



## 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**  
**February 2025**

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another very busy half-term at St Mary's. The children have been busy in class and as always their enthusiasm and behaviour for learning has been amazing. The school environment looks truly wonderful as you will see when you attend Parents' Evening on 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> March. Further details will follow after half-term.

#### **Can you help?**

We are hugely grateful for the strong partnerships between parents and the school and would like to develop this further through the creation of a Parent Teacher Association. If you would like to support with this to help raise funds for school and to plan more social events for children and families, then please join us on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm in the coffee bar at St Mary's Church. Everyone who can spare a few hours would be very welcome!

We are also keen for parent volunteers to support with reading in the afternoons. If you are able to spare a couple of hours a week to come in to school to support reading with our children, then please speak to a member of the office team who will help you progress towards becoming a school volunteer.

#### **World Book Day**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. There will be book related activities and events planned throughout the day that are fun and exciting. We are inviting all children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. Please be aware that children will need to wear a suitable coat and appropriate shoes for playtime. If your child does not wish to dress up, then they must come to school in their normal school uniform.

#### **Everyone Belongs at St Mary's Church of England Primary School**

At St Mary's, we are committed to preparing our children for life in the diverse society, which is modern Britain today. We are proud to be an open and inclusive school, which embraces equality and diversity.

In school we use storybooks, lesson plans and assemblies to support the development of a whole school community that embraces and celebrates all forms of difference. Some of these are displayed in school and others will be available to view at Parents' Evening in March.

Throughout the year we cover all of the protected characteristics, which are: race, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, religion or belief, age, sex and sexual orientation.

As we are currently in the process of renewing our 'Beyond Bullying Award' our Anti-Bullying Policy is up for renewal. This can be viewed using the following link <https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/policies/>

I have elaborated on racism overleaf as a shared understanding of this is important both at home and at school.

**What is Racism?** It's important to encourage positive and open conversations about race and racism with children. Racism means treating someone unfairly or differently just because of the colour of their skin, where they come from, or their culture, like saying someone cannot do something because of how they look. This is judging someone based on their appearance instead of who they are as a person.

Key points to emphasise when explaining racism to children at home:

**It is not okay:** Racism is wrong and harmful because everyone deserves to be treated with respect, no matter how they look. Imagine if someone would not let you play with them just because your hair is curly or if someone is making fun of a friend just because of their accent.

**Different is good:** People come from different backgrounds, have different appearances and that is what makes the world interesting.

**Words can hurt:** Using hurtful words or making jokes about someone's race is considered racism.

In school we:

- Talk about fairness, being kind and accepting others for who they are.
- Embrace difference.
- Discuss social media, read books or watch clips together that deal with racism or stereotypes.
- Let children ask questions.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Today we have had our first whole school punctuality and attendance raffle of the Spring term. Thank you for supporting your child to get to school on time. Remember that your child should be in line when the gates open at 8.40 am. The gates will continue to be closed just after 8.45 am. Since learning happens as soon as your child enters the classroom, being on time matters!

Our current attendance is 94.6%, which is below the national expectation for primary age children. Whilst we are aware that there are lots of illnesses and bugs going around at the moment, we would much rather your child was at school if they are feeling a little bit under the weather. We will always contact families if children become unwell at school. It is very important that they do not miss learning as it is very difficult for them to catch up.

### **Highlight**

Finally, the highlight of this half-term for me must be attending the Young Voices Concert in January with our own Young Voices Choir. This is what school is all about. Not just lessons, but life. The chance to be part of something huge, to sing your heart out and to make memories that last forever. School trips like Young Voices are not extras - they are essentials. This is childhood. This is education.

On that note, I wish you all a lovely half-term holiday. We look forward to seeing you all back at school bright and early on Monday 24th February.

Best wishes



Mrs 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

We have been using the iPads to create our own snail pictures linked to our story 'The Snail and the Whale'. We used our fingers carefully to create spirals.



We have been finding out about the area we live in. We located Hinckley and our school on the maps in the playground.



Creating different landscapes and telling stories.



We went on a bear hunt all around school looking for bears. We practised counting to 10 and writing our numbers in the correct formation.



Celebrating the Lunar New Year. Outside in forest school, we used mud to explore Chinese numbers. We made Chinese lanterns and shared the story of 'The Great Race'.

We have been thinking about different ways we could travel on our adventures. We made vehicle collages.



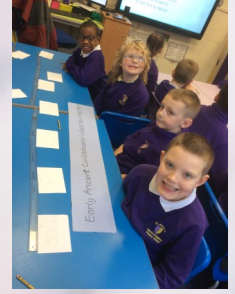


Well done to the children who earned reading raffle tickets for doing 5 or more reads in their reading diary.



## Year 3 and 4 News

We made a timeline to show when early civilisations took place in time.



As part of our Levison Wood missions, we have been building shelters and constructing off-road vehicles.



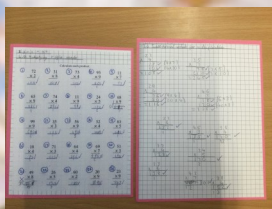
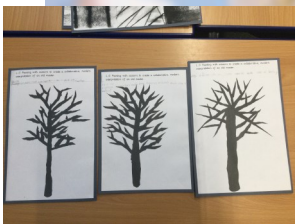
In science, we have been investigating push and pull forces.



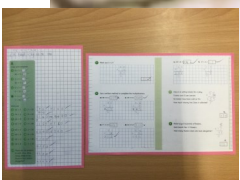
We had an amazing fencing experience with Coach Joe. We learned about being respectful to our opponents and about the skills and tactics of fencing. ON GUARD!



Look at some of the amazing work we have been doing in class!

