



St Mary's Church of England Primary School

DREAM with all your mind,
BELIEVE with all your heart,
ACHIEVE with all your might.

Autumn Term Newsletter
December 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish today after a 9 week halfterm, I think it's fair to say that whilst we are all very tired, the build up to Christmas has been truly magical for our children and it won't be long until you see their happy, excited faces on Christmas morning. I would truly love to be a fly on the wall!

Christmas Fair-A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Fair on 17th November. It was a resounding success! We raised £1130.76. The atmosphere around school was lovely.

Performances-Massive congratulations and well done to all the children and staff involved in Foundation and Year 1 and 2 Christmas productions. The acting, singing, dancing and narrating were all absolutely fantastic. Well done children, we are all very proud of each and every one of you! It was lovely to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school to watch the children shine. Your comments in the visitor's book are truly special.

Thank you to all those parents and friends who joined us for the Years 3 and 4 Carol Service and the Lights to Remember Service. Every child gave a fabulous performance and should be very proud of their singing. All of the children's performances left us all feeling thoroughly Christmassy!

Years 5 and 6 have delighted us with their class assemblies this term too. We have so much talent at St Mary's that I cannot wait to see what the summer production brings!

Live Advent-Thank you for all your support during Live Advent. I want to express particular thanks for your generosity in collecting donations to go with Hinckley and Bosworth's Toy Appeal. 30 boxes of hygiene, stationary and sweets were donated on Friday and will bless many families this Christmas. Giving to others really is one of the greatest gifts we possess.

School Website-The newsletter always contains a snap shot of your child's learning journey at St Mary's. Just a reminder that you can see a real flavour of our curriculum on the Class Pages of the school website. These are updated regularly and contain lots of information as well on how you can best support your child's learning.

30 Days Kindness Challenge-In addition to Live Advent we have been participating in a Kindness Challenge following a visit from the Kindness Coach, John Magee. It has been wonderful raising the profile of kindness in school and reminding the children that we need to be kind to ourselves first and foremost, as well as to our school community and the environment. There are some pointers to becoming rich in



Message from the Headteacher continued

kindness on the school website which is especially important during the Christmas period. During this time I have really noticed a difference in the number of children who say 'Good morning' or say 'Have a lovely evening!' Visitors never fail to be impressed with the good manners and behaviour of our children as Ofsted were in September.

Maths-As part of our continued drive for school improvement we have bought into a package called DoodleMaths for children in Years 2 to 6. Your child should already be accessing this at home as all log in details were sent out earlier in the term. We bought into this package as it is fully aligned to the KS1 and KS2 maths curriculum, helping the children to learn the fundamentals of maths and progress in their learning. The programme is designed to make maths fun. It is filled with fun exercises, interactive numeracy games and unique rewards. DoodleMaths ensures that learning is always fresh and engaging, encouraging children to practise 'little and often'. We hope that your child really enjoys this and uses it on a regular basis. Some practise over Christmas when your child just needs a change from their new toys would be beneficial. Year 1 children have access to Numbots and children in Foundation have access to Ten Town so everyone in school can access some maths learning.

Apply for a School Place-If you know any families who have children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 inclusive, then please recommend our wonderful school to them. We will be having a final Open Day on Tuesday 9th January 2024 from 10.00-11.00am and 1.30-2.30pm for our September 2024 intake. Please ring the school office to book an appointment or turn up on the day. You will be very welcome!

To make an application please use the link below:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>.

The closing date for applications is Monday 15th January 2024.

Finally, as I reflect on this term, I'm pleased to say that St Mary's continues to go from strength to strength. We really are blessed to have the most amazing children, dedicated and talented staff, supportive parents and to be situated in a great community! Thank you to you all for your support in 2023, we are already looking forward to a spectacular 2024! If you have any questions, please phone school or email office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk

Have a really wonderful Christmas, making memories with your family and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 9th January ready for another busy and exciting term.

