

St Mary's Church of England Primary School



DREAM with all your mind

BELIEVE with all your heart

ACHIEVE with all you might

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish today after an 8 week half-term, I think it is fair to say that whilst we are all very tired, the build up to Christmas has been truly magical for our children with our Christmas Nativities, Live Advent, Carol Services and our Christmas Service.

Performances

Huge 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 very proud of each and everyone one of you! It was lovely to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school to watch the children shine. Your comments in the visitors' book are truly special.

Thank you to all those parents and friends who joined us for the Year 3 and 4 Carol Service and the Remembering with Love 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!

Let's not forget Years 5 and 6 who have delighted us with their class assemblies this term. I have high hopes for the Summer Production.

Attendance

It is disappointing today that our attendance is 86.4%. This is well below our target of 96%. Every single school day matters.

Thank you for your support in ensuring your child arrives punctually at 8.40am and attends everyday from the New Year so that no learning time is lost.

Parking

We have had lots of complaints about inconsiderate parking by parents on St Mary's Road. Unless you have a disabled pass, parking in front of the blue school gates is not permitted and dangerous for our children and families.

Finally, as we come to the end of 2025, I wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you for your continued support throughout the last twelve months.

It has been another great year for the school, filled with hard work, achievements and many memorable moments for our children, staff and the school. (continued overleaf)

Message from the Headteacher (continued)

As the year has progressed, it has been a pleasure to work so closely with our PTA – SMSC. The strong partnership between home and school is one of our greatest strengths and the events they have organised have been extremely fruitful and positive.

None of this would have been possible without your encouragement, involvement and trust. Whether you have supported school events, helped with learning at home, attended meetings or simply taken the time to share a kind word with staff – your contribution has made a real difference.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This time of year is truly the most magical time and I hope everyone has an amazing holiday period with their friends, family and loved ones.

We hope you enjoy a peaceful, restful holiday and look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 6th January for another successful year together.

Best wishes



Rachel Ayres
Headteacher



ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPEN DAYS

Dream, Believe, Achieve!

There's still plenty of time to come and look around our school if you're applying for a Reception place for September 2026. We'd love to welcome you in and show you what makes our community so special.

At St Mary's, our values are lived every day – especially friendship and respect. Children of all ages play and learn together, supporting one another regardless of age, background, or culture. It's this sense of care and belonging that makes us a true family school. We look forward to meeting you and sharing the heart of our school with you.

**Tuesday 6th January to
Friday 9th January 2026**
From 10.00 am - 12.00 pm
and 3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
or
**Saturday 10th January
2026**
10.00 am - 11.30 am

**1-3 Station Road,
Hinckley LE10 1AW**



To book, please scan the QR code or for more information please contact us

 **01455 637477**

 **office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk**

 Visit us:
stmarys.leics.sch.uk



Choosing the right start to your child's education is one of the most important decisions you will make. At St Mary's, children are always our first priority. Our dedicated staff and governors are committed to providing the very best education for every pupil. Our aim is to nurture a lifelong love of learning, giving your child the knowledge, confidence, and curiosity to carry forward with them throughout life.

Foundation News

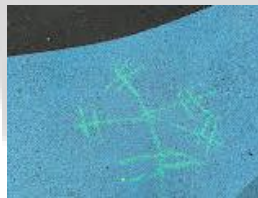


We made marshmallow snowflakes for our Live Advent STEM challenge. We also had lots of fun practising our scissor skills and making paper snowflakes too!



Chalk and water painted snowflakes.

We learnt about the importance and meaning of Remembrance. It was great to be able to go to the Mead as part of the Remembrance service. We decorated iced poppy biscuits in class.



As part of our Festivals and Celebrations topic we learnt about Diwali. We made rangoli patterns and salt dough diva lamps. Mrs Rajpara came to talk to us to share how she celebrates Diwali with her family.



Year 1 and 2 News

As you can imagine, with the run up to Christmas, we have had a very busy half term!



