



Dream - Believe - Achieve



Welcome to Our Autumn Term and Christmas Newsletters

As the year draws to a close, we are delighted to welcome you to our newsletters – a time to celebrate community, joy and the true spirit of the season.

We have so much to share and celebrate there are two Newsletters. One to celebrate our Autumn Term 2 achievements and a Christmas one!

Look out for our regular features from our Values Crew, School Council, Eco Warriors, Kindness Ambassadors and Children's News. As well as lots of other amazing events that have been happening.

We're so proud of all the wonderful Christmas services, plays, and celebrations taking place this year. From festive decorations and joyful singing to the excitement of our Christmas parties, every event reflects the warmth and togetherness that make this time so special.

A huge thank you to our amazing PTFA for treating everyone to a fantastic pantomime – such a highlight of the season and a wonderful treat for all!

As we gather to share in these joyful moments, we would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holidays be filled with peace, laughter, and love.

We have included a Contents page on page 2. Either turn to the sections that interest you most - or make a cuppa and enjoy the whole story of our term together.



Mrs Reynolds



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Look out for our Christmas Newsletter and read all about how our children have been preparing and celebrating Christmas.



✿ Communication ~ Staying Connected ✿

We are committed to keeping families informed, involved, and connected throughout the school year. Here's how we will communicate with you:

Emails

Our main communication channel

- **Weekly Bulletin** (every Friday): Upcoming events, clubs, key dates.
- **Termly Newsletter**: A round-up of Term's highlights you won't want to miss.
- **Ad-hoc Updates**: Important notices as they arise.

School Website

www.stmarysceb1.info

Visit our website for a wealth of information, including class information, term dates, policies, and lots more.

Instagram

www.instagram.com/stmarysceb1/

Follow us for snapshots of school life, celebrations, and achievements.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/share/19MHnTmRG1/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Follow what's happening in school.

Text Messages

Quick alerts and key reminders sent straight to your phone.

Telephone

We will call if your child is unwell or if we need to discuss something personal.

We're Here to Listen

If you have any thoughts or concerns, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher or a relevant staff member:

 01536 722757

 reception@stmarys.pdet.org.uk

Walk In Wednesday

See school life through your child's eyes. Instead of a presentation, you'll take part in a focused, hands-on activity that gives real insight into your child's learning journey.

Parents' Evening

This is a great opportunity to celebrate progress, share ideas, and plan next steps to support your child's learning together.



Collective Worship ~ Peace

This term, our school has been focussing on a new value – Peace. Together, we have been exploring what peace really means and how we can show it in our everyday lives.

We have learned that peace is not just the absence of noise or conflict. Inner peace means feeling calm on the inside, being kind to ourselves, and taking time to pause and think before reacting. The children have practised simple strategies such as deep breathing and using positive thoughts when things feel overwhelming.

We also looked at the Protected Characteristics within the Equality Act. We focused on sex and race, learning that everyone should be treated fairly and with respect, no matter who they are. The children shared thoughtful reflections on how our actions can help create a community where everyone feels included.

We have also explored peace through the stories of the Bible. We looked at how Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:35–41), showing that even when life feels chaotic, we can find peace by trusting and staying calm. We also talked about the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), which teaches us that peace in the world begins with how we treat one another – through kindness, compassion, and choosing to help rather than walk away.

Our learning expanded beyond the UK as we studied the Rights of the Child, based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We explored the idea that all children have rights – such as the right to education, safety, and to be listened to – and that these rights belong to every child, everywhere. The class discussed the aims of education, including helping children develop their talents and learn how to work together towards a better world.

In our discussions, the children shared thoughtful examples of how they can bring peace to our school community: by being patient, including others in games, sorting out disagreements with gentle words, and showing forgiveness when mistakes happen. By learning about peace, we are learning how to live it – in our words, our actions, and our relationships, just as Jesus encouraged. We look forward to seeing this value grow throughout the term and beyond.

To deepen our understanding of peace on a global scale, we learned about the United Nations (UN) and how it works to promote peace and cooperation between countries. We also explored the Nobel Peace Prize, discovering how people who make a positive difference in the world are recognised for their efforts to promote peace, fairness and respect.

We explored British Values, focusing on mutual respect, tolerance, and the rule of law. Through discussions and activities, the children learned what these values look like in everyday life – from listening to others' opinions, to playing fairly and understanding why rules help us stay safe and happy.

Throughout our learning, one message has stood out: peace begins with us. By showing respect, valuing differences, understanding others' rights, and making kind choices, we can help create a peaceful school and a better world.

Spirituality Day

Exploring Spirituality: Windows and Mirrors

This term, we have been exploring spirituality through the ideas of “windows and mirrors.”

Windows help us look outward – noticing the world around us, appreciating beauty, and learning from new experiences.



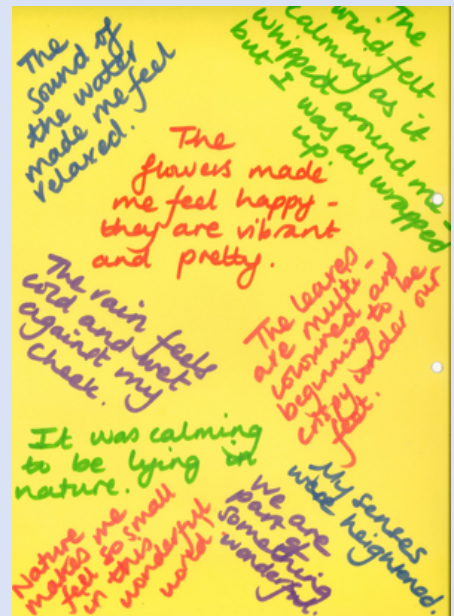
Mirrors help us look inward – reflecting on who we are, what we feel, and what matters most to us.



