



# St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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

**Spring Term Newsletter**  
**April 2025**

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another term comes to an end, the staff and I wanted to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful feedback that we have received following Parents' Evening. We were delighted to find that the majority of children feel happy and safe at school and that nearly all parents think that their child is well taught and making good progress. We have worked really hard as a staff to create an inspirational learning environment for your children and are proud of all aspects of our curriculum offer that we have worked hard to build. Thank you for your trust in us, it means a lot.

Over the next half-term, we will be responding to your comments. We appreciate the time taken to write them. We are always keen to improve. We have already posted photographs of Celebration Assemblies on social media and have included as many dates as possible in advance for you. Unfortunately, sometimes we do have to change dates at short notice or respond as a school to events locally and nationally.

Our links with the local community continue to strengthen. Years One and Two visited NWSLC yesterday to watch a wonderful production of 'Charlotte's Wacky Day at School'. This was our fourth visit to the college. The production was especially planned for our children as part of the students course work. Their energy and enthusiasm was lovely to see. The children thoroughly enjoyed the production and had lots of opportunities to sing and dance.

As you look through this newsletter, you will see a snapshot of all of the wonderful learning that has been taking place in school this term. It is fantastic hearing the children talk about what they have achieved and the fun that they have had whilst learning. Our Twitter, Facebook and newly created Instagram post is updated daily.

With summer fast approaching and the warmer weather appearing on the horizon, it will be lovely to see the children return to school in their summer uniform if they wish. Summer dresses are lemon or lilac and tailored shorts can be worn by boys or girls. Plain black school shoes **MUST** be worn on none PE days and leggings can only be worn as part of PE kit. White, black or grey socks are the only coloured socks permitted if they can be seen. This is a link to the uniform policy <https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/policies/>

Just a reminder that SATs week for current year 6 will take place in the week beginning 12th May 2025. Please ensure that your child attends regularly after the Easter break so that they are well prepared and able to do their very best.

It was lovely to see so many of you in Church this afternoon. What a wonderful way to end the term!

The Easter Bonnet Parade was fantastic and it was really hard to choose a winner when so much effort has gone into each and every one. Thank you to all of our parents for supporting with this and for all of the other year groups who had their own playground parade this morning.

We wish you all a fantastic Easter break and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 28th April. Let's hope that the sun continues to shine.

Best wishes

Headteacher

### Parent Questionnaire Results

The results of this questionnaire are based on 103 returns. We have families so this equates to:

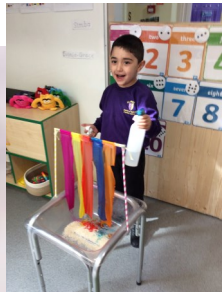
My child is happy at this school.	97.10%
My child feels safe at this school.	99%
My child makes good progress at this school.	100%
My child is well looked after at this school.	98%
My child is well taught at this school.	100%
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	96.1%
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	96.1%
The school deals effectively with bullying.	79% agree but 16% don't know
The school is well led and managed.	95.1%
The school responds well to the concerns I raise.	96.1%
I receive valuable information from school about my child's progress.	98%
I use the school website and find it easy to navigate.	90.4%
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	96.1%

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

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

# Foundation News

Science week fun and exploration.



How fantastic were the children in our Mother's Day assembly! We were so proud of them and as a little treat we walked to the Mead for a picnic in the beautiful spring sunshine.

We have been learning about the importance of the Easter story to Christians. We listened to the story and then acted out some of the events from Palm Sunday and Good Friday. We talked about the symbolism of a hot cross bun and then we got to taste them.



Zoolab visited Kahlo class as part of British Science Week (STEM) with animals and interesting facts. Lots of fun was had.



Kahlo class have been enjoying the early springtime sunshine.



We are now recycling our food waste in school. Kahlo class are doing a fantastic job at remembering to use our new food waste bins.