This term, the children have been exploring natural art for our 'Explore and Draw' topic. We have been inspired by the art of Andy Goldsworthy and have been very impressed with the children's own creations. Using a selection of twigs, stones and leaves, the children created an amazing range of pictures and patterns. We definitely have some budding artists in Year 1 and 2!



We are so very proud of how the children performed our Nativity, 'Everyone loves a baby' last week. We started the week with a dress rehearsal which was performed to the rest of the school. The children learnt their lines and songs amazingly well and were very enthusiastic throughout! Thank you to all the parents who came to watch the children perform last Tuesday and Wednesday. They certainly appreciated you being there and enjoyed showing you what we had been working on over the last few weeks.



Earlier this term, we completed some writing based on 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Our writing scheme broke the story down into smaller chunks and encouraged the children to use ambitious vocabulary. At the end of the unit, the children wrote the story independently in their gold books. It was great to see them using the ideas we had discussed to enhance their writing.



This half term, we have been looking closely at the history of our school and have thought about what school life would have been like for children during the Victorian period. We went for a walk around our school looking at different features, comparing them to old photos. The children have also compared their school life to the school life of children in the past.



Finally, the Year 1 and 2 team would like to thank you for all of your support during the Autumn term and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 3 and 4 News



During Black History month, we used Now-Press-Play to experience the achievements of Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman.



Children in years 3 and 4 did a fantastic job of singing various Christmas carols as part of Hinckley's 'Christmas lights switch on' celebrations.



After finishing our history topic on Roman Britain, we had a Now-Press-Play experience to discover how the Romans reacted and responded after Boudicca's rebellion.



Congratulations to our reading raffle ticket winners. Well done for having 5 or more signed reads recorded in your reading diaries per week.



The children have really enjoyed working together to complete several Commando Joe's missions based on Ed Stafford's mission to walk the entire length of the Amazon River.



Year 5 and 6 News

What a fabulous half term! We really do appreciate all the hard work and effort your children have given to their learning. We have looked at facts about the UK, written a horror story, fractions in maths and studied Humanism with all three classes having hugely successful class worships. Well done!



On 2nd December, we appreciated a thought-provoking visit to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, following in the steps of our Royals. In preparation of our forthcoming area of learning of World War 2, we paused for thought at several memorials to those affected by war, such as the Women's Land Army, The Falklands conflict and the Paratroopers, culminating in the poignant Shot at Dawn memorial. The children enjoyed the land train tour of the entire site.



Forget Britain's got Talent, we have St Mary's Got Talent! Over 20 acts wowed the audience with a wide variety of shows including: musical theatre, tabletop magic, football skills and original compositions. Everyone enjoyed themselves - both the audience and participants. Can't wait for the next one! Baffled, I was!



We wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to you coming back in the New Year.

Anti Bullying Week 2025

Earlier this term, we took part in our annual Anti-Bullying Week which took place from 10th – 14th November. Every year there is a different theme to focus on and this year, it was 'Power for Good'.

We kicked off the week with 'Odd Socks Day' to celebrate our differences. Our School Parliament representatives and Head boys and girls also delivered an assembly to the rest of the school to introduce the theme. The children responded thoughtfully to their questions and it was a great start to Anti-Bullying Week. Many thanks to our School Parliament who did a fantastic job.

During the week, the children took part in a range of activities in their classes relating to the theme, 'Power for good'. We explored how we can support others if we feel that they are being bullied. The children also explored what they could do and who they could talk to if they feel that they are being bullied themselves.

During the week, our School Parliament also ran an Odd Socks competition and we had so many fantastic entries that we had two meetings in order to judge them all! I know the children found it very challenging to choose their winners as the entries were of such good quality. Thank you to everyone who entered and a very well done to our winners!

Foundation – Freya

Year 1/2 – Elliot

Year 3/4 – Alfie

Year 5/6 – Jayden



A message from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy term for all of us and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a relaxing break.

As Governors, we have continued to work on your behalf with full Governor meetings, Quality of Education and Finance & Resources meetings.