Across the school, children took part in activities that helped them experience both.

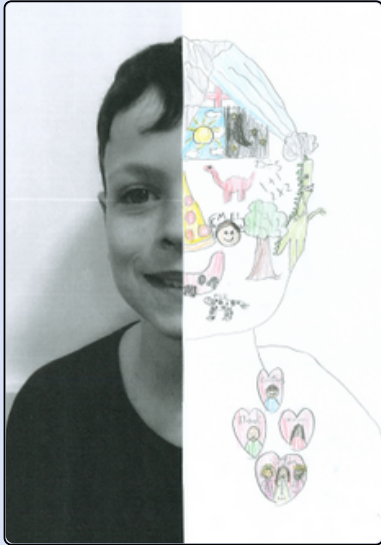
In EYFS and Key Stage 1, the children used natural materials such as leaves, stones, shells and flowers to create faces showing different emotions. Through this, they explored how feelings can be expressed in different ways and learned to recognise their own emotions and those of others.

These were their “mirrors” – a chance to think about how they feel inside. At the same time, by collecting and observing the materials, they were looking through “windows” at the natural world and noticing its beauty.

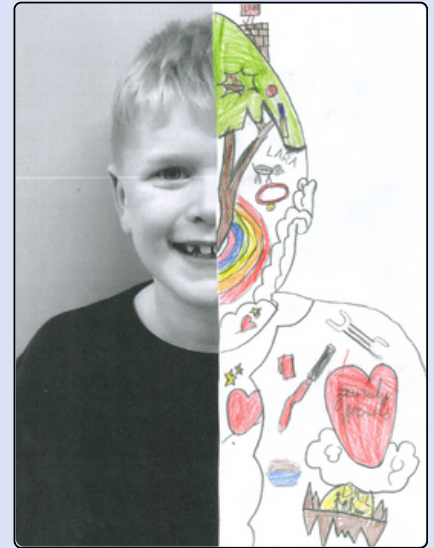
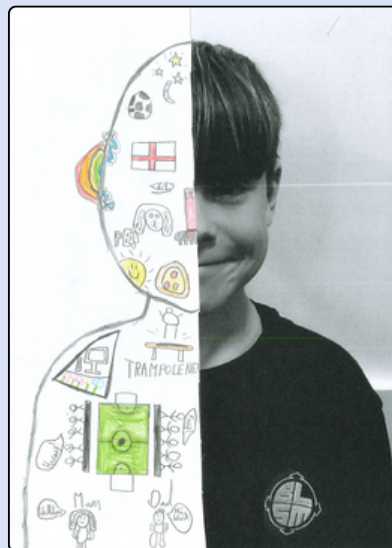
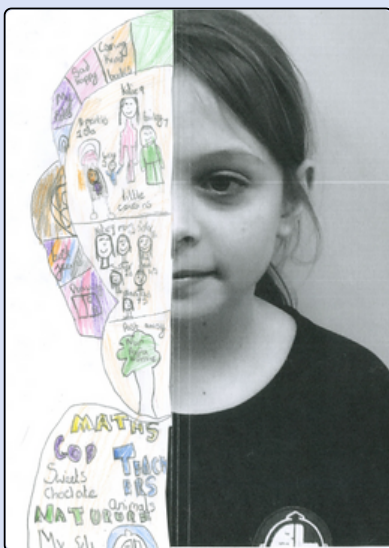
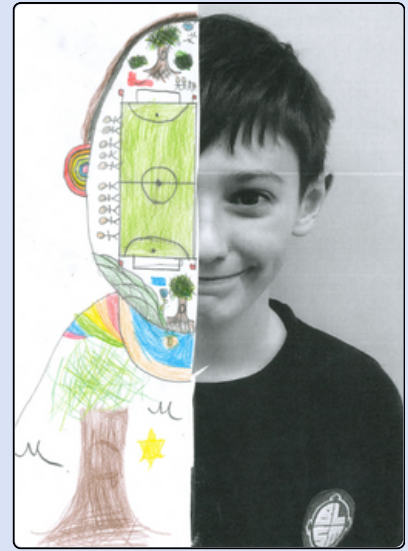
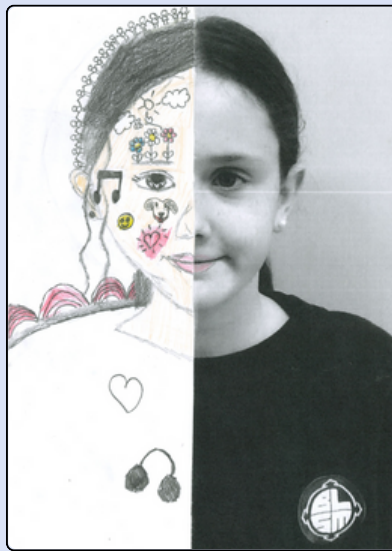
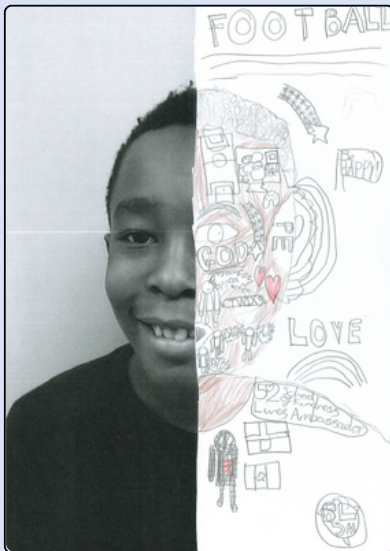
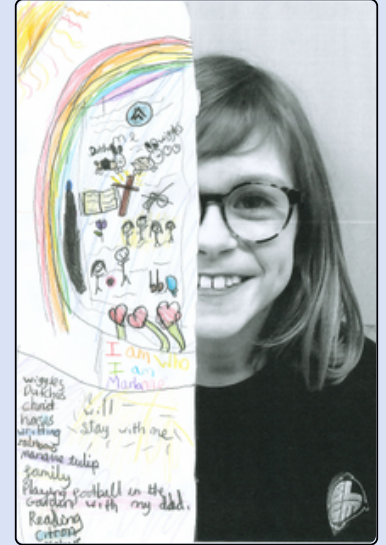