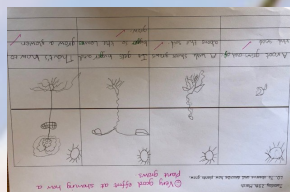
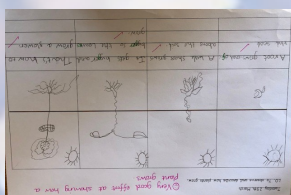
## Year 1 and 2 News

Last week, we had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 2 children to Beaumanor Hall for a residential trip. They had a great time training to be pirates and took part in a variety of activities including treasure hunting and exploring a pirate cavern. The children ate in the grand Hall and slept very well! On the second day, we enjoyed beautiful weather whilst taking part in team challenges. We finished our trip with a lovely picnic and time playing on the obstacle course.

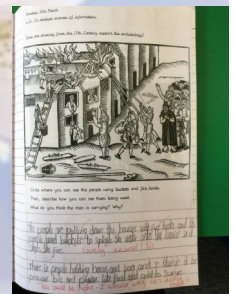
The children in school also enjoyed taking part in a variety of pirate and princess activities. They made their own pirate chocolate crispy cakes as well as pirate hats and masks.



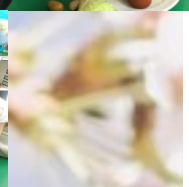
This half term in history, we have been learning about the Great Fire of London. We have been finding out about the causes of the fire and how it was recorded in diaries by Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn.



Monday 17th March 2020  
 I have identified causes of the Great Fire of London.  
 The cause was a windy day this helped the fire spread and spread because the houses were dry.  
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Our Science topic this half term has been 'The Secret World of Plants'. We have been exploring the best conditions for plants to grow and the stages of growth from seed to plant. We have also thought about how we could help vegetables that have already been harvested to grow again. We have replanted and are looking after onions, potatoes and cabbages.



## Year 3 and 4 News

We have produced artwork inspired by 'Hunters in the Snow' by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.



During British Science Week, we enjoyed various science activities, such as a forensics workshop and a live online lesson about sustainable farming.



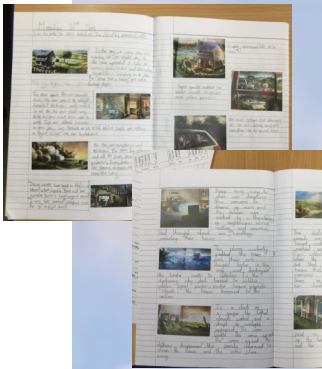
Chanel class enjoyed an excellent afternoon exploring the shops. Each child received £1 to spend as a reward from Mrs Ayres for achieving 100% attendance. They also found time to enjoy a light snack.



In Commando Joe's, for our final Levison Wood mission, we had to create S.O.S. messages to get the attention of a rescue helicopter.



In English we have been studying the picture book 'The Flood' by Alvaro F. Villa. We had an exciting experience lessons, where we saw the aftermath of a flood in the classroom. This has inspired us to write our own stories, based on the book.



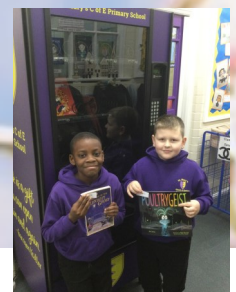
In D&T, we are currently designing and building a mini greenhouse.



In History to show off what we have learned about various early civilisations, we completed a hexagon challenge.

In Maths, we had a Now Press Play experience, where we had to solve various fraction problems to help the crew to save passengers on The Titanic.

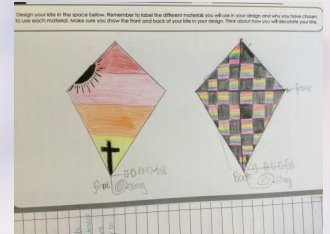
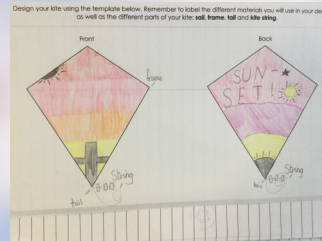
Lots of children have been able to select books from our reading vending machine. Each time a child has 5 or more signed reads in their reading diary, they get a reading raffle ticket.



