

# 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,

How can we possibly be half-way through the school year? As ever, school has been very busy since Christmas. The children have been very focussed in class and as always, their enthusiasm and behaviour for learning has been amazing. When myself and our School Improvement Partner dropped in on lessons during the last week of half-term, together with two of our School Governors we were blown away by the learning completed and how children articulate their learning so enthusiastically and accurately.

The school environment looks truly wonderful and we are looking forward to sharing it with you when you attend Parents' Evening on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow this week. The week before half term, was especially busy with Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The theme 'Smart tech, safe choices' explored the safe and responsible use of AI. This is really important to ensure all of our children are taught how to explore AI responsibly and keep themselves safe when using technology.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February, it was really lovely to see the children expressing themselves individually as part of Children's Mental Health week. The theme this year was 'This is my place'. Through exploration of this theme, all of the children were encouraged to foster a feeling of belonging whether in their families, their school, their peer groups or the wider community. All classes completed activities during the day and we will continue ensuring St Mary's is a safe and happy place for them to be.

This half term, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Our school theme is 'Dress as A Word'. We are really looking forward to seeing how creative each child and adult can be. We have asked TJ Hughes to stock up on World Book Day books and we will be taking the children as a class to spend their token.

Good attendance continues to be a priority for us as a school, and I would really like to thank all families for supporting us in this. Our goal is for whole school attendance to be 96% or above by the summer term!

I hope you all had a wonderful half term. It is great to see signs of spring already and lighter mornings.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Rachel Ayres  
Headteacher

## Foundation News



Despite the cold and wintry weather, we have been enjoying our learning and exploration outside. It has been great to see the children working together to share ideas and solve problems.



Whilst learning outside, we have been checking our school garden for signs of growth. We were excited to spot the daffodil bulbs we planted in the Autumn appearing as green shoots.



When learning about the world around us, Kahlo Class have enjoyed looking at our playground maps and locating our school on them.



In art, we have been learning to print with teddy bears and have made lovely bear faces with natural loose parts.



We have enjoyed taking part in the RSPB's Big School's Bird Watch. The children enjoyed finding out about the different types of birds they spotted, and talking about their similarities and differences. We also had fun getting our hands messy making bird feeders.



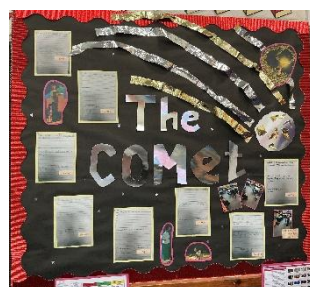
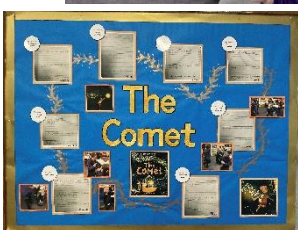
## Year 1 and 2 News



We had a great start to the Spring term with our Victorian Day. The children really looked the part in their costumes and it helped them to take on the role of a child at a Victorian school. The tables in the classrooms were set out in rows and the children took part in a Victorian handwriting lesson. We also practised our number bonds and doubles through rote learning. Later on, the children enjoyed making and playing Victorian games such as Cup and Ball and Tiddlywinks.



In Design and Technology, the children have been preparing to make their fun fruit salad. They have tasted several different fruits and practised cutting them using different techniques. We also talked about hygiene and the importance of keeping our hands and surfaces clean.



This term, in English, we have been busy writing a story based on The Comet by Joe Todd-Stanton. The children have put themselves in the shoes of the main character, Nyla, and imagined what it would be like to move from the countryside to the city.

# Year 3 and 4 News

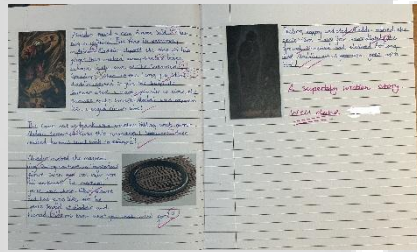


The children are learning about stop frame animations. We used the iMotion app to create moving pictures.