Through these activities, children learned that spirituality can be found in moments of quiet reflection as well as in the world around us. By looking both outward and inward, we can grow in understanding – of ourselves, of others and of the world.

Spirituality Day



Key Stage 2 children took part in forest bathing — a calm and mindful experience in nature. They used their senses to notice sounds, patterns, light and movement in the environment, finding moments of peace and wonder. Later they created a mirror collage, choosing images and words that represented who they are, what they value and what makes them unique. These collages celebrated identity, belonging and personal growth.



Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, St Mary's came together to honour all those who have fought and died for our freedom. It was a moving and reflective occasion, reminding us of the courage and sacrifice of so many.



A special thank you to Angelina and Bobby, who had the honour of laying the wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of our school. Their act of respect and remembrance made us all very proud.

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.**



We were privileged to welcome Paul Cooper from the Royal British Legion, who spoke to us about the importance of remembrance and helped deepen our understanding of this significant day.

At 11am, the whole school paused together for a two-minute silence, taking time to remember and reflect. It was a beautiful moment of unity and gratitude.

**“At the going down of the sun and in
the morning, we will remember them.”**



ECO WARRIORS

Message from the Eco Team 🌱🌍

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our **Christmas Jumper Swap Shop**.

Whether you donated, swapped or purchased a jumper, you have all helped make a positive difference to the environment by recycling clothing and saving it from going to landfill.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the Eco Warriors who supported our Eco Stall at the Christmas Light Switch On. The idea of painting pebbles to create Christmas decorations – or even special gifts for loved ones – came from the Eco Warriors themselves, and it was wonderful to see so many of you getting involved and making eco-friendly creations.

We are excited to share that we have applied for funding to help us set up our Eco-Club in the spring term. With this support, we hope to begin planting across the field and continue developing our green spaces. Fingers crossed it gets approved!

Looking ahead, we are also planning another litter pick this winter. Our summer litter pick was such a success and received fantastic feedback from both the school and the wider community, and we are eager to build on that momentum.



If you have any suggestions, or if you would like to donate any gardening tools or equipment, we would be very grateful.

Thank you for your continued support – together we can make a real difference!

KINDNESS AMBASSADORS UPDATE

This term has seen our Kindness Ambassadors really show their commitment and dedication to promoting and sharing kindness. Not only did we take part in a different activity every day during Anti-Bullying Week – more of which you can read about in the last newsletter – but we have also undertaken our first ever fundraising event for charity!



The School of Kindness, who support us in delivering our projects and recognising our kindness, is run by the charity 52 Lives, who rely on donations to spread kindness around the world.



52 Lives has helped to change many lives over the years thanks to funds donated by supporters. Recent examples include: buying a bed for a young carer who was sleeping on the floor; buying a seizure monitor for a teenage boy to give him more independence; providing food and wellbeing packs for elderly people on their own; and purchasing books and computers for vulnerable children. Funds raised also go to educate children through delivery of free workshops and resources.

The Kindness Ambassadors decided they wanted to give something back to the charity that is supporting them, so we spent our lunchtimes for 4 weeks helping to make kindness bracelets and keychains.

Thanks to the wonderful contributions of family, friends, staff and the wider community, we managed to raise over £100 at the Christmas Fair to donate to the School of Kindness!

We are absolutely blown away by this amount (which is still rising!) and want to thank each and every person who supported this wonderful cause.

The event was so successful we have discussed the possibility of holding a summer sale towards the end of the year – watch this space!

KINDNESS AMBASSADORS

Anti-Bullying Week 10th-15th November



What a wonderful and busy week we had during Anti-Bullying Week! We started things early on Friday when Miss Sanders held a special collective worship about anti-bullying and this year's theme, 'Power for Good'.

On **Monday**, we were overwhelmed with the amount of children who came in to school proudly wearing their odd socks! This was to celebrate our uniqueness, and to help remember that difference is good and individuality is something to be proud of! You all looked amazing.

Tuesday saw us reflect more on this year's theme, 'Power for Good'. We talked about how Superheroes use their powers for good, and that kindness is also a superpower. We then thought about how we can show kindness to others, and we even had the chance to design our own superhero!