## Year 5 and 6 News

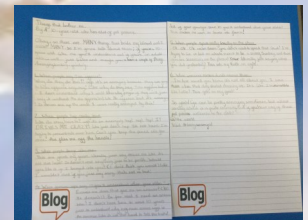
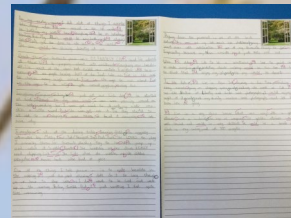
Year 5 were investigating perimeter in The Mead by using trundle wheels and metre sticks. We were given advice by passers by!

In DT, we have been looking at the construction of kites as part of the DT project this term. Focussing on testing, planning, designing our own kite. We look forward to testing them!



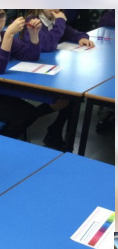
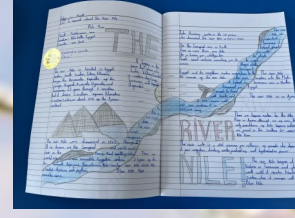
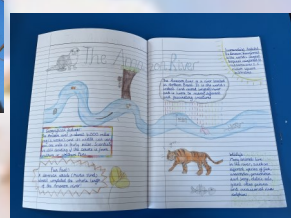
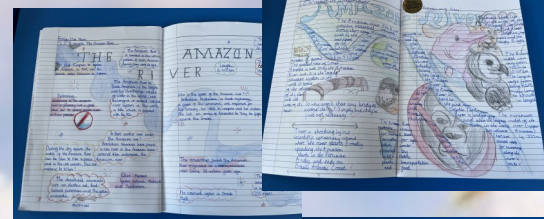
Pancake day was a 'flipping' success at St Mary's this year. All children took part in a race against others in their year group and Year 5/6 were no exception! We had a brilliant time and the weather was on our side as we ran the length of the playground whilst tossing our pancakes!

In Writing, Year 5/6 have been very creative, writing a piece about 'The Window', where they had to use different tenses to describe past, present and future events. Also, creating an informal approach to write about pet peeves in the style of a Blog.



We have been amazed at how many fantastic rivers there are in the world. We got to choose a river for a piece of independent research. Setting ourselves questions to answer, we discovered many interesting geographical facts about our choices. The work that we produced was informative and beautifully presented.

As part of British Science Week (STEM) - 7th to 16th March 2025 the children in Shakespeare class have been working on the PH scale



## A message from our Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

It was such a joy to welcome a group of parents to our first few meetings of the reforming PTA. It is important that all parents know that they are very welcome to join and help us raise money for the school for their children.

The new name was decided on as “**St Mary’s School Community**.” This is to encompass all parents, children, staff, grandparents, wider family, friends, governors and anyone who has a genuine interest in the education and welfare of our pupils. It is hoped that the SMSC will be run by parents and events organised to be of interest to all families.

The name will be shortened to “**SMSC**,” which when used in an educational setting means Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural development. We agreed that this was perfect as it encompasses the whole wellbeing of our children and families.

**The focus of fund raising will be to purchase new ipads for every child to use in school. At present they must share and our aim is ambitious, but necessary.**

**If you would like to donate to this fund it would be much appreciated.**

The good news! On Thursday 8th May it is VE day. We will be celebrating this day by having a whole school photo taken from the air.

We are asking that children come to school dressed in red, white or blue. Pupils can wear their Brownie uniform or Scouts’ uniform if they would like. This is not compulsory if your child prefers their school uniform. Any donations for non-uniform will be appreciated.

On Monday 19th May, we are arranging an after-school Playground picnic. Please put this date in your diary as more details will follow.

**Our next SMSC meeting is on Thursday 8th May at 7pm in school. You are invited to attend either in person or by Zoom. Please let the school know your email address if you’d like to join. More ideas and helpers are always welcome.**

Judy Williams  
Chair of Governors



We now have a Instagram page here at St Mary’s so why not give us a follow or a like?

