



Newsletter - Friday 9th January 2026

St Mary's Primary School

Our Vision: We believe, We achieve, We succeed in God's family.

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

School Value - Thankfulness

A note from Mrs Walker

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term!

Welcome to this week's edition of our School Newsletter!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement—it truly makes a difference. If you have any questions or need any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office. We're always happy to help.

Warmest wishes, Mrs. Walker



Mindful Moments

The more you practice the art of thankfulness the more you have to be thankful for.



Dojo Messages

- Welcome back to school
- Collection arrangements reminder
- Forest school change in weather
- Parents Evening
- Changes to parking at The Bell
- Survey update
- LA SEND inspection survey



This week...

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends. As we return to school, we are greeted by the chilly and wet winter weather. Please remind your children to wrap up warmly for our Forest School sessions. Layering up with hats, gloves, and scarves will ensure they stay comfortable while exploring the great outdoors.

As we settle back into our school routine, we would like to remind you to book your slot for the upcoming parents' evening with your child's class teacher. This is a fantastic opportunity to discuss your child's progress and any areas where they may need additional support. We look forward to seeing you there!

Additionally, please check the recent message on Class Dojo regarding parking at The Bell pub. We fully understand that this has caused some frustration, and we appreciate your cooperation during this time. Our current information suggests that parking at The Bell has not been removed altogether but is changing to a pay-and-display option. The school will aim to confirm this directly with the pub and will share any further updates as soon as we are able.

Lastly, if you haven't done so already, please send back your collection arrangements to the school office. This information is vital for ensuring the safety and well-being of all our students.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Let's make this term a fantastic one for our children!



THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~ TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS



Acorn Class

This Week In Class

Acorns have gotten the year off to a great start, we have introduced our new topic of Super Space and the children are excited to learn all about it. In maths, we have started looking at addition with the help of some massive dice. We have also refreshed our minds as to our class charter, and why we have rules, as we learn about the wider world in PSHE. We have also enjoyed the sprinkling of snow.

Achiever

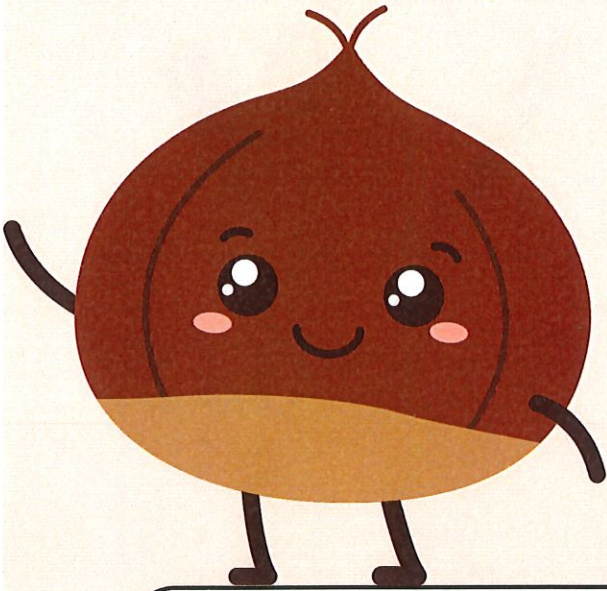
Freddie has really impressed us since starting at St Mary's He is trying hard in all areas of his work and gets on so independently. Well done Freddie Keep it up!



Value Achiever

Evie-Rose displays many characteristics of mutual respect. She is polite and kind, a great role model, her behaviour is excellent, she gives encouraging words and support to her friends. This is lovely to see.





Chestnut Class

This Week In Class

We have really enjoyed our learning this week. Lots of children have gone above and beyond with their work and I have been really impressed with them. In English we have written some wonderful poetry about the icy weather. In maths we have continued with multiplication and looked at factor pairs and multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. In RE we looked at how God loves Christians. We had an excellent discussion and then retold the parable of The Lost Sheep. The children really enjoyed our first Spanish lesson this half term as we have started to learn how to say animal names in Spanish. In art we have started on our new pathway of Exploring Pattern.

