved a L3 in Reading
17% of children achieved a L3 in Writing
33% of children achieved a L3 in Maths

At the end of KS2:

92% of children achieved a L4 and above in English
92% of children achieved a L4 and above in Maths
50% of children achieved a L5 in English
50% of children achieved a L5 in Maths
92% achieved a L4 and above in English and Maths
100% of children made at least two levels progress between KS1 - KS2

The data shows that the attainment of pupils from Ponsbourne St. Mary's at the end of KS1 and the end of KS2 has been **significantly above** schools nationally for the past four years.

Our pupils' attendance is 96% which is good but in 2010 the schools attendance was outstanding in comparison to schools locally and nationally. There is an obvious link to attendance and achievement.

Congratulations to the committed, inspirational teachers, the enthusiastic and resilient children and the caring, supportive families who have contributed to this fantastic achievement!

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP)

Please find below the key priorities for school development this year, 2012 -2013

1. To develop a growth mindset in Maths using maths problems and investigations which set no limits on learning
2. To further develop skills and positive attitudes in Literacy with a particular focus on writing using Pie Corbett techniques
3. To develop a reflective Learning Journal for pupils in KS2
4. To develop Assessment for Learning strategies promoted through the Shirley Clarke action research project

A full copy of the SDP is available in school for families to read.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Many thanks for all your wonderful gifts we received at the Harvest Festival Service.

These have been taken to the local women's refuge where they were very welcome.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

Thank you too for the collection at the end of the service. We will be forwarding the money to the Bishop's Harvest Appeal and this will help people in The Dominican Republic.

If you have any spare duvet covers and/or new unwanted gifts, in particular for children, the refuge would happily accept these in time for Christmas.

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

Following the success of the last Bag 2 School Bags campaign we have repeated this Fundraiser.

**Thursday 22nd November
MORNING DROP OFF
AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Please bring in any bags of unwanted clothes, shoes, bedding etc.
Many thanks to all of you who support this campaign.

MACMILLAN CANCER FUND



The MacMillan Coffee morning was held on **Thursday 27rd September** in the village hall. In excess of £250 was raised. A **HUGE** thank you to

everyone who helped to organise, contribute prizes and books and support this event.

REMINDER SECONDARY TRANSFER

The closing date for applications is **31st October 2012.**

Should anyone need help with their application please come and see Michelle in the School Office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAFF

This term we received notification that Mrs Viall had successfully completed a year's training with The University of Herts and Cambridge University and a 12,000 word dissertation to achieve The National SENCo Award.

She is also very soon to have a baby and will be going on maternity leave after half term.

We wish her much happiness and look forward to her return.

Mrs Johnston also completed the Specialist Teaching Assistant (STA) qualification with The University of Herts, making her a real STA..R!



Christmas Tree Festival

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The Christmas tree festival will be held this year between 30th November and 3rd December. The opening ceremony will be at 2.30pm on Friday 30th November and closes on Monday 3rd December at 9 am with an advent service for the school. All welcome. Anyone wishing to enter a tree is very welcome - we do like to fill the church and you can donate your tree for bidding if you choose. Entries are invited from individuals, families, groups, organisations or companies.

Information available from Gill Sutcliffe on 01707 874388

THANK YOU

"Thank You" to Rachel McHattie and Jo Hatch who have been involved with the Christmas Card and playmat projects. Thank you also to those of you who placed orders.

BREAKFAST CLUB

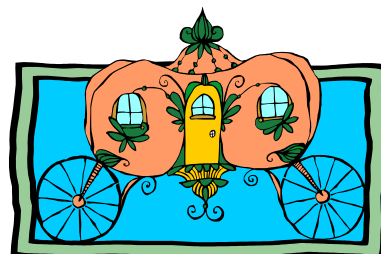
Breakfast Club runs every morning from 8 am. Feel free to just turn up on the day if you wish to come. £2 first child, £1 siblings

Children may complete their homework at Breakfast Club.



Toast, cereals, fruit, hot chocolate and juice are offered. Please enter through Discoverers side access through the gate which leads to the playground.

CHRISTMAS PANTO



The children will be watching Cinderella at the Wylyotts Theatre in Potters Bar on Monday 17th December.

KS1 NATIVITY

The KS1 Nativity will be performed on **Thursday 13th December at 6.00pm** in the church.

Further details will follow nearer the time.

LATE BOOK

If you are late bringing your child(ren) to school (after 8.50am) and the bell has gone and their class line has gone into school, please come to the school office and sign the late book. Your child will then be taken to class.

Please do not leave children playground or by the classroom door. Children should not join the Wake and until they have registered their school office (and lunch choice) as the have been returned there.



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Please also be aware that staff attend training sessions after school and are not always available to care for children whose parents are late collecting them.

Parents are reminded that if your child is absent you should ring the school office before 10am.

