

# ST. MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

*I am the vine and you are the branches.  
you remain with me and I with you, then you will bear much  
Love one another as I have loved you.*  
John 15

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome everyone back to school for the Autumn term. The children have returned to St. Mary's with such enthusiasm and energy, ready for a new year of learning.

The children have adapted brilliantly to their new classes and year groups. Teachers have been really impressed with the positive attitude, resilience, and eagerness to learn shown by all of the children. A special mention must go to our Reception children, who have settled into school life very happily. We are incredibly proud of how quickly they have embraced what is a momentous new chapter for them all.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Musical Monday performance. The performances really filled the gym with energy and joy and it was a fantastic way to set the tone for the term ahead! A big thank you to all of you who were able to attend.

We always endeavour to provide the children of St. Mary's with memorable, life-changing and exciting trips, and this term has been no exception. Year 2 had a fantastic day at Willows farm. From animal feeding to tractor rides, the children were eager to try everything on offer. Year 3 had a wild trip to the zoo during which they saw a huge variety of animals. Year 4 had a great - and very muddy - time on the mud run obstacle course last week. They showed fantastic teamwork, supported each other throughout, and grew in confidence as they tackled the challenge together. Year 5 children have been attending daily swimming lessons for the last two weeks and have made great progress. Finally, year 6 had a tremendous outdoor adventure at Gilwell Park. The residential was a huge success and the children relished all of the experiences on offer - from climbing, to cooking on an open fire and even a 4G swing!

This term promises to be full of exciting opportunities, from class projects to seasonal celebrations. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you, and we will keep you updated through newsletters and letters. I am enormously proud of how our children have begun this year and I hope you will join me in celebrating this.

Finally, I would like to close this newsletter with a quote from Jeremiah 29:11 which captures the idea of fresh starts and exciting opportunities ahead: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Best Wishes,

Joe Pitchford

# Attendance



**Our whole school attendance for Week 1 was 96.91 %.**

**Our whole school attendance for Week 2 was 96.95%.**

**Well done St Mary's!**

**Our whole school attendance for this academic year is: 96.93%**

## **Gentle Reminder:**

If your child is going to be absent due to illness, please leave a message for the office team on the school absence line by calling 020 8521 1066 and dialling 1.

*Please ensure this message includes the reason your child is off sick - i.e. sore throat, temperature or stomach bug.*

**If you need to collect your child for a medical appointment during the day or they are late to school due to a medical appointment, you will need to provide the school office with an appointment letter/record.**

# Reflection

As we begin a new school year, we have been reflecting during collective worship on the Christian theme of God the Creator. The Bible teaches us that God lovingly made the world and everything in it : the sky, the sea, the animals, and each one of us. This new beginning is a wonderful time to thank God for His beautiful creations and to think about how we can care for them, whether it's by looking after nature, being kind to others, or using our talents wisely.

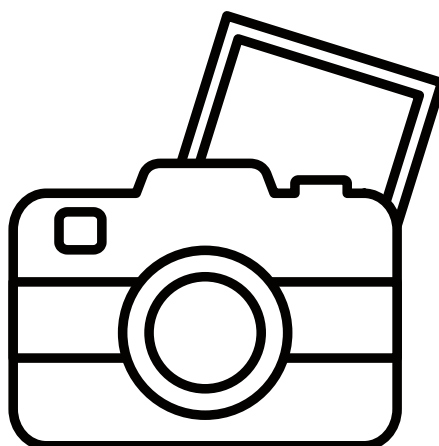
Just as God created the world with purpose and love, we can start this school year with those same values - doing our best, helping one another, and being grateful for all the gifts God has given us.



## Individual and Siblings Photos

Van Cols will be visiting St Mary's on 8<sup>th</sup> of October to take our individual and sibling photos.

Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform.



# Important Messages

## Medication

If your child has medication in school, please ensure that you have noted down the expiry dates to ensure we have the correct medication in school. If your child's doctor has made any changes to their medication or the procedure for caring for your child, please ensure the office is informed in writing of any changes and receives a copy of the documents from the GP.