Achiever

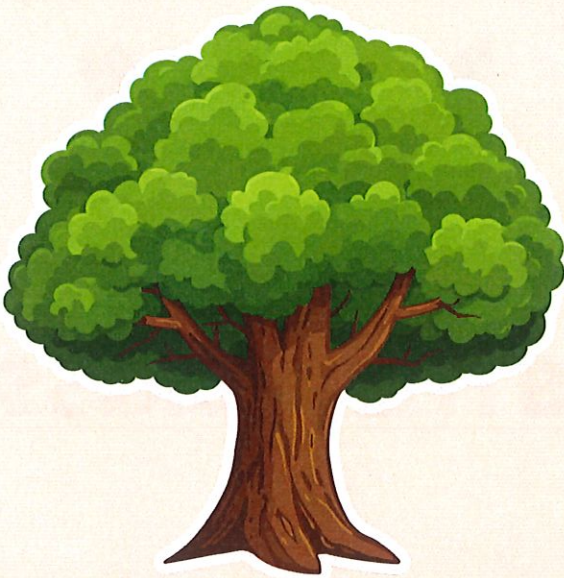
Oscar wrote a great winter poem. He did it completely independently and just got on and wrote it. I was very proud of him!



Value Achiever

Our value achiever is Minnie-Mai. She has shown great courage this week and I have been really proud of her. Well done Minnie-Mai!





Oak Class

This Week In Class

This week in Oak class we have been learning how to show parenthesis in our grammar lessons and how to explain what we have read in our reading lessons. In maths, we have been ordering and comparing numbers with different amounts of decimal places. In science, we have grouped organisms based on their similarities and differences and in RE we have looked at the allegory of Plato's cave to deepen our understanding of reality. In geography, we have been learning about the differences between weathering and erosion and in Spanish we have begun our new unit, learning how to order food in a café.

Achiever

This week Benji has really impressed me with his effort across all subjects. He has taken real care with what he has produced and ensured it is presented to the best of his ability. Well done, Benji, keep it up!



Value Achiever

Dolly is a new class ambassador and was a little nervous initially about greeting visitors. However, she has shown real courage this week and has taken to her new role wonderfully greeting people with confidence and explaining our learning. Well done, Dolly.





Attendance



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?



THIS WEEK

Reception	82.70%
Year 1	93.90%
Year 2	81.90%
Year 3	91.80%
Year 4	94.20%
Year 5	94.70%
Year 6	92.40%

TARGETS

Whole School Attendance Target is: **92%**

National Attendance Target is: **93.5%**

Whole School Attendance this week is: **90.88%**

Pupils with 100% attendance this week: **46**



LATENESS



Collective Worship will be held at 9.05am each morning and attended by all staff, including the office staff. It is important that your child arrives on time for school. If they arrive after 9.05am then you will need to wait with your child until Collective Worship has finished at 9.20am as there will not be any staff to let them in. Collective Worship is a legal entitlement in a Church of England school and a time of reflection and respect.

STUDYBUGS

If your child is absent from school please:

- Contact the school via Studybugs on the first day of absence before 9.00am . (This is our preferred method of communication for sickness absence)
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 9.00am;
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.



If you haven't already, please download the free studybugs app, or register on the studybugs website and use it to tell us whenever your child is ill and unable to attend school.

The tool helps us to know sooner if your child is unaccounted for. It is quick and easy to register and automatically reminds you to keep us posted. Please use the following link to register:

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office

FOREST SCHOOL



This Week



What a cold start to the term Acorn class had this week. We all wrapped up in all of our warm layers and headed outside to explore our Forest School area. It was cold and frosty and the children noticed that the water, that had been left in some of our buckets had frozen solid. The children enjoyed some free play until snack time and then they got into groups and completed a winter scavenger hunt. We had a quick game of Cuckoo on the field before heading indoors to get changed and the children finished the session by colouring in some bug and insect pictures. Well done Acorn class!