Best wishes

Mrs R Ayres

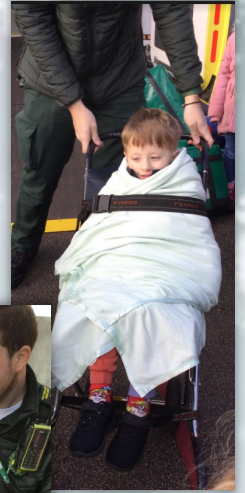
Headteacher

We all have the right to feel safe all the time.

St Mary's Church of England Primary School Protective Behaviours Curriculum

Foundation News

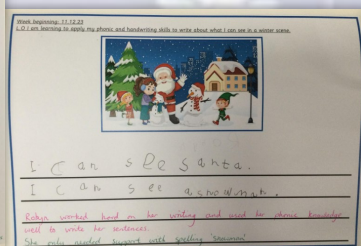
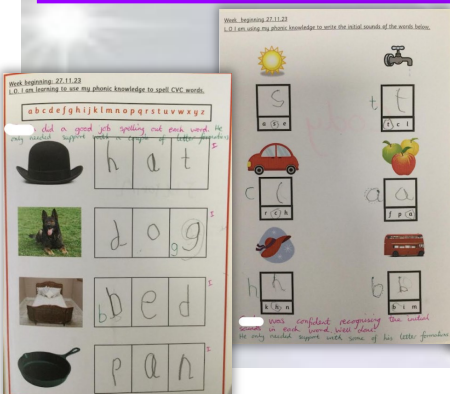
The children in Foundation have been enjoying learning about 'People who help us'. They had great fun learning about paramedics and learnt so many new things when Ben the paramedic visited us. The children got to explore the different equipment a paramedic uses and especially enjoyed going in the ambulance.



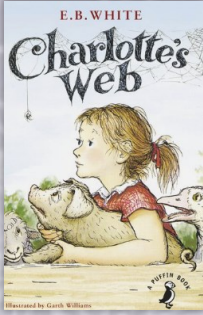
As Christmas is approaching, the children have also been busy learning songs and practicing for their starring roles in our Nursery Rhyme Nativity. We really do have some stars of the future!



Within the children's writing, they have been learning to write labels and are beginning to apply their phonic knowledge to write a simple sentence.

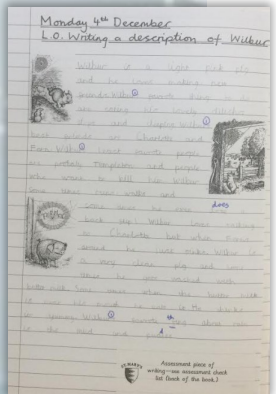
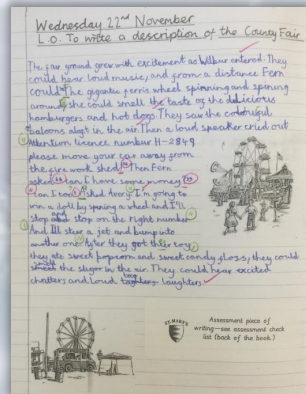
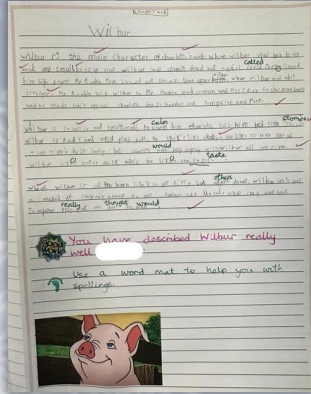
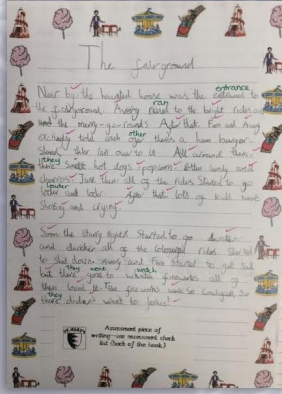
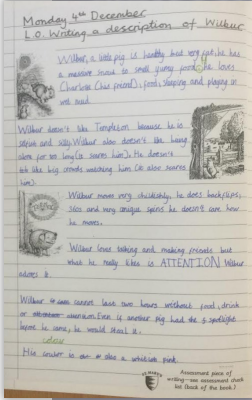


The children have been learning about the artist Andy Warhol and have created their own Andy Warhol inspired art using photographs of themselves wearing emergency service uniform.