## Large Bags

Unfortunately, many children are bringing very large backpacks to school. There is little storage space available for such large bags and they pose a trip hazard. Please send your child to school with the smallest bag possible - ideally a bookbag.







**A HUGE WELL DONE TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO TOOK PART IN OUR MUSICAL PERFORMANCES!**

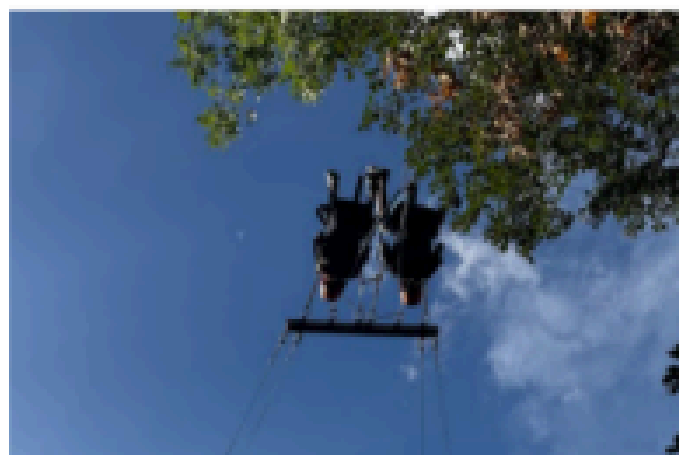
**Learning to play music on a new instrument and delivering a confident performance within just the first few days back at school is an incredible achievement. We are so proud of your hard work, dedication and talent. What a fantastic start to the term!**

# OUR TRIPS



# YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

Year 6 had an amazing time on their residential trip! This rite of passage was filled with adventure, team building, and personal growth. From exciting activities to shared challenges, the children embraced every moment with enthusiasm. They supported one another, developed resilience, and built lasting memories. The trip has not only been a wonderful experience but has also brought the children closer together.





# Healthy Snacks



We would like to remind parents and carers that St Mary's is a Healthy School. Children should not bring chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks as morning snacks, if your child does bring these in, they will be replaced with a piece of fruit and sent home with them at the end of the school day. Please ensure that should you like to provide your child with a snack that it is a healthy option. Nut free cereal bars, yoghurt bars or fruit bars are recommended.

All children are encouraged to drink water regularly – please ensure that your child is bringing in their own water bottles, these can be refilled during the school day.

**We are proud to be a nut free school!**



# Food Bank



We have now got a food bank located in our school office foyer. We are welcoming donations of tinned goods and non perishable items.

The food bank is open for any families struggling with the cost of living crisis. You are welcome to come into the office at any time to collect items that you may need.

Any extra donations will be donated to local food banks to provide support our local community.

# Parent Workshops

We have online workshops for parents that cover a variety of topics. This can be located under the Parents Tab on our school website. We offer these workshops to support learning at home.



# Term Dates: 2025-2026

## Autumn Term 2025 First Half (37 Days)

INSET – Mon 1st, Tues 2nd and Wed 3rd September 2025

Start – Thursday 4th September 2025

End – Friday 24th October 2025

**Half Term: Monday 27th October -31st October 2025**

## **Second Half (34 Days)**

Start – Monday 3rd November 2025

End – Thursday 18th December 2025

**Holidays: Friday 19th December 2025 to Friday 2nd January 2026**

## Spring Term 2026 First Half (30 Days)

Start – Monday 5th January 2026

End - Friday 13th February 2026

**Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026**

## **Second Half (25 Days)**

Start - Monday 23rd February 2026

End – Friday 27th March 2026

**Holidays: Monday 30th March 2026 to Friday 10th April 2026**

## Summer Term 2026 First Half (29 Days)

Start – Monday 13th April 2026

End - Friday 22nd May 2026

**Half Term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026**

**Holidays May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026**

**Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 25th May 2026 (during Half Term)**

## **Second Half (35 Days)**

Start - Monday 1st June 2026

End – Friday 17th July 2026



# St. Mary's Christian Vision

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ARE THE BRANCHES. IF  
YOU REMAIN WITH ME AND  
I WITH YOU, THEN YOU  
WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.  
LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I  
HAVE LOVED YOU.  
(JOHN 15).