

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/Carers,

It was lovely as always to see so many of you at Parents' Evening this week. Walking around school has been an absolute pleasure. The children are working really hard in class and their behaviour around school is polite and respectful as always. We have had so many compliments from visitors to school who have been impressed with the children's behaviour and attitudes to learning.

Stafford Class have made a fabulous start to school life and are quickly learning 'The St Mary's Way!' I have really enjoyed watching them start their learning journey and am looking forward to watching them grow and flourish over the next seven years.

Weather

As the weather is ultimately getting colder, please make sure that your children are appropriately dressed for school, with a warm coat and hat/gloves. Please make sure your child's clothing is named as we are already building up a new lost property supply all unnamed!

School Transfer

It is fast approaching the time when the Year 6 parents need to apply for their secondary school places. I hope that all of our Year 6 parents have managed to take their children to the feeder secondary school open evenings over the last few weeks.

The deadline for applying for a secondary place is **31st October 2026**. The deadline for applying for a primary school place is **15th January 2027**. For both applications, the simplest way is online <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/apply-for-a-school-place>. If you need any further information, please contact the Admissions team via the contact form on their website here <https://tinyurl.com/47mfv6ej> or on 0116 305 6684, option 4.

Lateness and appointments

Please remember that our school gates open at 8.40am each day and close PROMPTLY at 8.45am as this is the start of the school day. If children arrive after this time (i.e. they have to enter via the office), they are marked as LATE in the registers. In line with DfE guidance, if children arrive after 9.15am (which is when registers have to close) they receive a 'U' code which is classed as an absence for that session (as registers have closed for the morning).

Please do help ensure your children attend on time to ensure they have the best start to the day. In addition, please try to ensure any appointments for children are outside of school hours where possible. Do also remember we cannot authorise absences for children to attend appointments for siblings and/or parents or parental illness.

Lateness after school

If you are unavoidably late (more than 15 minutes) to collect your child after school, your child will be able to attend '**Early Birds and Night Owls**', which is our school led provision. There will be a nominal charge of £5 per child until 4.00pm. After that club fees will apply. This is the best place for your child in these circumstances as we do not have staff who can supervise your child at the end of the school day.

If you want more permanent before and after school care, spaces can be booked as little as 1 hour before providing parents with lots of flexibility.

Keep us updated...

Please ensure that you keep us updated with any changes of contact numbers and addresses. It is crucial that these are current in case we have to contact you in an emergency. Thank you.

Term Time Holidays

Any requests for time off for a holiday will not be authorised, unless in the most exceptional of circumstances. St Mary's Church of England Primary School follows the statutory guidance for schools which states that Headteachers should not authorise term time holidays. If parents/carers decide to take their child out of school for a term time holiday, it is their statutory duty to inform the school using the Leave of Absence form.

Parents/carers should send the form to the school in a reasonable amount of time before the holiday. It is not acceptable to place the request the day before the holiday commences or on the morning the holiday commences and expect an immediate response.

Parents/carers will be informed if the absence is authorised or unauthorised and any further action as below, in a letter from the Headteacher. Penalty Notices for Term Time Holidays Leicestershire Local Authority issues the penalty notices to each parent, for each child who is absent from school.

5 consecutive days of term time leave

Penalty notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before. Per parent, per child Penalty notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who is absent.

First Offence The first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days. This is reduced to £80 per parent per child, if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years) The second time a penalty notice is issued for Term time Leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days. There is no option to pay at the reduced £80 level.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years) The third time an offence is committed for Term time Leave or irregular attendance, a penalty notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrate fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child.

Staffing changes

Mrs Nethercot finishes school today to start her maternity leave. We wish her all the best as she prepares for her new arrival.

Whilst she is absent, I will co-ordinate the SEND provision in school.

We are delighted to welcome a new Family Support Worker after half-term called Mrs Porter. She will be available 5 mornings a week and is really looking forward to joining St Mary's to support our children and families. I know you will make her welcome.