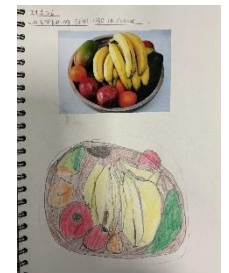
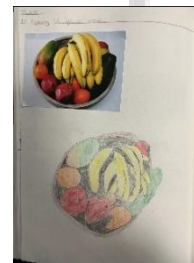
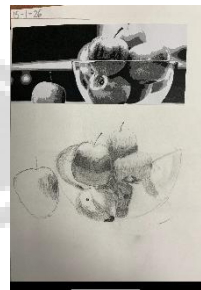


We enjoyed reading Phillip Pullman's 'Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp'. We created our own short stories based on this book.

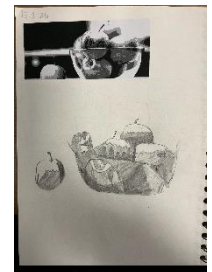
We are really proud of the amazing work we have displayed in the corridor!



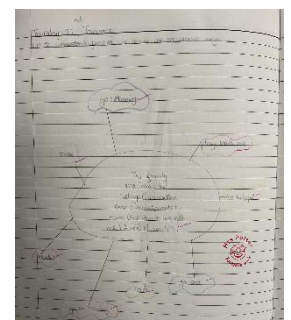
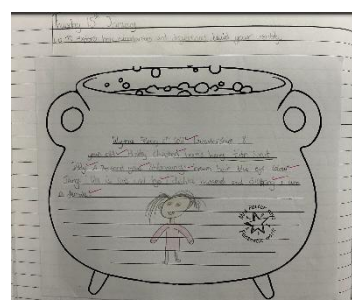
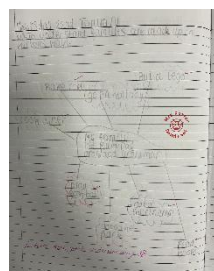
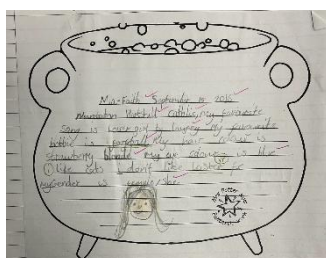
We used Now-Press-Play to have an experience which helped us to learn about the importance of keeping ourselves safe when we are online.



In art, we have been exploring still life.



Through PSHE, we have been learning about diversity and communities.



## Year 5 and 6 News

In January, a group of Year 5 children took part in Sports Hall Athletics at the leisure centre. Our Year 5 were competing against many Leicestershire schools and more importantly, themselves. The children took part in several activities including standing long jump and relay. All of the children enjoyed themselves and experienced some events that they had not experienced before. Well done to all of them!



Year 5/6 enjoyed a WWII presentation by special guest Peter Armitage, learning about the Home Front.

Year 5 children worked alongside F to go on a 'grammar' hunt! We really enjoyed helping children in Kahlo class to discover two grammar terms - nouns and verbs. We searched and labelled nouns within the classroom and then acted out the verbs that we could name. We all enjoyed this session and hope to work alongside the younger children again this year.



The fire service visited our school to deliver a talk to Year 5 about fire safety. We learned about how quickly fire can travel and what to do if we find a fire in our homes. After watching extracts from recordings, we were asked to answer several questions and given time to think about a safety plan for home. We really did learn a lot including that the fire brigade will fit a fire alarm for free to anyone who contacts them!

We were using counters to begin to understand how to use ratio in maths to compare 2 quantities. How many yellow counters were there compared to red counters? The counters really helped to further our understanding.

This term we have been constructing bridges using straws, tape and card. The children worked in pairs to construct bridges that were at least 50cm long, could stretch between two chairs and could hold a car or a 50g weight. We had good fun investigating structures and different types of bridges. It was quite a challenge to decide which type of bridge to construct and we all experienced both success and failure but felt pleased with our outcomes.



# Attendance

## Every School Day Counts



Our school is continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality and we are writing to remind you that we expect your child's attendance to be at 96%.