SAMARITANS SHOE BOX APPEAL

We are collecting shoeboxes once again to send to orphan children in poverty stricken areas and war zones in Europe. Hopefully you should all have received a leaflet explaining this appeal - I have some spare copies in the office.

You can bring your shoeboxes in and leave them in the office as soon as they are ready. We hope you will want to support this charity as it is very worthwhile - your shoebox will most probably be the only present they will receive this year.

One of our children's grandparents has knitted hats and scarves for the boxes which we will add when you bring the boxes in (Thank you Sam's granny!).



ART CLUB

We will be running a Christmas Art Club on **Thursday 22nd & 29th November and 6th December 2012** for children who would like to produce homemade Christmas gifts.

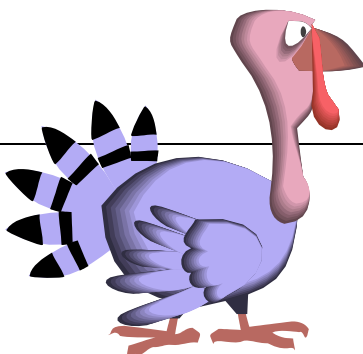
A more detailed letter will be sent home after half term.

KS2 Pantomime Performance

Cinderella Rockafella

The KS2 pantomime will be performed on **Wednesday 14th December 2011** in the Queenswood School Theatre. Children will spend the day at Queenswood rehearsing and will need to be dropped off at Queenswood and collected from there.

More details will follow:

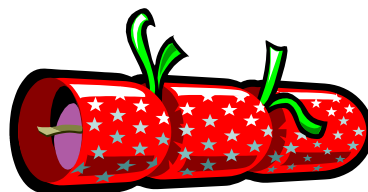


Parents Evening

Wednesday 7th November 2012

On Wednesday 24th October lists for appointments will be placed on the exit doors for each class. Mrs Viall's list will be on the Conservatory door. Parents should sign on the list against the time they wish meet the teacher. Any working parents who are unable to see the lists should ring the office from Wednesday onwards.

Christmas Lunch



Our school Christmas lunch will be held on **Wednesday 19th December 2012**. The cost of lunch is £2.00 and is an occasion for everyone. There will be **no** packed lunches on this day.

This is a whole school event and we would like all children to participate. Letters will be sent home with the children after half term.

Car Parking- Road Crossing

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT park in the spaces outside the church, especially when dropping off for breakfast club. These spaces are used by staff who very often have heavy items to carry into school.

Despite the danger, many parents continue to put their and their children's life at risk by not using the crossing to cross the road. Please set a **GOOD EXAMPLE** and cross via the crossing

Bonus Ball

Jo Brittain & Linda Payne organise and run the Bonus Ball.

Please see them to purchase a number and join in.

You gotta be in it to win it!!

Dropping off at School

Please do not leave children in the playground in the morning unattended as this is unsafe. Breakfast Club is always open for this reason.

School Uniform

We have high expectations for school uniform, please ensure girls skirts are of the appropriate length and shoes are suitable for outdoor play.t

Packed Lunches

School meals are produced under healthy school guidance and packed lunches must also fall in line with these guidelines. Food standards for schools are mandatory which means schools must comply legally. School dinners must meet these standards and so too must packed lunches consumed in school.

Packed lunches should include the following every day:

- Meat, fish or a non-dairy source of protein
- A starchy food
- At least one portion of fruit
- At least one portion of vegetable or salad
- A milk or dairy food
- Soup
- Water or pure fruit juice with less than 5% added sugar

Packed lunches **must not** include:

- Confectionery such as sweets and chocolate bars
- Savoury snacks other than nuts and seeds with no added salt, sugar and fat
- Manufactured meat products more often than occasionally

Many of the foods no longer allowed under the food-based standards are associated with a growing range of child health issues including obesity, anaemia, tooth decay and diabetes.

For more information, you can contact the following websites:

www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk

Children have an hour to eat their lunch although we encourage them to eat their lunch in half an hour as it is as important to have some outdoor exercise at lunchtime. Most children can eat a reasonable packed lunch in this time. Some children claim to not like certain items so we insist on children taking home uneaten items so that parents are aware of what their children are eating.

KARATE CLUB



A message from Jason the karate instructor:
Daniel Archer, Mathew Archer, Dylan Strefford, Sam Brittain and Gregory Piercy all got their red belts recently. Well done boys!

PARENTMAIL

If you have changed your email address or mobile telephone number please remember to access your Parentmail account and update the details. If you do not do this then you may not receive monthly and last minute communications from school. Thank you.

THANK YOU

A very big **THANK YOU** to those parents who were able to help transport children for recent trips.

A trip is such a valuable experience for the children but with rising coach costs, many schools have had to stop them.

Thank you to for enabling the trips to the cinema and the Joy of Reading Events go ahead.

Stevenage Football Club

Stevenage football club will be running of Sports training with Explorers on a Monday afternoon and will be leading a RESPECT session with Discoverers on Thursday 8th November.