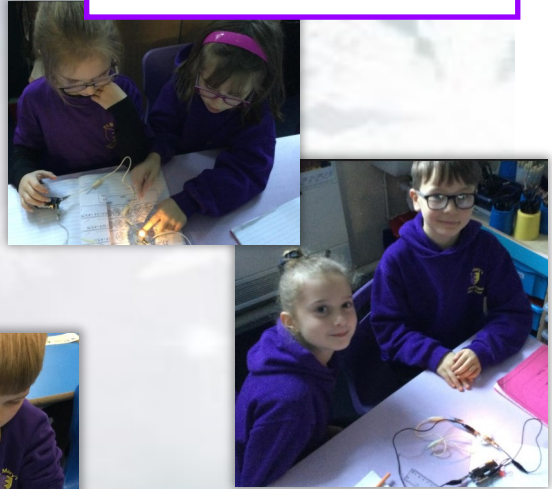
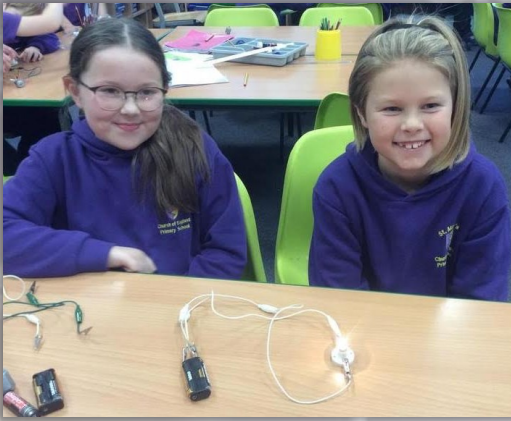


Year 3 and 4 News

The children have produced a variety of outstanding pieces of writing based on Charlotte's Web by EB White.



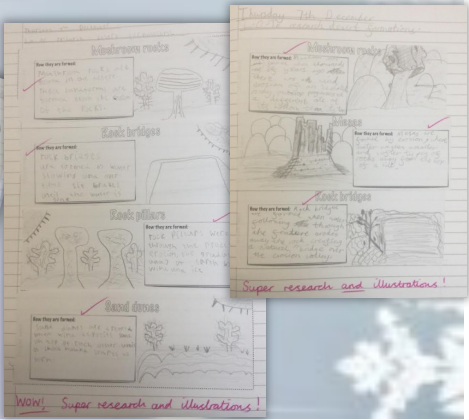
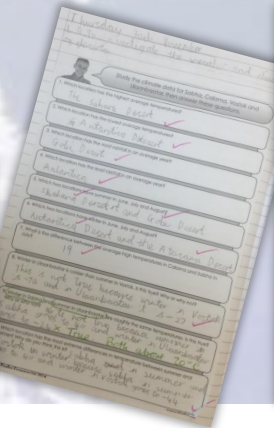
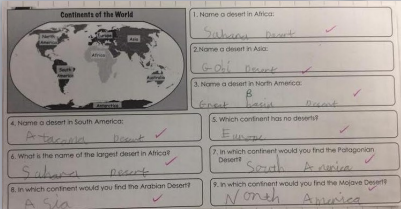
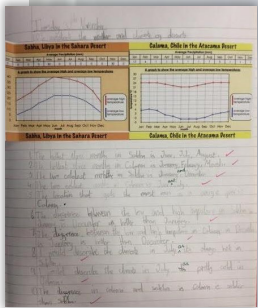
We have enjoyed learning about circuits and conductors in science.



We loved our Ancient Egypt Day!



In Geography, we have been learning about deserts across the world.



Year 5 and 6 News

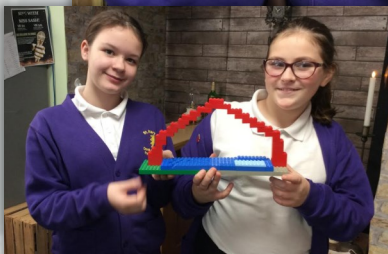
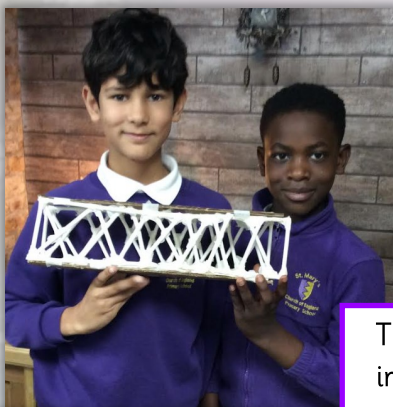
We had some fantastic Christmas jumpers in Year 5 and 6.