Chestnut class were very excited to be at Forest School when it started to snow and lots of the children were trying to catch the snowflakes. A group of children collected up a much ice as they could find and crushed it in the mud kitchen to make "Slushies". In another group, the boys played at having battles using sticks for swords and saucepan lids for shields. A lovely imaginative first session back Chestnut class, well done!

Oak class had a good first session back where we discussed new projects going forward. We are excited to build some more tables and maybe a picnic bench. The children settled back into Forest School well and headed to their nature spots for some mindful observation. Some of the children played a game of battles, creating camps using pallets and logs and other children used natural resources to make paint and art. A good session Oak class, well done!

Freddie Forest Bear had a lovely little sleep over Christmas and is now looking forward to going home with Mia from Acorn class. Mia was super excited to get back to forest school and played so nicely with her classmates. Mia is a very kind little girl and is always happy to help the adults or her friends if they need it. Well done Mia, enjoy your weekend with Freddie!

In other news, we applied for a free tree pack from the Woodland Trust in the Autumn term and we are thrilled to announce that our application was successful 😊

We will be receiving 30 free tree saplings around February /March. These will include 10 Silver Birch, 10 Rowan and 10 Wild Cherry!

This will be an amazing project that all the children can get involved in planting and caring for them.

Miss Wilson
Forest School Lead



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Activity	Who
5th Jan	Back to school	
5th Jan	Clubs start	
15th Jan	Closing date for Reception intake 2026	
9th, 10th 11th Feb	Parent & Child consultations (no clubs this week)	Whole School
19th Jan	Parent multiplication workshop – Yr 3 & 4 – further info to follow	Chestnut Class
3rd Feb	Phonics Screening Year 1 9:05am - 9:20am (15 mins)	Year 1 Parents
6th Feb	NSPCC Numbers Day - Dress as a Digit!	Whole School
11th Feb	Trust spelling bee competition – Fairhouse primary	Selected Pupils
11th Feb	EYFS working in Partnership 9am – 10am	EYFS Parents
16th - 20th Feb	HALF TERM	

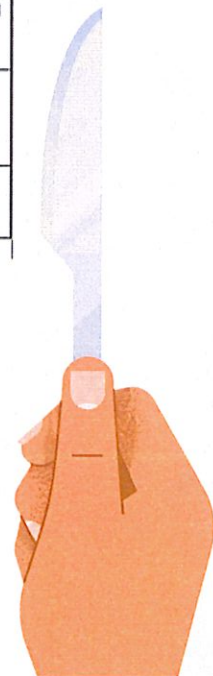
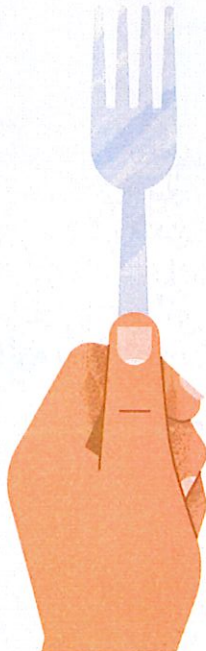
WEEKLY MENU

This is our menu taking us right up to February half term. We work a week in advance for bookings. The deadline for bookings is 9am Monday for the following week.