CAN YOU FIND YOUR UNIQUE SOCK!



KINDNESS AMBASSADORS

Anti-Bullying Week 10th-15th November

On **Wednesday** we were lucky to have the Mental Health Support Team visit us in school.



They went in to every class from Year 1 to 6 to deliver a workshop on 'managing emotions'. The children engaged really well and it was a great reminder for us all that every feeling is ok! We were given tips on how to manage our feelings in a positive way and to share our feeling with others so we can get support when we need it.

Thursday saw us taking part in World Kindness Day. We participated in a live virtual assembly with the School of Kindness, the charity that supports us in the Kindness Ambassador Programme, and we took part in an activity that encouraged us to spread kindness, by telling others why we think they are amazing. The kindness and care that was shown across the school was truly incredible!



World Kindness Day

Finally, we ended the week by celebrating '**Friendship Friday**'. This gave us an opportunity to reflect on how we can be a good friend to others and to appreciate our friends.



Thank you to everyone who took part in this week's activities. It really showed that our school is full of kindness and friendship, and we can all do our part to add to this every single day!

KINDNESS AMBASSADORS CHRISTMAS



As we come to the end of the year, we have been reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas, and the importance of kindness within this. It is a time for celebrating God's ultimate gift; the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. This season we are looking at how we can give our own special gifts of kindness, and asking the school to consider how they can show kindness to others, to the environment, and also to themselves.

Have a look at the Christmas Kindness Advent Calendar below and see how many good deeds you can complete over the next few weeks!

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," Acts 20:35



Celebrating Our School Community

Together, students, families, and staff continue to make our school a caring, vibrant, and value-driven community.

Values Awards

This term, we are delighted to celebrate the wonderful values demonstrated across our school community. Well done to every student who has received a Values Award or an award for their outstanding work. Your effort, positivity, and commitment truly shine.

Student-to-Student

We are especially pleased to see the growing number of Student-to-Student awards being given. It is heart-warming to witness so many acts of kindness, support, and genuine friendship being recognised by peers.

Parent's Awards

We are also incredibly proud to honour the fantastic parents who have received awards this term for their exceptional support of the school. Thank you for going above and beyond—your contributions make a tremendous difference.

Headteacher's Award

Well done to this term's Head Teacher Award recipients: Sienna Bambridge, Cayden Tailby, and Caleb Tailby. Your hard work and dedication have truly stood out—congratulations!

"I was so surprised, I didn't know this was going to happen! I'm really pleased to have been given the Headteacher's Award and all the beautiful words on the certificate made me feel proud.

Thank you, Mrs Reynolds, for choosing me."



Caleb - "I couldn't stop smiling from ear to ear! I was so excited to go up. "

Cayden - "I could see my Nana in the hall but thought she was just there for my little sister. I couldn't believe it when it was for me!"

EYFS Exploring Our Wider Community

This term, our children have been exploring the wonderful people and places that help our community thrive.

We began with a visit to Burton Latimer Library, where the children learned all about the role of a librarian and explored the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. The children loved discovering new stories and finding out how the library helps everyone enjoy reading.



Our next stop was the local One Stop, where we gained an insight into the postal service and what it's like to be a shopkeeper. The children particularly enjoyed turning our classroom role play area into their very own One Stop shop and were thrilled to receive a letter posted to them by Michael Sinclair, our governor and One Stop manager.



Back at school, we were excited to welcome the Kettering Fire Service. They shared what it means to be a firefighter, and the children had an unforgettable time sitting in the fire engine and even spraying water from the hose!



EYFS Exploring Our Wider Community

We were also visited by Lara, an A&E nurse from Kettering General Hospital, who spoke to the children about her important role in helping people, especially children to feel better when they are hurt or unwell. Her visit helped the children understand how caring and skilled our hospital workers are.



A huge thank you to everyone in our community who supported these experiences.

Your time and kindness have given our children valuable knowledge, inspiration, and memories they will cherish.

READING

This term, reading has been a real focus across the school and our Reading Competition has been a great success.

Classes are now recording their weekly average reading scores and sharing them during collective worship, which has been great fun as we celebrate progress and work out which class has the highest average read.

At the beginning of the term, the whole-school average was 1.3 reads per week, and we are delighted to share that this has now increased to 2.6 – a fantastic achievement!

We would like to remind parents that our aim is for children to read at least three times a week, and ideally every day. Reading together is a wonderful opportunity to share quality time with your child, and we encourage families to keep up the great work over the Christmas period.



THE MORE
THAT YOU READ,
THE MORE THINGS
YOU WILL KNOW.
THE MORE THAT
YOU LEARN,
THE MORE PLACES
YOU'LL GO

- Dr. Seuss



We can't wait to see this score increase even further next term!



This year, we have been shining a spotlight on our 144 Club, which celebrates children who are working hard to master their times tables—an essential mathematical skill that helps them work accurately, choose effective strategies, and solve problems with confidence.



$$3 \times 7 = 21$$

$$4 \times 10 = 40$$

$$2 \times 5 = 10$$

$$6 \times 8 = 48$$

The club has four achievement levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold and the full 144,

Children will recall increasingly challenging sets of times tables in just five minutes, all presented in a jumbled order to develop quick recall. We are delighted to celebrate our full 144 Club members so far this year;

Wisdom: Finley, Letty

Justice: Felix, Willow

Respect: Violet, Freddy, Luca

Perseverance: David

Trust: Seni

A special shout out to JD in Perseverance for making phenomenal progress with his times tables so far this year.



