

Class Topics for this term

Rec	All about Bears
Year 1	Light
Year 2	Katie Morag / Electricity
Year 3	Adventure Stories / Weather
Year 4	Contrasting Locality INDIA
Year 5	Ancient Greece / Space
Year 6	Mountain Environments / Slippers



Swimming -

Transport and fruit fees of £12 for this half term are due once again. Thank you for the prompt response this week to sending in the full amount for bus transport for swimming and fruit money for KS2 pupils, please take this as a reminder for those who have forgotten. This makes Mrs Noble's job much easier.



Friends of St Mary's

200 Club Winners Dec 09

Prize	Number	Winner	Contact
£50	87	Bridie Richardson	Ex-pupil
£25	176	Wendy Grey	Yr 5 Peter
£15	216	Jackie Hodgson	Ex-pupil & Gov
£10	154	Graham Sordy	Yr 6 Anya



The support for all the events arranged by The friends of St Mary's has been FANTASTIC with a great response to School Calendars which raised £608 and the raffle, which raised an outstanding £1,083, plus matched funding.

A HUGE THANK YOU to those who donated prizes and to those parents who helped to organise and manage these events, especially Mrs Williams for her enthusiasm and time in organisation, and to Mrs Hopkinson for running the 200 Club and securing the matched funding the raffle.

Next Friends of St Mary's Meeting is:

Tues 19th Jan Friends of St Mary's meeting at Gibside Hotel 7pm. If you have any ideas please join us, new faces are always very welcome.

Supporting all pupils

We are constantly striving to ensure we give the best support available to all pupils. We will maintain additional support provided by the following staff throughout Key Stage 2 at various times:

Mrs Armstrong Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs a.m. (Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6 at some stage)

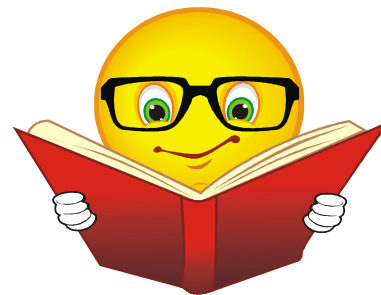
Mrs Dobson Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs a.m. (Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5, Yr 6 at some stage)

Mrs Taylor Wed, Thurs a.m. (targeted groups)

Mrs McMillan 2 sessions (Yr 6)

Parents and school in Partnership

In the previous newsletter we explained all about the new system of **Read Write Inc.**, which is working well in school and pupils are becoming more confident in their use and understanding of phonics in the reading process. This term we will continue to develop reading and offer the following information for parents.



Latest Announcement about acquisition of language communication

We are always being bombarded about children's needs in their early years, the most recent is in relation to the inability of children to speak fluently and clearly. In school we promote the learning of Nursery Rhymes and learning poetry by heart, we also ensure that children receive a wide range and genre of stories in every class throughout the school, we also visit the local library in Wickham on a regular basis.

Talk about stories

Reading books that are distinct from the guided reading programmes that children do at school is very important. You also need to talk about the stories they are reading or, if they are more stimulated by computers, then share what they are reading on computer games, or use email with them. This helps to give children the message that you are interested in what they are reading and talking about, and doesn't leave a child on their own, struggling with reading and the book they've brought home from school. The most important thing to remember, is to keep sharing books and stories with your child while they are learning to read at school. Reading aloud with your child should never stop. Keep those bedtime stories going - they will remind your child that reading is for enjoyment and also help your child to develop his or her awareness of stories and language.

'Real' writing

Developing links between what they are learning to read and write and why it matters in the 'real world' is also a good way to encourage them to want to learn to read. Children should be engaged in reading and writing for real purposes, like writing the shopping list or signing a card for gran. As a child writes, their reading skills are also developing.

Make a book

Other ways to encourage them to develop their early writing and speaking skills is for them to tell you a story that you write or type out for them. They can draw the pictures for the story and together, you can make the words and pictures into a book.

Books at home

Ideally, you should aim to spend up to 20 minutes a day sharing books and reading with a child at home. You can also build a home library for them, either by borrowing books from the library or buying them. The important thing is that a child has their own shelf of books to choose from.

This is good advice not just for younger children but for children up to and including Year 6. So enjoy together all those lovely new books that Santa brought.