Week 1				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Tomato and basil pasta (V) with garlic bread and salad	Pitta bread pizza with cheese, potato wedges and salad	Chicken roast	Cheesy ham and broccoli pasta	Sausage chips and beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Pitta bread pizza with ham, potato wedges and salad	Quorn fillet (V)	Cheesy broccoli pasta (V)	Quorn sausage (V) chips and beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	
Week 2				
Monday Meat Free day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheese and Tomato pasta (V) garlic bread and salad	Fish fingers, chips, peas and sweetcorn	Sausage roast	Bolognese pasta bake	Chicken Nuggets potato wedges and baked beans
Baguettes: Cheese or tuna	Veggie fingers (V) chips, peas and sweetcorn	Quorn sausage roast (V)	Quorn Bolognese pasta bake	Quorn Nuggets (V) potato wedges and baked beans
	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Baguettes: Cheese or ham	Jackets: Cheese, beans or tuna	Baguettes: Cheese, ham or tuna
			Baguettes: Cheese or ham	

Bread, water, milk available everyday
Fruit and yoghurt Monday - Thursday
Baked treat - Friday





Clubs

Spring Term After School Clubs January - February 2026

- We are delighted to confirm that we will be providing the Clubs below from January.

All after school clubs will be starting w/c 5th January 2026 through to w/c 2nd February 2026.

There will be no clubs running w/c 9th February due to Parent/Child consultations.

KS1 & KS2 Games & Creative Arts Club – Tuesday: 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Carlier

KS1 & KS2 Film Club – Tuesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Beard

KS1 & KS2 Art Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Fallon

KS1 & KS2 Lego Club – Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

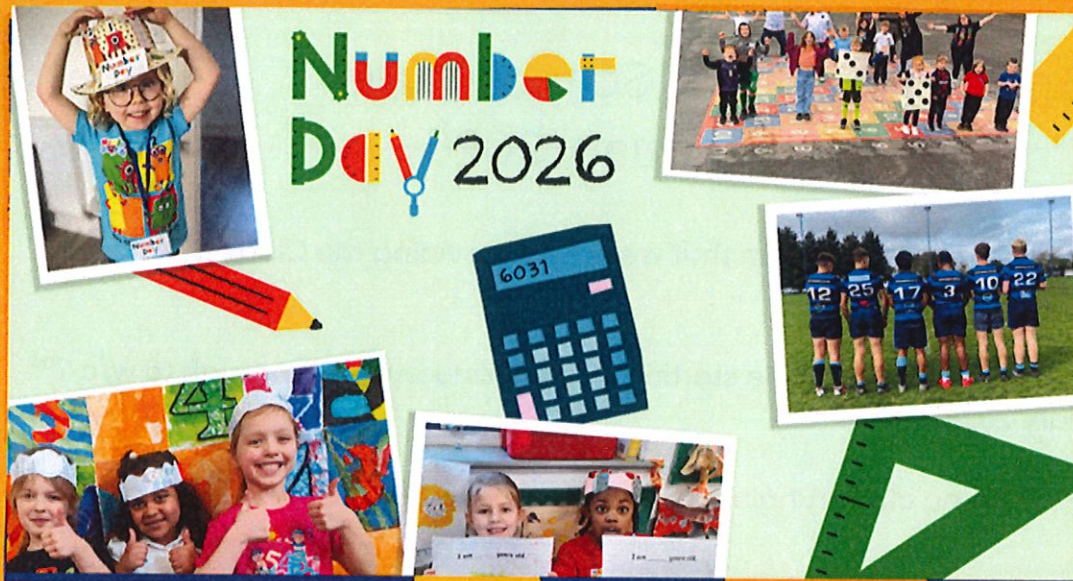
This after school club is available for all year groups and will be run by Mrs Richardson

Year 6 Tutoring Club – Thursday 3.15pm – 4.15pm

This after school club is available for Year 6 and will be run by Mr Austin
(This will be managed in groups throughout the year)

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

SUPPORTING THE NSPCC



OUR ANNUAL MATHS FUNDRAISING DAY

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026.

Number Day is a great way to make maths fun and bring about a positive, 'can-do' attitude towards it. We will be having a fun day of maths activities and we will be taking part in **Dress up for Digits**.

Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!). Or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, and we'd love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline - the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

We would like to ask for a minimum donation of £1 for this non uniform event.

No cash should be brought into school and all donations should be made using the following link: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/charity-fundraising/schools-fundraising-ideas/number-day/>