Attendance Matters

'Be present, be engaged and watch your knowledge grow.'

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have supported since the beginning of September with making sure your children are in school and on time every day. You are supporting your child by ensuring that they don't miss out on valuable learning experiences throughout the year.

Part of our attendance protocol as an Academy Trust is to notify parents and carers when a pupil's attendance falls below 90%. This doesn't mean that we don't understand or empathise with the reasons for their absence, particularly if they have been unwell, but rather that we want to keep you informed and involved with regard to your child's attendance.

As we move into the colder months, we would like to take this opportunity of reminding everyone of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Every day really does count in your child's learning journey, and being on time ensures that children settle calmly into the day, don't miss key learning and feel part of the class right from the start.

You may be aware that the Department of Education is putting high importance on attendance, and every mainstream school is being issued with an Attendance Baseline Improvement Expectation (ABIE). This means that, as a school, we will need to monitor our children's attendance more closely.

We may ask you to come to school for an attendance meeting. This will be so that we can offer support and try to overcome any barriers to good attendance by working together.

We appreciate that there will be some days where your child feels unwell. If you feel unsure about whether your child is well enough to attend school – the following website offers good advice:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance Percentage

100% (full attendance) 96% or above	Excellent Expected (this allows for 7-8 days of absence)
90-95%	Cause for Concern
Below 90% (persistent absence) Below 50% (severe absence)	Academic Achievement will be affected

Please be mindful that our staff will take good care of your child and will always contact you if they have any concerns. We value your partnership in helping your child to make the most of every school day. Please let us know if you are experiencing any difficulties with attendance or punctuality – we are here to support you.

Our winning class for Autumn Term 2

is...

Hope Class

94.76%

St Mary's CE Primary Academy Whole School Attendance For the Academic Year 2024/25 94.7%

Term 1 2025 95.1% **compared to**
Term 1 2024 94.5%

1st September to 30th November 2025
94.3% **compared to**
1st September to 30th November 2024
95.3%

National Average Attendance For the Academic Year 2024/25 94.5%

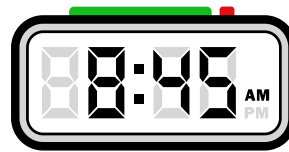
Term 1 2025 95.3% **compared to**
Term 1 2024 95.2%

Punctuality Matters – Gates Closing More Promptly

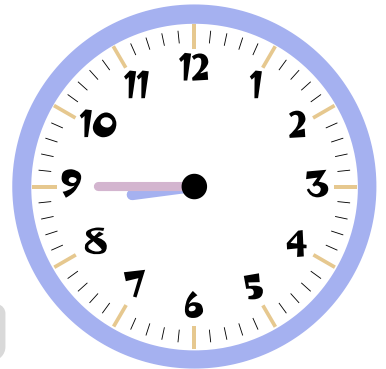
We are increasingly concerned about the number of pupils arriving late to school each morning. While a few minutes may not seem significant, late arrivals cause disruption not only to the learning of the child who is late, but to the rest of the class as well.

To help improve punctuality, the school gates will now be closing more promptly each morning. School begins at 8:45am. Arriving at or after this time means your child is late. Once the gates are shut, staff need to be in their classrooms ready to teach or to begin planned interventions. When teachers are unable to start on time because they are supervising late arrivals, valuable learning time is lost for everyone.

We appreciate your support in helping every child arrive on time so they can make the very best start to their learning each morning.



**Gates open 8.40am
School Starts 8.45am**

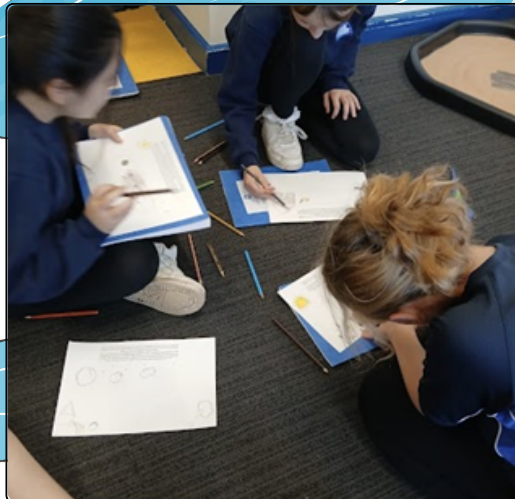


Being on time ensures that children do not miss the crucial start-of-day routines, including:

- Follow-up work on any misconceptions identified from the previous day.
- Important knowledge or input needed for the day's lessons.
- Settling-in activities that help pupils feel calm, prepared, and ready to learn
- Key instructions that support them to be successful throughout the day.

Year 5 & 6 Visit Camp Green Lake

To hook our Yr. 5 & 6 children into their new Geography topic and new English text they visited Camp Green Lake and created a visualisation from a text extract, they looked at foods from North and South America as well as using a geography quiz to label different rivers, mountains and countries on two continents.



Values Crew

Hello!
We are the
Values Crew



Our job is to make sure the school's Christian values are shown everywhere in our school, not just in worship. We want our school to be the best it can be, and we try to help our friends show these values in what they do every day.

We also want everyone to learn about God and understand His work. Each term, we meet with Mrs Reynolds to plan the collective worship for the next term. We think about the values we have learned, talk about how they've helped us, and decide how we can make our school an even better Christian school.



SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

This term the Student council have met many times to speak about what we can do to for the school, like what clubs we want to run for our classmates after Christmas.

We have listened to many different opinions about the new behaviour system, which was overall positive.

It was greatly appreciated as it helps us to improve and discover new ideas!

We have also discussed how important it is to feel safe and happy in school and have shared ideas if how to make our school an even kinder place.

We feel proud to represent our school and to help make good changes that everyone can enjoy.

By Katelyn-Anne



Create a **POSITIVE**
and **INCLUSIVE**
Learning
ENVIRONMENT



Connecting Through Books, Bakes and Brilliant Chats!

 **Thank you for joining us!**

It was wonderful to see so many families at the Book Fair, Parent's Evening, and Cake Sale. It is lovely way to connect, celebrate, and support our school.

Dive into the Joy of Reading!

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Book Fair! It was wonderful to see so many children and parents browsing the fantastic selection of books on offer. We hope that everyone has been enjoying their new reads at home.

Thanks to your enthusiasm and generosity, we raised **£192** for the school. This will go directly towards buying new books for the children to enjoy in class and in our school library.



We're already looking forward to our next Book Fair in the autumn and hope to see you all there again!



It was a real pleasure to welcome so many families to Parents' Evening.

We had 2 sessions with 85% of parents attending. We also had MHST (Mental Health Support Team) in on the Tuesday night and hopefully this was useful to the parents who stopped to chat to them. Our next Parents Evenings will be in the Spring 2 term.

Well done to the Parents and children in Peace Class ~ Mrs Grady
100% of parents attend Parents Evening



CAKE SALE



On the 14th November we held our Cake Sale to Support Children in Need.

We raised an amazing £289

Thank you to everyone who donated or bought a cake!



Safeguarding

Safeguarding Concerns? How Parents Can Contact MASH in Northamptonshire

At our school, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. We want all parents and carers to feel confident in knowing how to access support if they ever have a concern about a child's safety, welfare, or wellbeing.

If you ever have a worry of a safeguarding nature—whether it relates to your own child or another child—you can contact Northamptonshire's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

MASH is a team made up of professionals from children's social care, education, health, police, and other key services. They work together to ensure that concerns are assessed quickly and appropriately, and that children and families receive the right support at the right time.

When should you contact MASH?

You can contact MASH if you are worried that a child may be: experiencing neglect, being harmed or at risk of harm. exposed to domestic abuse, struggling with significant emotional or behavioural difficulties, living in circumstances that put their safety or wellbeing at risk.

No concern is too small—if something doesn't feel right, it is always better to seek advice.

How to report a concern

Parents and members of the public can make a safeguarding referral directly to MASH.

Telephone: 0300 126 7000

Online referral: Via the Northamptonshire Children's Services portal

In an emergency: Always call 999

You can also speak to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) if you would prefer support or guidance before making a referral.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

By raising concerns early, we work together to keep every child safe, supported, and protected.



Celebrating Sport

Net and Wall Festival by Letty

When we went to the Net and Wall Festival, we were really excited to play sports that were new to us. We walked in and the sports leaders welcomed us straight away. We looked around and there were six stations. We were then escorted to our spot and started our warmup. Once we'd finished, we went onto the stations and played a wide range of games. My favourite was Pickleball. After we played it, I said that I wished to start a club. At the end, the leaders came over and said we were amazing at all activities and were the best behaved! As we walked out of the sports hall, they high fived us all and said, "Well done!"



Celebrating Sport

Gymnastics Competition by Millie-Mae and Millie

'We went to a gymnastics competition. The gymnastics competition was at Matrix in Corby. We did vault, bench and floor routines. Our favourite routine was on the vault and the most difficult was the bench. We came fourth and we were very pleased! We had a fun time even though we felt nervous. After the competition we got to use the different gymnastics apparatus. We enjoyed swinging on off the high bars and doing cartwheels on the bouncy floor.'



Celebrating Sport

Athletics Competition

Our Year 3 and 4 children had an exciting day at the Sportshall Athletics Competition! They represented the school with pride, showing all of our values on and off the track. The children took part in a range of track and field events, including obstacle relays, speed bounce, chest push and long jump.

From the moment they arrived they showed brilliant sportsmanship, determination and encouragement towards one another and other schools in attendance.

Well done to all of our Year 3 and 4 athletes who took part. You were amazing representatives for our school.



Children's News

Congratulations Freddy on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.
Thank you for sharing your special day with us .

Confirmation

Confirmation is a special service at church when I stood up in front of an abundance of people to confirm my promises that I made at my Baptism. This is normally performed by a religious leader. Mine was Bishop Debbie, I had to attend some preparation sessions at my Church. I was the youngest person there, everyone else was an adult but they were all very supportive.

At first, I felt nervous but with each session I became more and more confident about what I was learning. I found learning about the last supper story the most interesting out of them all!

Finally, the day arrived for my confirmation; I felt anxious but also excited about how the service would go. You shouldn't be nervous to make these promises if you want to strengthen your faith and your relationship with God. This is the reason why I chose to be confirmed.

Bishop Debbie put her hands on the top of my head and she said some words for me to receive the Holy Spirit.

God will always know my name forever because of the promises I have made!



Freddy Rawlins
Aged 10

Children's News

We are all super proud of Marianne who took part in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition and was awarded a Bronze medal for her story.