We have a thriving SMSC to which you are all invited to join. This group of parents are very enthusiastic and eager to raise money by providing activities for your children.

I have been able to help at the Film Night and Christmas Crafts this term. An opportunity to meet, get to know and work with parents.

I visited Townlands School with four delightful pupils to discuss the Minster Communities re-organisation. The Bishop was eager to know how our young people saw the church in 5 to 10 years. Their ideas were wonderful! Let's do hope that he takes some on board.

Governors have been trained/or refreshed their training in Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Prevent. It is important in our changing world that we keep our children safe, as they are so precious to us.

Governors attended the KS1 Nativity on the 9th December 2025 and we could see the progress from Foundation to Year 1. The year 2's were very confident and the singing was superb.

I am looking forward to the Candlelight Carol Service on 17th December. It really is uplifting.

May we wish you a wonderful and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Judy Williams
Chair of Governors



Applications for Foundation school places for children born between 1/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 can be made via Leicestershire County Council at

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-or-junior-school>

The closing date for primary school applications is 15th January 2026.

Offers will be made on 16th April 2026

Coping with Christmas: Supporting Our Children Through the Festive Season

Christmas can be a wonderful time of joy, excitement and togetherness - but it can also bring big changes to routine, lots of sensory stimulation and increased pressure on families. At St Mary's, we know that every child experiences the festive season differently. For some children, especially those with SEND, this time of year can feel overwhelming.

Here are some gentle tips that may help families navigate the coming weeks:

Keep routines where you can

Children feel safest when they know what to expect. With late nights, school events and busy weekends, it can help to keep key routines such as mealtimes, bedtimes and morning habits, as familiar as possible.

Offer calm spaces

Whether at home or at school, some children benefit from having a quiet, predictable space to retreat to when everything feels "too much". A cosy corner or a favourite toy can help them reset.

Prepare children for changes

Talking through what will happen ("We're going to the Christmas fair, it might be noisy") or using simple visual schedules can reduce anxiety and help children understand transitions.

Keep expectations realistic

Christmas doesn't need to be perfect. If plans need adjusting or your child finds something tricky, that's okay. Celebrate the small wins and focus on what feels manageable for your family.

Give permission to pause.

If your child needs a break from busy activities, crowded rooms or festive performances, stepping out is absolutely fine. Children often cope better when they feel in control.

Notice emotional needs

Big emotions are normal at this time of year, especially when children are tired or excited. Naming feelings ("It sounds like you're frustrated") helps children feel understood.

Holiday pressures and comparison

Children may talk about presents, trips or celebrations. Please remember: every family celebrates differently. Connection, warmth and reassurance matter far more than "things".

Reach out if you need support

If you have concerns about how your child is coping, or you would like some advice, please get in touch. We are here to help.

From all of us at St Mary's, we wish you a peaceful, gentle and joy-filled Christmas - whatever that looks like for your family.

The Christian Value for next half term is

PERSEVERANCE

Dates for the Diary

6 th January 2026	School opens for the Spring Term
Tuesday 6 th January – Friday 9 th January	Open week for Foundation intake 2026
Monday 12 th January	Unhealthy/Healthy Workshop for Year 5
Wednesday 14 th January	Young Voices at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham
Tuesday 20 th January	Fire Safety Talk for Year 1 and Year 5 @9.30
Tuesday 20 th January	WW2 talk @1.30 pm
Tuesday 20 th January	National 5-Year-Old Dental Survey
Tuesday 27 th January	Dental Examination of aged 5 children
Wednesday 4 th February	Chanel Class Assembly
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 4 th March	Newton Class Assembly
Wednesday 11 th March	Foundation and Year 6 Height and Weight
Wednesday 18 th March	Gaudi Class Assembly
Friday 20 th March	Rock Steady Concert at the Church @1.30 pm
Wednesday 25 th March	Pantomime
Thursday 26 th March	Stafford Class Assembly
Friday 27 th March	End of term
Monday 13 th April	School opens for the Summer Term



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.