Both myself and Mrs Porter will hold an informal coffee morning on Monday 2nd November after drop off. Any parents are welcome to attend.

You might have seen our new Premises Officer Mr Underwood around school this week. We are delighted that he is joining our team to keep school safe, clean and tidy!

Concerns

Should you have any concerns however small, please do not hesitate to speak to me on the gate or contact your child's class teacher. This is the quickest way to get small worries sorted before they turn into bigger worries.

On the next page you will see the concerns process. Following this will ensure that you speak to the right person at the right time. We are here to help and support you as much as we can.

All staff are contactable via email. Their addresses are listed below:

Mr Bond	mr.bond@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Jenkinson	mrs.jenkinson@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Corley	mrs.corley@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Mosedale	mrs.mosedale@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mr Cramp	mr.cramp@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mr Roper	mr.roper@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Miss Rajpara	miss.rajpara@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Malin	mrs.malin@stmarys.leics.sch.uk
Mrs Talbot	mrs.talbot@stmarys.leics.sch.uk

Finally, can I take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful half-term. We are looking forward to inviting you into school after the holiday in the very busy build up to Christmas.

Best wishes



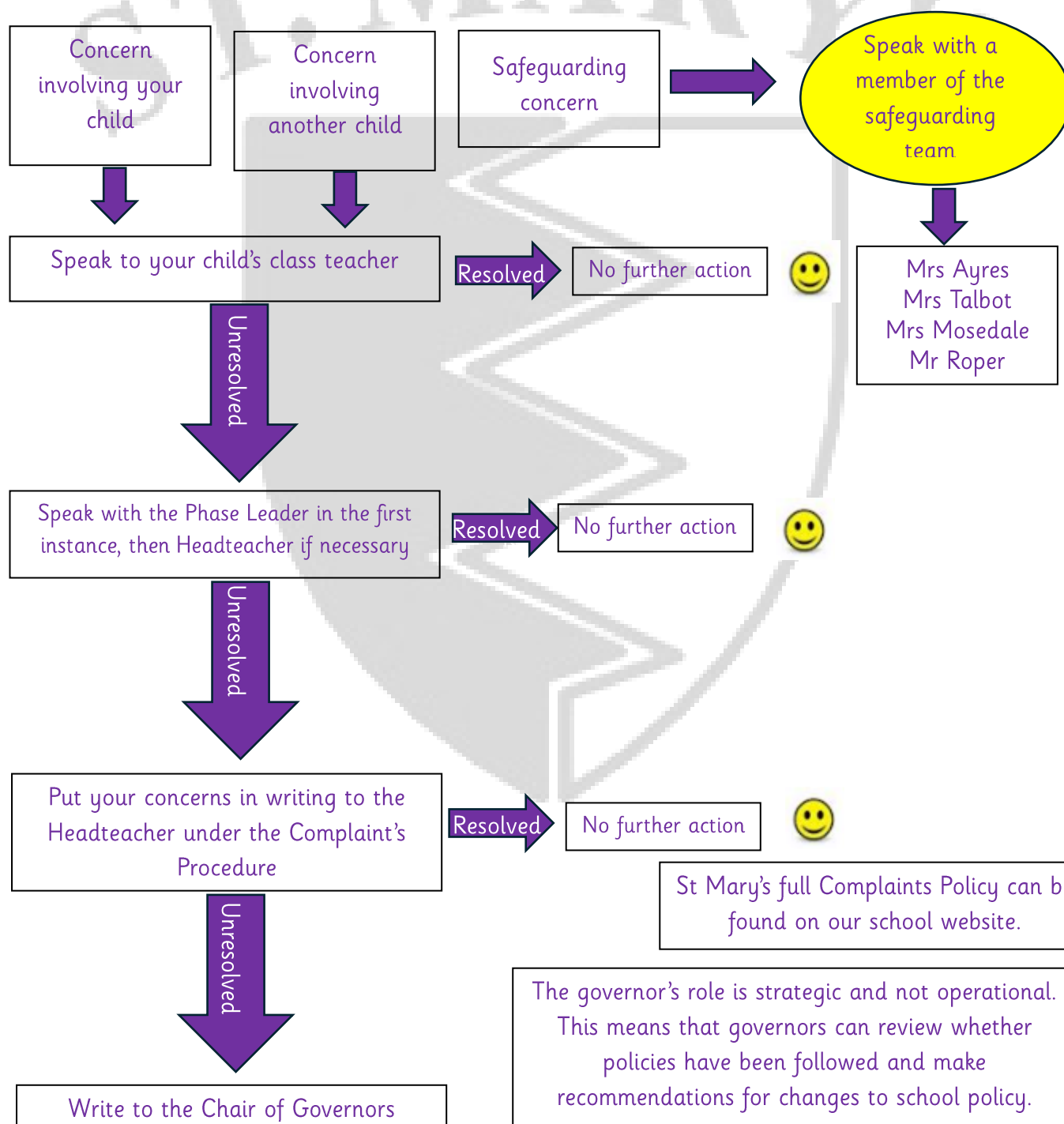
Rachel Ayres
Headteacher

At our school we aim to work in close partnership with children, parents, staff and governors so that all children can achieve their full potential.



What should I do if I have a concern?

We ask that concerns start with the class teacher so that they can resolve the concerns quickly and effectively. Staff or parents can then escalate to the next level if they need additional support.



Foundation News

A note from Mr Bond and Miss Thompson

What a start to the year it has been for the children in Stafford Class.