All Year 5 and 6 were given messages of how to show kindness in a fun and engaging manner. John Magee, the National Kindness Coach, led an informative and entertaining assembly sharing ideas on how to be more kind to each other. Each child throughout the school, including year 5/6, were given their own personal kindness log to record their daily kind acts.



kindness
MATTERS



This term, Year 5 and 6 have been investigating the history of bridges and how to construct one that can bear several weights. One area that has taken a lot of consideration is how to formulate a way of strengthening the structure and how to make it secure enough to carry a toy car.



St Mary's Attendance Target 96.5%

Attendance in November

Foundation	89.5%
Year 1	92.8%
Year 2	93.7%
Year 3	94.8%
Year 4	87.3%
Year 5	92.9%
Year 6	91.7%



Overall attendance for the whole school for November was **92%**

This is **BELOW** our target

Please help us to increase this percentage by ensuring your child's attendance is good or better! If you need any support with this please speak to Mrs Perkins our Family Support Worker who would be happy to help and advise you.

Remember school opens at 8.40am when children line up in the playground ready for the start of the school day. Please don't be late!

First Aid Practices

At St Mary's, designated staff have a range of first aid skills.

Our practice is to send a 'bump slip' if your child has a head bump or injury during the day. A small or minor injury will be recorded in the First Aid book at school.

We always strive to make the best judgement for your child as we are not trained medically. It is important to remember that children;

- Do not always report an injury.
- It is not possible for staff to see every incident on the playground or in class.



Of course we would always call you if the injury was of a more serious nature or to seek your advice in any way. Your child's safety is paramount.

Lights to Remember

Our choir sang at the 'Lights to Remember' service on 7th December at St Mary's Church. This was organised by the Marie Curie charity to remember those closest to us that have died. Our choir did themselves proud. They sang their hearts out with a smile. They sang 'The Gift' and 'Wishing on a Star' from The Polar Express. Their last song was 'The Moment' which was a joint performance sung with Richmond School. They were fabulous and many positive and lovely comments were said. A huge well done to all that took part.



Remembrance Day

The whole school attended our yearly memorial worship to remember those who gave their lives in war. The children showed respect and their behaviour was impeccable for such a solemn occasion. The wreath was laid by our eldest and youngest child - as is our custom.





<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>

Hi, my name is Rachel and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England.

I have launched this survey, The Big Ambition, to hear from all children and young people in England aged between 6 and 18 years old. Adults can answer on behalf of a child or young person aged 0 to 18 years old.

I will use this survey to take children and young people's views to the Government.

Everything you tell me will be kept private, and you don't have to answer any question if you don't want to. To find out more, visit my [website](#).

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly!

Design and Technology

Design and Technology is a fundamental part of the curriculum. We are collecting various materials, and we would greatly appreciate it if you are able to donate any of the following items; cardboard tubes, wood, lollipop sticks, cupcake cases, plastic or paper straws, buttons, matchsticks, wooden wheels, string, corks and bottle caps.

These items can be donated at any time throughout the year as we consistently require additional resources and materials.

Christmas Lights Switch On!

Our choir had the pleasure of opening the Christmas celebrations at the Fosse107 radio lights switch on. A big group were entertained by the fabulous voices as they sang 'When Christmas comes to Town' and 'The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy'. They looked fabulous in their Santa hats as they sang their hearts out!



Christmas STEM challenge

As a part of St Mary's live Advent, the children had a fantastic time conducting a range of STEM activities this week.



