**Newsletter**

**26th February 2016**

Dear parents, carers, staff and friends,

**News this week**

We’ve had a busy few weeks at St. Mary’s with lots happening just before and then after our short mid-term break.

Last Monday, we had a visit from storyteller Brendan Nolan who introduced the topic of 1916 to 3rd – 6th Classes. The children will be learning a lot about our country’s history and the key events of 1916 in the lead up to the 100 year commemoration at Easter. 5th and 6th Class visited the Ilac Library to see the Abbey Theatre’s production of ‘Me Mollser’ which also links to 1916 and this week, they had a walking tour of the city centre, particularly the GPO and O’Connell Street to learn more about what happened there.

5th Class are sharing their learning with their learning partners in 2nd Class today, as they bring them to O’Connell Street and tell them all of the information they have gathered.

Last Tuesday, 3rd and 4th Class visited the Hugh Lane Art Gallery as part of their learning in responding to pieces of art. They really enjoyed their visit.

Yesterday, the Green Schools team visited a special Expo in the RDS to learn about how other schools have used the Green Schools Programme to make changes in their schools through recycling, saving energy and water, biodiversity and lots more. They even met President Michael D Higgins! Photos of their adventures are on our Twitter account @stmarysdorsetst or on our website.

**Review of Behaviour Policy**

We are currently reviewing our behaviour policy. We are interested in knowing parents’ views on behaviour in the school. If you have any comments or feedback you would like to give, please drop in to see me or Claire, or you can email me at [principal@stmarysprimaryschool.ie](mailto:principal@stmarysprimaryschool.ie) . We very much value your thoughts and ideas, please do let us know what you think works well and how we can improve.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Well done to 3rd Class with 99% attendance this week and beat off stiff competition from 4th and 5th Class who both had 98.2%!

February has been our best month of attendance so far this year at whole school level at 94%. We will need everyone in school every day in March to get to our target of 95%!

**Dates for your diary**

3rd March – Miss Haren and Miss Todd’s Classes to GPO/O’Connell Street

3rd March – 2nd Class Time to Read group visiting BitC offices

8th March – 2nd Class First Penance

Sunday, 13th March – Family Mass at 11.45am

15th March – Flag Raising Day

16th March – Annual Ceili

16th March – School closes at 12 p.m. for Easter holidays

Wishing you all a happy weekend!

Éadaoin Kelly - Principal