This term we have been delving deep into our topic 'All About Me'. The children have really enjoyed getting to know one another and have loved talking about themselves, their interests and their families.

We have also been learning about our bodies, in particular our special powers, the five senses!

It has been wonderful to get to know the children this term and are immensely proud by how far they have come already. On behalf of the Foundation team, thank you for supporting your child and please keep it up.

A massive congratulations to our Gold Award winners this term.



Learning how to make apple crumble during our work on our sense of taste.



Here are the children busy learning in the classroom.



Here are the children busy learning outside.



Year 1 and 2 News

Year 1 and 2 have had a very busy start to the new school year and we are very pleased with how the children have settled in.

They walked in the sand -
 yellow ✓, crunchy ✓
 They splashed in the sea -
 crashing ✓, freezing ✓
 The crunchy ✓, crumbly ✓
 chips were delicious.
 Molly looked up at Mum and
 Grandma and said,
 "What a lovely day!" ✓

Walking into a grand old
 house, Molly was all right.
 Grandma and Molly
 gently ✓
 "I love my Grandma," Molly
 thought to herself.

Out of the window, Molly
 saw a post office and a church.
 Some buildings were blue
 and smooth.
 "What will we see?" Molly
 asked Mum.

In English, we have been busy writing a story based on the Train Ride. The children followed Molly on her adventure and shared some lovely ideas for their version of the story. As well as writing the story, we imagined and acted out a trip to the train station and a ride on a train.



We have had a great start to our History lessons with our latest topic, Terrific Toys. The children have enjoyed looking at different toys from the past and how they have changed over time including teddy bears, building blocks and games consoles.



On 7th October in the afternoon, we enjoyed a visit to Hinckley Library. The children listened to a story and enthusiastically explored the books on offer. It was great to see so many children join the library and choose their first books.



In art, Year 1/2 have had lots of fun creating colourful spirals in lots of different mediums, including pen, pencils, chalk and pastels.