Years 3 and 4
Snowmen Rice
Krispie Cakes



Foundation
Chromatography Christmas Tree



Years 1
and 2
Christmas
Mobile



Years 5 and 6
Slime

Candlelit Christmas Carol Concert Year 3 and 4

The children put on an amazing performance at our Christmas Carol service at St Mary's Church on the evening of Wednesday 13th December. The church was full of parents and parishioners who enjoyed the wonderful singing. Well done Year 3 and 4!



A huge thank you to swimmer Amy Smith for her enthusiasm and inspiration talking about her journey to be an Olympian.

We were in awe of her resilience to never give up to win your gold medal.



Glow-in-the-Dark Dodgeball



As a treat close to Christmas, the children enjoyed taking part in an amazing glow-in-the-dark dodgeball experience. The children got to wear fluorescent face paint for the day and had a wonderful time.



St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Once again St Mary's entered the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church in Hinckley. Members of the public were invited to vote on the many trees taking part in the festival.

We are delighted to announce that our tree, with the theme 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', was the well deserved winner!

Special thanks to Miss Hewins and Miss Rizzo for their hard work in organising all the classes.

A message from our Vice Chair of Governors

As we come towards the end of a calendar year, it's a great time to reflect on what has come to pass.

The school has endured a challenging start to this academic year having been subject to an OFSTED inspection. The new format and itinerary of the inspection is a very demanding task on the staff and indeed there is an impact on the children also.

But all the inspection did was tell us what we already knew. That we are a **GOOD** school. We have known this for some time, but we now have the official rating from OFSTED. There is always room for improvement and the school has wasted no time in making enhancements to the curriculum, in fact the staff had already identified some of these further improvements and relayed this to OFSTED during the inspection.

The children also played their part, representing themselves and the school which drew some amazing comments about their impeccable behaviour and attitude to learning, of how they cared about the school and one another leaving "No Outsiders."

And of course, you as parents also made major contributions to the inspection, completing 33 Parent View surveys (that is a lot for these type of surveys). And those parents who spoke directly to inspectors really did show the emotional and compassionate side of the school in an amazing light.

I am so proud of this school, and I hope you are too. The staff work very hard to give our children a great, holistic education to help our children become good and responsible citizens of the world. I could write quotations about the report, but if you have not already, I implore you to view the report on the school website under Key Information > Ofsted Reports. It is a limited, short report, but the key information is there.

As a governing board we are thankful to the staff, children and parents in making the school a success and we implore us all to maintain our standards, compassion, kindness and pride in our school.

Talking of school pride, on a more recent note, I am delighted to confirm St Mary's Year 5/6 Team have become the Hinckley & Bosworth Dodgeball Champions, and the school also won the Children's section of the annual Christmas tree decoration competition. How about that for developing universal children?

On behalf of the Governors, have a wonderful holiday, Christmas and New Year.

Ben Pearson
Vice Chair of Governors



A message from Mrs Palmer SENDCo

We know this time of year can be tricky for those with additional needs. Everything changes- our routines are gone, we see people who we might not see often and even our house looks different!

Below are a few things to think about over the holiday period:

- Is there a place in the house which is not Christmassy? Think about where your child could go if they need everything to feel a little bit more normal. Try not to force children to join in- think about if they are really being rude, or if it is all simply too much.
- It is absolutely ok for your child to forgo some of the Christmas traditions such as Christmas Dinner if that is what they need to regulate and feel safe. It may also be worth thinking about the time of your Christmas dinner- it can feel very strange to some children to be having a full sit down meal in the middle of the day!
- Try to prepare children for what is going to happen. Talk through your plans for the day and address any concerns then. Talk through how we might feel and how we can solve problems if any arise. Give children some words to say to politely excuse themselves if they need to.
- Think about inclusive games. Winning or losing games can be a big trigger for children, as can lots of loud noise. Team games may take the pressure off and be easier to manage. Talk about the game beforehand, especially the concept of luck. Understanding that one person can win, just because they have been lucky with the roll of dice is quite tricky and can feel unfair.
- How do your children feel about surprises? Remember, the pressure of opening presents in front of people when they don't know what is inside can be a bit much. Perhaps have an agreement about how much and when presents need to be opened and if it is all getting a bit much, don't be afraid to put the presents away for later.