Get comfortable, and enjoy this lovely story. Well done Marianne!

Adventure Awaits Me

by Marianne Hogg

Aged 9

Me and Mummy drove onto the ferry in our big blue car. I squealed in excitement. We were off to France. I desperately needed a wee so I went into the toilets and could see a lady brushing her hair and a teenager putting on make-up. I didn't feel overly comfortable, so I quickly hurried into the cubical. I locked the door then turned around to find myself in a boiling, humid rainforest! I could see colossal trees, and sparkling flowers of every colour. I could hear bird sounds I'd never heard before. One of them sounded like my grandma sneezing. Out of the forest came four children and a dog. As they came closer, I realised they were The Famous Five, George, Julian, Dick, Anne and Timmy. "Oh my gosh, are you The Famous Five?" I asked hopefully. "Yes, we are." They mumbled. "I've read so much about you." "Hooray. At least someone reads our books." Julian said happily. "Where are we?" I muttered. "We're in Papua New Guinea." commented Dick. After some quick introductions, they invited me to visit their camp.

We ran along a dusty track and arrived at a little village on a beach. The beach had white sand with little wooden huts built up on stilts. The rooves were covered with huge palm leaves. Together we ran down excitedly to the sea so we could bathe underneath the scorching sun. When suddenly a man came running down the beach shouting, "Come. Help. Someone's been bitten by a Papuan Giant Spider, and we need an orchid to help us make an antidote."

We gathered around the Chief to talk to him about where we should start our search for the orchid. He said we should travel to the island of Waigoe and search out the Blue Orchid. They would be growing on trees and be a deep sky blue with delicate, shimmering petals. One of the fishermen heard us talking about going to Waigoe island and offered to lend us his boat. George, who was familiar with boats, offered to take control of the motor. After many long hours we arrived. We were in awe of how beautiful the little islands were and the vibrancy of the sea.

Adventure Awaits Me Continued...

We climbed out onto the beach and started our search. It was red hot on the beach, so we scrambled in the shade of the trees.

I unexpectedly heard a screech from up above. There, soaring over my head, was a colourful, exotic bird. It landed on a small, skinny, mossy branch and there I caught a glimpse of the Blue Orchid. I squealed with excitement, "I've found it!"

The others came hurtling through the undergrowth. I nervously reached out and gently pulled up the Blue Orchid and cautiously held it.

We went back to the motorboat and George helped us get back to Papua New Guinea.

We climbed out of the boat and saw the Chief. He walked quickly towards us. "Did you find it?" he asked hopefully. I held out my hands to give him the Blue Orchid.

The Chief made a special tea using the Blue Orchid. He nervously walked the tea to the hut where the ill little girl lay with a fever. He gently poured the tea into her mouth. Everyone looked, waiting anxiously. The girl abruptly arose from her bed and skipped happily onto the beach. "It worked! Thank you so much!" cried the mother, emotionally.

"Let's have a picnic to celebrate." Julain announced. We all went out onto the beach and Anne pulled out their picnic blanket and emptied ginger beer, cakes and sandwiches out of their picnic basket. "Oh, ginger beer. You love ginger beer!" I said with a laugh.

Together we enjoyed the marvellous picnic. As the sky got darker, I suddenly remembered that I was meant to be on my way to France with my mummy. We ran back to the edge of the rainforest. "Thank you for the adventure. I hope we meet again. Goodbye." I said.

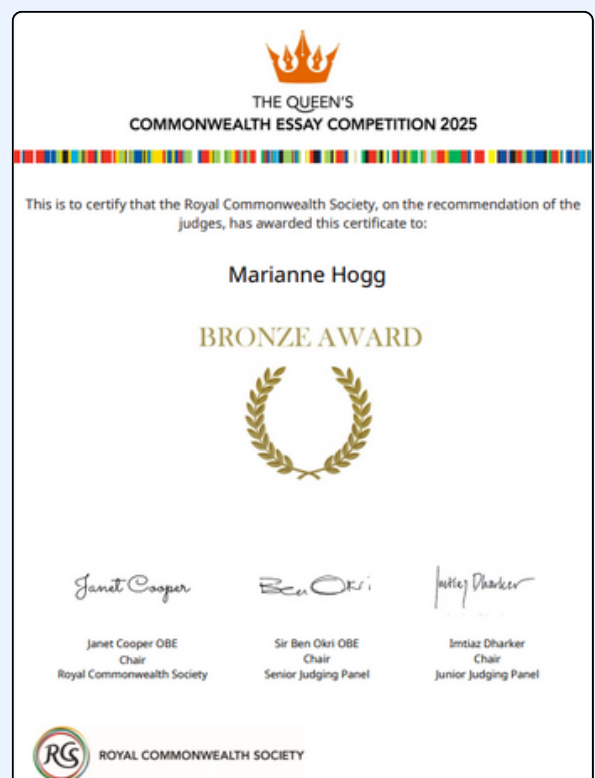
I pushed myself through the door and found myself back in the toilets. I noticed that the lady brushing her hair and the teenager putting on make up were still there.

I hurried back to the car and my mum said, "Fancy lunch and a game of eye spy?"

"Mummy, could we get some ginger beer to have with our lunch?" I chuckled.

"Sounds like you've been reading too much Famous Five." She replied.

"Probably" I said with a grin.



In other News...

Baby's here!

Hello! Just wanted to let you know that baby finally made a very speedy appearance Sunday evening!