Year 3 and 4 News

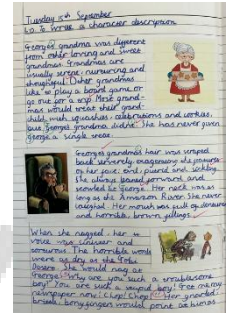
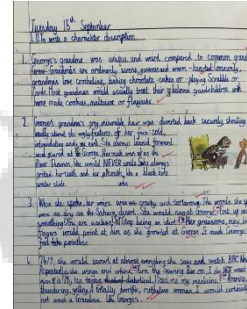
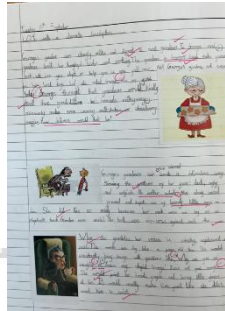
It has been a busy start to the year for Newton class and Gaudi class!



Well done to all of the children who have had 5 or more reads recorded in their reading diary to earn a reading raffle ticket. The reading raffle ticket winners were able to select a book from our reading vending machine!



Newton class have written character descriptions based on the grandma in George's Marvellous Medicine.



Gaudi class have been learning to play the ukulele.



During international week, we learned about Sweden and Ghana.



In Commando Joe's, we have completed missions to help improve our communication and team work.

In science, we have been studying rocks, fossils and soils.



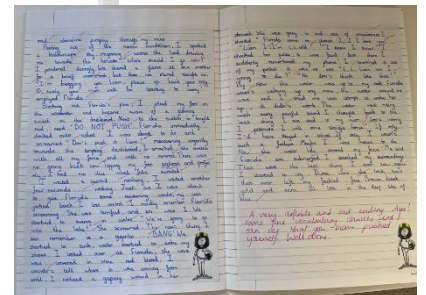
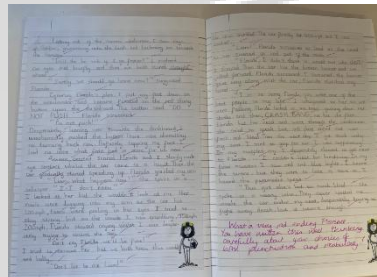
Year 5 and 6 News

This term in Commando Joe's the children have enjoyed taking off!

As Earth and Space has been our science topic, the children have completed many practical tasks based on the life and accomplishments of Tim Peake. In order to be successful, they have had to use team work, resilience and perseverance.



The children have used their imagination to the max whilst writing a narrative about driving a Porsche. The sentence structure children were able to use was very impressive and the vocabulary choices were carefully chosen. We were equally thrilled by the presentation of their written work.



We have been ever so lucky to have received a visit by ROCK KIDZ. The enrichment offered to our children was to raise the profile of well-being and PSHE in their school community through the power of music singing - "Nobody Like Me" – promoting self-esteem & diversity.

'My horse, my horse, a kingdom for my horse', was heard called out on the battlefield of Bosworth. Luckily, when year 5/6 visited the battlefield this term, all that was cried out was, wow what a fantastic trip. They managed to learn lots about the route soldiers took and became archaeologists digging for artefacts found on the battlefield.



Doodle Maths Challenge

Just a reminder that all children from Year 1 to Year 6 have a login for Doodle Maths. We have chosen this to enable the children to practice their maths skills and improve their confidence. Will your child be an October Doodle Maths star like the children for September below?

September's
Doodle Maths
stars

Well done to the Doodle Maths stars for September for earning lots of Doodle Stars!