Above all, remember that Christmas is a time for everyone to feel included and happy. Don't be afraid to explain to relatives and friends if you need things to be a little different for your child so that they can have a happy time too.

Mrs Palmer

(Please note my working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

SENDCo





Applications for Foundation school places for children born between 01/09/2019 and 31/08/2020 can be made via Leicestershire County Council at

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2024

Offers will be made on 16th April 2024.

Rock Kidz

Again, we enjoyed a visit from Rock Kidz, who spread the message of self-esteem and anti-bullying during anti-bullying week in school. Their unique delivery of such important messages was enthusiastically received through dance and singing songs. And even the teachers got involved!





Have you heard of [My Family Coach](#)? It's an incredible free platform for families for help and support with all areas of behaviour, school and family life.

The platform includes **over 50 hours of free support content** from the experienced team at Team Teach. There's **articles, podcasts, videos, ebooks and quarterly online parent classes** that you can attend and watch on-demand as well.

The resources and support cover a huge variety of topics and they are always adding more:

Relationships
Communication
Mental wellbeing
Friendships
Bullying
Calming down
School life
Healthy living
At risk behaviour
Screen time

For this time of year, families might find articles on [understanding behaviour](#), [managing changes to routines](#), [how to enjoy a family Christmas](#), [using family support for childcare in the holidays](#), [supporting your child through the holidays](#) or [why self care isn't selfish](#).

It's all available 24/7 and completely free!

We have been asked by Redmoor Academy to provide details of their current admissions consultation to you. It is important that everyone has a chance to have their say.

Details about the consultation and how to respond can be found on their website below.

<https://www.redmooracademy.org/admissions-consultation/>



Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 9th January 2024	School opens for Spring 1 term
Thursday 11th January	Young Voices - Resorts World Arena Birmingham (KS2 only)
Wednesday 7th February	Braille Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 14th February	Gaudi Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Thursday 15th February	EYFS/KS1 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 16th February	KS2 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 16th February	School closes for half term break
Monday 26th February	School opens for Spring 2 term
Wednesday 6th March	Newton Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 13th March	Franklin Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 20th March	Mother's Day Assembly - Foundation Class
Friday 22nd March	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 8th April	School opens for Summer 1
Wednesday 24th April	Teresa Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Thursday 25th April	EYFS/KS1 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 26th April	KS2 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Monday 6th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday 8th May	Picasso Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 15th - Friday 17th May	KS2 SATS
Friday 24th May	School closes for half term break
Monday 3rd June	School opens for Summer 2
Wednesday 5th - Friday 7th June	Year 4, 5 and 6 residential trip to London
Wednesday 10th July	School closes for Summer holidays



We now have a Facebook page here at St Mary's so why not give us a follow or a like! www.facebook.com/stmarysceps
Thank you.

Christian Values

The Christian Value we are focusing on next half term is Perseverance.



Disclaimer

You will notice that from time to time the school circulates information provided by outside groups, regarding the services they offer or about local events in the area. Whilst we are happy to circulate the information for these parties, in the interests of offering our parents a varied picture of what is available outside of school, we in no way endorse them. We therefore recommend that Parents/ Carers should satisfy themselves that the group or event runs the necessary checks and precautions to safeguard themselves or their children before participating.



Crib Service

at

Hinckley Baptist Church

Saturday 23th December

At 4pm



*Come dressed as Mary or Joseph, an angel or a star,
a king or a shepherd or even come dressed just as you are.
Together we will tell the story of Christmas.*

Followed by Festive Refreshments

For further information contact:

admin@hinckleybaptist.com



Have your say on the 0-11 Healthy Child Programme in Leicestershire and Rutland

Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council, who commission Healthy Together to deliver the 0-11 Healthy Child Programme across Leicestershire and Rutland, are looking for feedback from service users to ensure the commissioned service is the best it possibly can be.