We currently have a number of children who are well below this attendance percentage and in some cases, it is impacting on their learning.

The table **shows** the impact of absence on a child's time in school. We understand that children do get poorly and occasionally will need time off to recover. Teachers will send children home if they are not well enough to be in school, as we do not want illnesses spreading around a class.

### Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

It's good to be green!!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to those families who have been working so hard to ensure children's punctuality and attendance is high or are working to improve their child's attendance.

**THANK YOU** for getting these important habits established early on in your child's life as it will make a difference to their futures.

### Every Minute Counts

**LATENESS = LOST LEARNING**

*(Figures are calculated over a school year)*

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost
25 minutes late each day	19 days lost

**Be at the classroom on time and ready to learn!**

## Young Voices

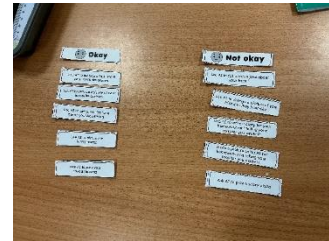
On 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, pupils of the Young Voices choir and staff attended the event at Resorts World Arena in Birmingham and had a great time performing with other schools.

For those parents who were unable to attend the event, the choir performed their songs at our assembly.



## Safer Internet Day

Children across the school did activities for Safer Internet Day to learn about how to keep safe online. This year's theme was 'exploring the safe and sensible use of Artificial Intelligence.'



## Doodle Maths

Congratulations to January's Doodle Maths winners for years 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5!



## School Cross Country

On 24<sup>th</sup> January, pupils took part in the School Cross Country Meet at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus. Those who participated enjoyed a chilly run representing their school brilliantly and having fun. A huge congratulations to Alfie and Beatrix who qualified for the cross-country county finals. They will be running for the Hinckley and Bosworth team.



## Food for Life

**A Lidl something from us**

Your child has taken part in a **Lidl Foodies workshop** at school, so here's a little something towards buying more of the fresh fruit they've been exploring. This coupon is for your use only, can't be shared, and is valid for one-time use only. Once it's gone, it's gone - so don't miss out!

Free pack of fruit



Scanning the code will take you to the coupon sign up form. Enter your email to receive your code for use in the Lidl Plus app.

Subject to availability: 7000 coupons available. Coupons can be redeemed in the Lidl Plus app 02/02/2026 - 01/05/2026. Coupons valid for 14 days after being entered into the app. 1 coupon per account. Full coupon T&Cs apply. See 'Coupons for You' in the Lidl Plus app for more information. 18+, GB residents, Lidl app required. Full T&Cs apply: <https://www.lidl.co.uk/c/lidl-plus/terms-of-use/s10025414shidshamer-trin>

**Lidl Foodies**

**LIDL**

national schools partnership

[www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/lidl-foodies/](http://www.nationalschoolspartnership.com/initiatives/lidl-foodies/)

## Dates for the Diary

23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2026	School opens for the Spring Term 2
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Dance Festival @ Green Towers
27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Tuck Shop
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2026	Beaumanor Hall Residential Meeting for Parents @9.00 am in the hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Sublimes' Science Assemblies
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Newton Class Assembly
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 5 Parent Dinner
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	World Book Day. Dress up as a word.
7 <sup>th</sup> March to 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	STEM week
9 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Parents' Evening 3.30-5.00pm
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Hinckley Past and Present presentation to Years 3/4
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Kahlo Class Parents' Evening
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Foundation and Year 6 Height and Weight
12 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Dentaid Charity – BrightBites Sessions
17 <sup>th</sup> March – 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 2 Residential Trip to Beaumanor Hall
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Gaudi Class Assembly @9.10am
18 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Year 4 Parent Dinner
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Rock Steady Concert in the hall @2.30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Pantomime Day
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Stafford Class Assembly @9.10am
26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Years 1/2 to NWSLC
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Easter Bonnet Parade
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	KS2 Easter Basket competition
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Easter Service @1.30pm in the Church
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	End of term
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens for the Summer Term

The Christian Value for next half term is



### 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.