The Christian Value for next half term is Respect



Junior Leadership Team 2026-27

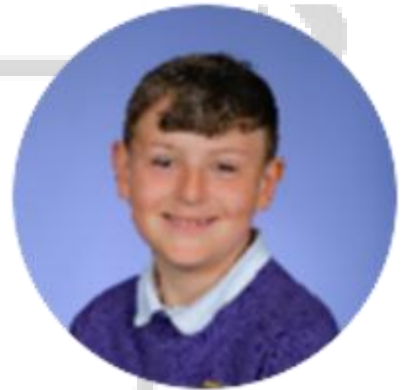
Florence – Head Girl



I am delighted to be Head Girl. I think I can help the school improve. I also feel that I could help other pupils feel more comfortable at school. I have wanted to be Head Girl ever since I was in Foundation, I have looked up to the year 6s who have become Head Girl. They inspired me so much; therefore, I would like to inspire others. I will be a positive role model by leading by example all the time, not just when people are watching. What I am trying to achieve is getting people look up to us Year 6s, getting full marks on all of my tests, becoming better at my vocabulary choices and my grammar knowledge. Things that I would like to achieve as Head Girl are listening to people, helping the school to improve and even more! I also feel that I am a trusted person who younger people can talk to easily, which could help with their mental health and balancing emotions. I will always help pupils to dream, believe and achieve.

I am pleased to be Head Boy because I feel I will be a good role model. I will make sure everyone respects the Christian values; Friendship, Respect, Perseverance, Courage, Compassion and Thankfulness. Treat the equipment with respect. I will do the best I can always. I will make sure people respect the school rules where appropriate. I would like people to be happy coming to St Mary's as much as I do. I will listen to suggested ideas for everyone that struggles at break and lunch and help them get included in games. I have been on residential trips, such as Isle of Wight, London and Beaumanor Hall as well as representing my school in football area sports and dodge ball.

Harley - Head Boy



Joan – Deputy Head Girl



I am pleased to be Deputy Head Girl because I am focused, trustworthy and a strong listener who always keep promises. It also helps me experience leadership. I am approachable and easy to talk to and that means I have great communication. I will make sure no pupils are left out or unwelcome. I will listen to their problems and help. As a positive role model, I will treat everyone with kindness, respect and honesty while following the school rules strictly. As Deputy Head Girl my goal is to encourage pupils to join clubs, sports and events and also for pupils to be proud and share their ideas. My excellent leadership and communication make me a good fit.

I am proud to be Deputy Head Boy because I think I am a good leader and role model. I feel that these skills are important. I have shown these skills as an Eco warrior, DT Ambassador and School Parliament Rep. I have also given my lunchtime to being a door monitor as I thought it is important to be helpful in school. I like being part of a team and I have played many team games for the school, such as tag rugby, football, dodgeball and area sports. I enjoyed always looking for the best solutions. For example, in my football game a goalkeeper was needed and I agreed to do it as no one else wanted to. I feel I get on with adults and children. I always tell the truth and I have a sense of humour and I do know when it's the right time to have fun or be serious. I feel this will boost my confidence and I would be a good support for the whole school.

Myles – Deputy Head Boy



Harvest

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated food for the Hinckley Food Bank. It is really appreciated and will support many families in need.



A message from the Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Governors

This is our first Governor report of the new term and we wanted to share a bit more about who we are. There are currently seven Governors, bringing to the Board a wide range of skills, diversity of views and experience. There are a couple of vacancies on the board so if you are interested in supporting the school as a co-opted governor, please contact the Headteacher. Our commitment to St Marys is to promote the Christian Values of the school and we follow the National Governors Association Code of Conduct.

Ben Pearson is our Chair

Elaine Stock, Vice Chair

Ellie Dunmore is a Foundation governor

Alison Parry co-opted governor alongside Jan Kirby

Aidan Roper – staff governor

Sarah Bolton – parent governor

We are volunteers in this role and carry out our duties as governors because we want to see St Mary's continue to grow from strength to strength. Our role is strategic, looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the school and agreeing key priorities. We monitor progress and ensure the highest possible standards and compliance is followed.

We were very pleased with the school results this year which is testament to the hard work put in by both the staff and pupils. We are seeing year on year improvement and upward progress and our role is to ensure this continues and that the children receive a good, holistic and inclusive education that prepares them for future successes.

Since September we have had several meetings and training as well as carrying out monitoring visits. I had the privilege of attending an assembly where a friend was leading the assembly and visually showing exciting tricks that pointed the children to the importance of the Bible. The children came into the church in an orderly manner, they engaged with what was being said and showed excellent behaviour throughout – they were a credit to the school.