You are invited to complete the anonymous questionnaire by scanning the QR code, clicking the short link below or by typing it into your browser



bit.ly/HCPQuestionnaire



Winter Holiday Scheme

Tuesday 2nd January
To
Friday 5th January
9.30am - 4.30pm



Wrap around care available 8am - 6pm

Contact
Hayley
holiday@LOPC.co.uk
01162681426





CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



2 Dec.
10AM-1PM

WREATH
MAKING

16 Dec.
10AM-1PM

CAMPFIRE
GROTTO

23 Dec.
10AM-12PM

WINTER
BUSHCRAFT

23 Dec.
12PM-2PM

SANTA PADDLE



limited spaces available - pre booking essential



ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

♀ London Road - Hinckley - LE10 1HJ

January 2nd - 5th 2024

£70 WHOLE WEEK

BOOKING DEADLINE DAY
December 21st!!! 30 children limit

£20 PER DAY

Performing Arts - Football (astro turf) - Dance - Dodgeball -
Ultimate Frisbee - Archery - Basketball - Arts and Crafts -
Multi-Sports - Gymnastics - Team Games - Cricket - Medals
- and so much more!!!



Booking link

<https://bookwhen.com/primarysports>

Please bring a packed lunch and a drink



Contact
Raphael

07873220724
pseprimarysports@gmail.com

9AM - 3PM
Children 4 - 11 Years Old



Nominations

Open

The Active Awards are a celebration of the local community and your achievements over the last year. From schools, to organisations, to individuals, we want to celebrate you and the contributions you have made to those around you.

What do I need to do?

- 1 Go online to www.hinckley-bosworth.gov/activeawards or scan the QR code
- 2 Fill out the nomination form, giving as much detail as possible

For inquiries, or a postal form, email
leo.sawyers@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk
or contact 07795553467

Nominations close on Thursday 4th January 2024



-Active School Award -Junior Club/Team of the year -Junior Sportsperson of the year
-Junior Volunteer of the year -Primary School Team of the year -School Wellbeing Award -Secondary School Team of the year
-Young Hero Award -Active Mums Award -Community Group/Club of the year -Inclusivity Award -Inspiring Instructor Award -Most Improved
-New Group Award -Outstanding Contribution Award -Sports Club/Group of the year -Sports Person of the year -Team of the year

CHRISTMAS SOCCER SCHOOLS 2023



Hinckley @ Hinckley Parks Primary School:

2nd & 3rd January

Leicester @ Beauchamp College:

4th & 5th January

Kettering @ Buccleuch Academy:

2nd & 3rd January

Melton @ Melton Sports Village:

4th January

Loughborough @ Rawlins College

5th January

**Only £12
per day**

Ages: 5-13 years

Time: 9am til 3pm

All Soccer Schools
are non-refundable



How to book:
Email: Soccercamps@developmentschools.co.uk
24hr text service: 07817307074 with Child's name & dates
Call: 01858461166



mr nics sports academy.co.uk

Inclusive,
challenging,
fun

WORKING WITH SCHOOLS
IN LEICESTERSHIRE



Netball
Handball
Badminton
Golf
Cricket
Hockey
Orienteering
Athletics
SAQ
Dodgeball
Team Building
Tennis
Ultimate Frisbee
Archery (Soft Tip)
Rounders
Dart Tag
Gymnastics
Dance
Fencing
Fundamentals
Football
Table Tennis
Create Your Own Dance
Tag American Football
Basketball
T Ball
Tag Rugby
Invasion Games
Laser Tag

'Making school sport
fun for everyone'

PRIMARY SCHOOL
SPORTS
PROVIDER



Find out more:



07359 298 138



jay@mnicssportsacademy.co.uk



Winter **WATER SAFETY**

EVERY YEAR CHILDREN ARE AT RISK WHEN THEY ARE TEMPTED TO PLAY ON THE ICE FORMED ON OPEN WATERS AND ADULTS FIND THEMSELVES AT RISK AS THEY ATTEMPT TO SAVE THEM. OVER 50% OF ICE RELATED DROWNING INVOLVED AN ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF ANOTHER PERSON OR A DOG

TOP TIPS



Keep away from the edge of the water



Only walk in well lit areas



Keep dogs on their leads



Walk with an adult or group of friends



Never go on the ice under any circumstances

WHAT TO DO IN DANGER



Shout help and call 999. Use your what3words location



Never go onto the ice to try and rescue a person or animal



Keep an eye on the person in danger



If possible lie flat to spread your weight



Wait for the emergency services