



Recognising and celebrating the
presence of Christ in one another.

Newsletter No. 37: Friday 19th July 2024

Weekly News

Dear Parents,

This week we have been thinking about the Gospel message where Jesus sends his disciples out to tell people about God. The disciples didn't take any belongings with them on their journey, relying on others for clothes and food. All that we have has been given to us by God and is meant for all people to share. From this, we have considered how to be open, to share and to be friendly and welcoming to everyone.

Thank you to our wonderful, hardworking PTA, who ploughed on with our summer fair, despite a little bad weather on Friday. Thank you for all of your support and contributions with this. We look forward to sharing the total raised and ideas of lovely things to purchase in the autumn term.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Y6 as we say a fond farewell to them today. They have shown great maturity, talent and teamwork throughout the year, and, although we are sad to see you go, we know that you are ready for the next part of your journey. We thank all children and families for your support and commitment to the school. It's been such a lovely end to the year with a beautiful Mass and assembly yesterday afternoon and the starting of a new tradition - laying decorated stones in our prayer garden this morning.

It was a very emotional day yesterday as we also said farewell to Fr Craig. Fr Craig has been a guiding light for our parish and school for six years. He has supported our families in times of need, been there in celebrating our joys and offering wisdom and guidance through life's challenges. Although we will miss him terribly, we are so proud of him as he embarks on the next part of his journey. Archbishop Bernard has appointed Fr Craig as Parish Priest of the Immaculate Conception, Bicester and Holy Trinity, Hethe from 23rd August.

I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you from all of the staff for all of your kind words, good wishes and gifts. As always, it is an absolute pleasure being part of the SMA family, working every day with such delightful, enthusiastic children and hard-working and talented staff. A huge thank you to our governors, who work so hard behind the scenes to ensure that St Mary's is such a magnificent place to be. Finally, thank you to you, all of our parents and families for all of your support this academic year.

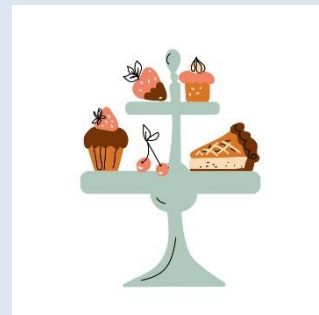
We hope that you have a safe, sunny and relaxing summer break and we are looking forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kindest regards, Mrs Hill

Afternoon Tea

Well done to our highest scoring Dojo point winners for this half term. They enjoyed an afternoon tea celebration this week:

Maisie, Lucy, Hudson, Nancy, Teddy, Malachi, Luca, Amelia, Meah, Ruby, Maryam, Tia and Joe.



Summer Reading Bingo

The children in YR-Y5 will bring home a summer reading bingo challenge. This is designed to keep children motivated to read over the summer holidays.

It focuses on reading for pleasure experiences, rather than specific texts, with activities like make a den and read to a pet or soft toy. Please encourage your child to complete the bingo card and bring it back in with them in September so that they can be congratulated with a certificate.

We would love it if you could send us a photo of your child completing one of the challenges so that we can make a display. (Please send to Postbox.) Thank you and enjoy!



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Notices

- We look forward to seeing the new Y1-6 back on Wednesday 4th September. We will write to you on the inset days with some reminders about the new term.
We welcome our new Reception class on Monday 9th September and our new Nursery class on Wednesday 11th September.
- Please note that the term dates for next academic year are on our school website. Inset days for 2024-25 are as follows:
Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September, Friday 14th February, Monday 6th January, Monday 21st July
- We know that many of you will be purchasing new uniform and PE kit during the holidays. Please see our website for uniform information for fairness and consistency for all. Please note, there should be no sports labels or sports brand names on any PE t-shirts, jumpers or trousers. (Nike, Adidas, etc. are not acceptable as part of our school uniform.) It is red t-shirts and jumpers for PE with an optional school badge.
- Items with the school badge are available from: <https://www.a4jdesigns.co.uk/> and <https://www.crestedschoolwear.co.uk/>
- We also have a stock of upcycled uniform in school. Please contact us if this would be helpful for you.

Reflection and Prayer

*Let us pray for the Year Six leavers, their families and Fr. Craig.
May God bless and be with them as they move on.*

*Dear Lord,
Help to hold me steady, moving forwards with my eyes focussed on You.
Ploughing the fields,
Planting the seeds,
And reaping the harvest for your glory.
Help us to treasure the memories we leave behind,
Bless and protect the friends from whom we part.
May your Spirit travel with us.
Our journey now, and throughout our lives,
Begins and ends with you, Lord,
Whose praises we sing wherever we make our home.
Amen.*

Yours sincerely,
Mrs N. Hill
Headteacher