Dear Parents and Carers

The Resources and Finance Committee met on Monday evening to discuss the school budget which is one of our roles. It was disappointing to learn that some events that the school arrange, leaves a monetary short fall due to non-payment by parents who had signed up and agreed to pay. This has reached an amount of £836.10, broken down as follows:

Swimming £390

Parent Lunches £11.10

Young Voices Transport £40

D&T £395

Organising events such as Parent Lunches which are enjoyable for both parents and children come at a cost to school. Where meals are ordered, we ask that you do not sign up in future, if you are not prepared to pay.

Similarly, the school disco organised for your children comes at a financial cost and can only take place with the good will of the staff. Please respect that we have to have cut off dates for catering purposes and to correctly staff the event in order to keep your children safe.

Should you owe money to school, please can I respectfully request that you clear your debt as soon as possible so that we can continue to plan exciting events.

Judy Williams  
Chair of Governors

### **Reception National Offer Day**

Reception National Offer Day is on Wednesday 16th April.

You will be sent an email by 10am on National Offer Day informing you of your decision, if you applied online. Decisions will also be available on the Parent Portal by 10am on the day.

Please follow the link for full details <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/apply-for-a-school-place/offer-day-for-school-places>

## Parents' Lunches

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers from Foundation and KS1 children to join us for lunch on two occasions this term. The event was well supported and we hope those attending enjoyed spending time with their children as part of our 'Food for Life Gold Award' application. Thank you!



We were delighted this month to receive our 'Gold Food For Life Award' in Collective Worship. We have transformed our whole school culture through this fantastic initiative which enables our children to learn more about where food comes from and the benefits of healthy eating and food sustainability. Thanks to Soil Association Food for Life for their support.



## Parents' Feedback!

### Newton Class Assembly

What a wonderful show, well done Newton!

Brilliant presentation Newton class. Congrats children and Mr Roper

Wonderful show, very proud of the kids they worked so hard

Thoroughly enjoyed the show and tell performance and the This is Me sign along to brought a tear to my eye

Great show of talents, The kids worked amazingly well. Keep it up guys

They were brilliant, it was so very well put together. Top marks to the school and all the children

### Gaudi Class Assembly

Well done, it was amazing

Very good effort—amazing performance! Well done!

Well organised, thank you

Well done very informative

Very nice performance, good job

### Stafford Class Assembly

Well done, you were all brilliant

Fantastic assembly well done!

Loved it! It was good

Amazing job

### Kahlo Class Assembly

So nice to celebrate mum!

Amazing Mothers' Day assembly

All the children did amazing, a huge well done it

Beautiful Mothers' Day

So good nearly cried

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 16th April	Reception National Offer Day
Monday 28th April	School opens for Summer 1
Thursday 1st May	Full Governors Meeting
Friday 2nd May	Foundation and FS1 Cake Sale
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8th May	VE Day—Flag Day at the Band Stand. Whole School Photo from the Air. Children can wear red, white and blue to school or Brownie or Scouts' uniform. VE Day Picnic.
Thursday 8th May	SMSC Meeting at 7pm on zoom
Monday 12th May—15th May	SATS for Year 6
Monday 19th May	After School playground picnic. Further details to follow
Wednesday 21st May	School Photos
Thursday 22nd May	Foundation and KS1 Gold Award @9.10 am
Friday 23rd May	KS2 Gold Award @ 9.10 am
Friday 23rd May	Tuck Shop
Wednesday 4th June	Whole School Skip2bfit
Friday 6th June—Sunday 8th June	Years 4, 5 and 6 Residential to Isle of Wight
Friday 13th June	Fathers' Day Lunch Years 3/4 parents to be invited. Letter to follow
Thursday 26th June	Year 5 to The Hinckley School
Friday 27th June	Rock Steady Concert in the Church @2.30 pm
Friday 27th June	Summer Fair
Tuesday 1st July & Tuesday 2nd July	Year 5/6 Production. Details to follow
Thursday 3rd July - Friday 4th July	High School Induction Days
Wednesday 9th July	School Closes for the summer holidays
Thursday 28th August	School Opens for Autumn 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.