Matilda Wren Bulley ❤️ weighing 8lbs 3oz. We're doing okay and enjoying our baby bubble, Henry is a very proud big brother!
Miss Freeman



More exciting news to come...

Miss Critchley is expecting a baby and will be going on maternity leave in April.

Farewell to Mrs Syed

We would like to share that Mrs Syed, our wonderful Teaching Assistant, will be leaving us at Christmas. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work, dedication, and the care she has shown our pupils throughout her time with us.

Mrs Syed has been a valued member of our school community, and she will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. We wish her every success and happiness in her next chapter.

Welcome to Our School Family

We are delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to Lynda Drew (mum to Scarlett and Jessica) and Dani Tailby (mum to Eden, Caleb and Cayden), who will be joining our school family.

Both Miss Drew and Mrs Tailby are looking forward to becoming part of our team, and we know they will be valued members of staff. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to the wonderful contributions they will bring to our community.



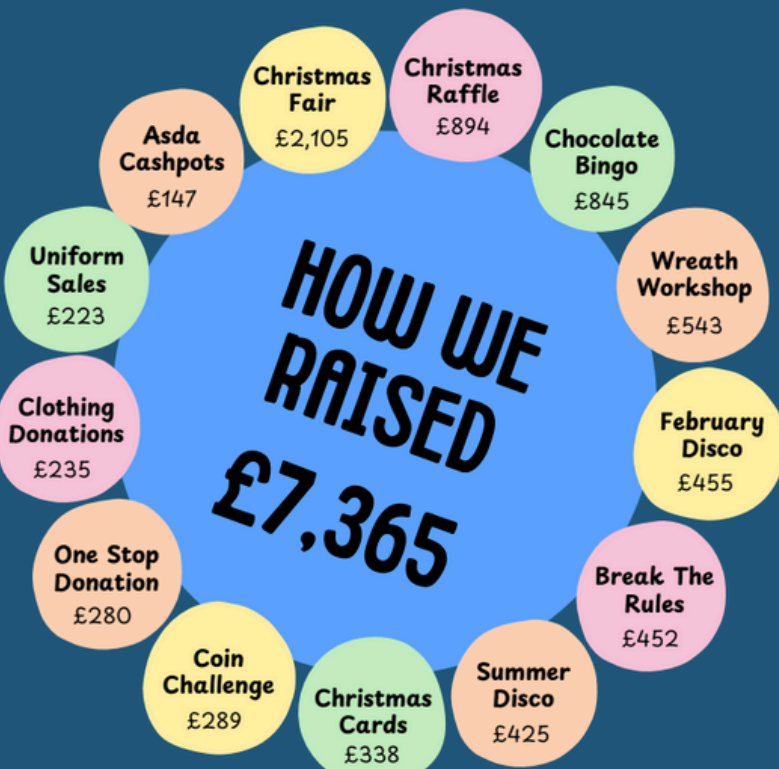
ST. MARY'S PTA & FRIENDS

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk

Please like, share and keep an eye on our Facebook Page!

End of Year Financial Roundup

HOW WE RAISED £7,365



Yr 5/6 Air Conditioning £10,000



HOW WE SPENT £13,510



Going for Silver! ~ Healthy Schools Award

We're very proud to share that St Mary's is now working towards achieving the Silver Healthy Schools Award! 🌟

For the past two years, we've proudly held our Bronze Award, recognising our commitment to promoting health and wellbeing across the school. Now, we're ready to take the next step and go for Silver!

As part of this exciting journey, we'll be running a new project to encourage more children to get active, try new sports, and enjoy regular exercise. From fun fitness challenges to extra sporting opportunities, there will be lots of ways for everyone to get involved and stay healthy.

We can't wait to share our progress with you – and hopefully celebrate achieving Silver status by the end of the school year.



Check out the clubs we
are running next term.
Which one are you going
to sign up to?



Please book sports clubs through our Arbor portal. Logins can be re-sent, please contact the School Office.

Taskmaster Club is booked directly via the letter sent out each term by Mrs Grady.



If your child is interested in our music lessons please enquire with the School Office.

If your child is interested in choir we have sent out a letter from Mrs Clarke this week.

Day / Time	Club	Year Groups
Monday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Archery, Boccia & New Age <u>Kurling</u>	All Years
Monday LUNCH -12:30-1:00pm	Prayer Club – Free, starts 19th Jan	Years 3-6
Monday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	KS1 Football	Year 1/2
Tuesday AM – 08:00-08:45am	Tag Rugby	Years 3-6 (AMENDED YRS)
Tuesday AM – 09:50-11:00am	Woodwind/Recorder, starts 13th Jan	Years 1-6
Tuesday PM - 12:45-2:00pm	Guitar lessons, starts 13th Jan	Years 2-6
Tuesday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	Dodgeball	Years 3-6
Wednesday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Basketball (AMENDED, WAS ATHLETICS)	All Years
Wednesday AM - 9:00-10:00am	Strings, starts 14th Jan	Years 3-6
Wednesday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	Choir (dates are sent to parents)	KS1 or KS2
Thursday AM - 8:00-8:45am	EYFS & KS1 Gymnastics	EYFS to Year 2
Thursday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	KS2 Football	Years 3-6
Friday AM - 8:00-8:45am	KS2 Gymnastics	Years 3-6
Friday PM - 3:15-4:15am	Taskmaster, starts 16th Jan	Years 1-6