We look forward to working in partnership with staff, parents and the community over this coming year and will continue to share with you what we have been doing and how we see the school moving forward in inspiring excellence, igniting lifelong learning and confidence as they place children at the heart of school life.

Elaine Stock

Vice Chair

Rock Kidz

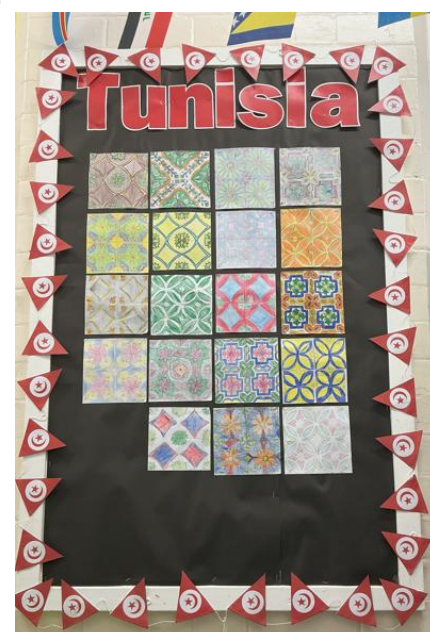
We all loved dancing and singing along when Rock Kidz visited on 22nd September.



We enjoyed our visit from Bishop Bethuel Mlula in October



As part of our transition work, we had an International Week during the first week back and produced these wonderful displays



Early Birds and Night Owls



Welcome to our first post on the St Mary's Newsletter!

We are here if you need before and after school childcare from 7.30am to 6.00pm. The children have great fun!



Dates for the Diary

16 th October 2026	School closes for Half Term
26 th October 2026	School opens for Autumn 2
27 th October 2026	Stafford Class Phonics meeting @8.50am in the Hall
29 th October 2026	Individual and Sibling Photos
30 th October 2026	Foundation Cake Sale. Stafford class to provide the cakes
2 nd November 2026	SEND/FSW Coffee Morning @8.50 am in the Hall
3 rd November 2026	KS1 Class Phonics meeting @8.50 am in the classroom
3 rd November 2026	Flu Vaccinations
11 th November 2026	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial @ 10.45am
13 th November 2026	Phase Cake Sale Y5/6. Y5/6 to provide the cakes
16 th November 2026	Odd Sock Day-children can come to school wearing odd socks as part of anti-bullying week.
20 th November 2026	Cadbury Class Assembly@9.10am
20 th November 2026	Years 3/4 singing at the 'Light Switch On' @ 4.00pm
27 th November 2026	Phase Cake Sale Y3/4. Y3/4 to provide the cakes
1 st December 2026	Live Advent starts-More information closer to the date
2 nd December 2026	Foundation Class Nativity @ 2.00pm
3 rd November 2026	Foundation Class Nativity @9.30am
4 th December 2026	F/KS1 Gold Awards
4 th December 2026	Christmas Fair
8 th December 2026	KS1 Nativity @ 2.00pm
9 th December 2026	KS1 Nativity @9.30am
10 th December 2026	Choir to sing at 'Remembering with love' @ 7.00pm To be confirmed
11 th December 2026	KS2 Gold Award
11 th December 2026	Phase Cake Sale Y1/2. Y1/2 to provide the cakes
11 th December 2026	Rock Steady Concert in the Church @2.15pm
16 th December 2026	Shakespeare Class Assembly@9.10am
16 th December 2026	Christmas Dinner Day
16 th December 2026	Years 3 and 4 Candlelight Service at the Church. Time to be confirmed
17 th December 2026	Carols on the playground @ 2.00pm
18 th December 2026	Christmas Service in Church @1.30pm
18 th December 2026	School closes for Christmas @ 3.15pm
5 th January 2027	School opens for the Spring 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.