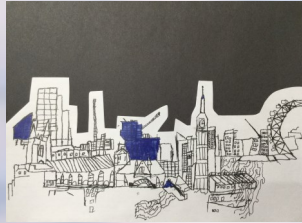
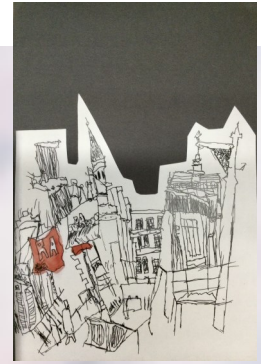


In maths, we used Now Press Play to solve mental calculations so that we could help a music shop owner find a thief.



# Year 5 and 6 News

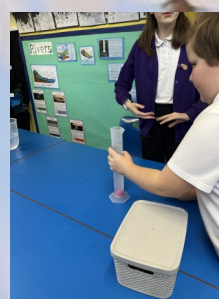
In art, we have been looking carefully at buildings and the outlines of the various shapes. Using black pen we have been drawing cityscapes based on London and Leicester. After we had completed the outline drawing we added one single colour to areas of our drawing.



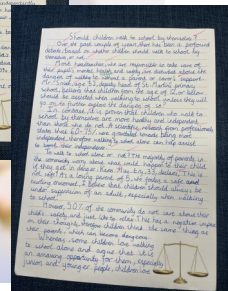
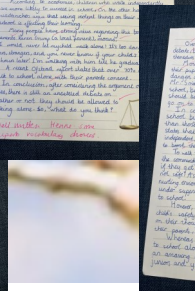
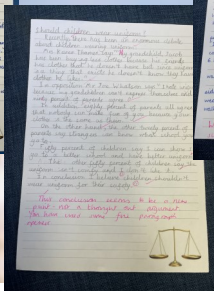
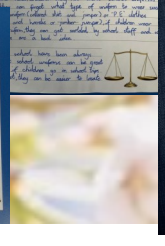
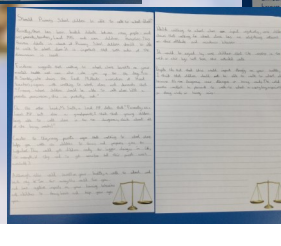
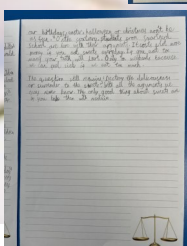
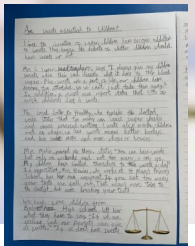
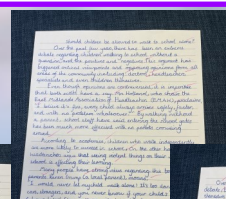
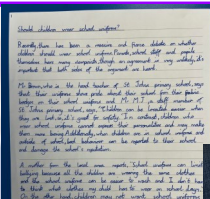
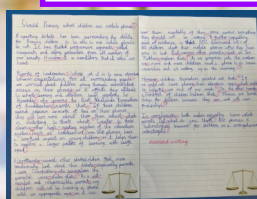
Recently we visited Hinckley College to be an audience to a showing of James and The Giant Peach.



Practical science has been a focus for this term. We used force meters when looking at gravity; different surfaces when investigating friction; water and Play Doh when investigating water resistance and parachutes and spinner were used to investigate air resistance.



In English things have been getting heated as we have been revisiting balanced arguments. Many controversial topics were discussed and we then chose one that we would like to write about. To inspire us we, had a visit and talk from Mrs Ayres and Mrs Williams (our Chair of Governors) . They both delivered opposing views on the amount of screen time that children accessed.



## A message from our Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

### The Importance of Completing Homework

Following the recent Quality of Education meeting, the Governors gave their full support to the schools' approach in the setting of homework.

At St Mary's, it is believed that homework plays a crucial role in reinforcing the learning that takes place in the classroom for all the children. It also helps the older children develop important skills such as responsibility, time management, and independent thinking, so important for when they move on to secondary school.

Regular completion of homework ensures that pupils consolidate their knowledge, deepen their understanding, and stay on track with their learning progress.

One of the most vital aspects of homework is reading. Daily reading not only enhances vocabulary and comprehension skills but also fosters a love for learning. It is essential for developing strong literacy skills that benefit all areas of education. When pupils complete their reading assignments and other homework tasks, they build confidence and improve their academic performance.

To support pupils in maintaining good learning habits, the school have stated that any child who does not complete their homework, will be required to complete outstanding work during a designated lunchtime/ breaktime session. This is to ensure that they do not fall behind in their learning and continue making progress.

The school and the governors appreciate your support in encouraging the children to complete their homework on time. By working together, every child can reach their full potential.

Ben Pearson  
Vice Chair of Governors



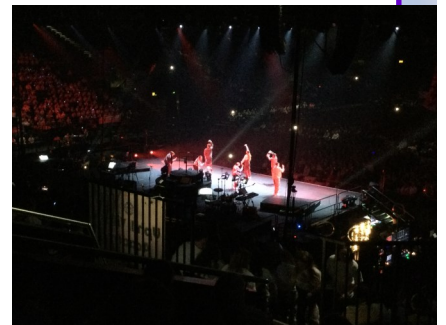
We have raised an amazing £485.87 for the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all who donated to support The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2024.

### 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.

## Young Voices 2025

What a fantastic event to take part in! St Mary's had a fabulous time at the BP Pulse Live arena for the Young Voices concert. They sang their hearts out! We were so proud of all the children and the way that they conducted themselves. They were all a credit to their hard work learning all the songs and actions needed to take part. All staff who supported this exciting visit said that it would be a great idea to take part next year. Watch this space!

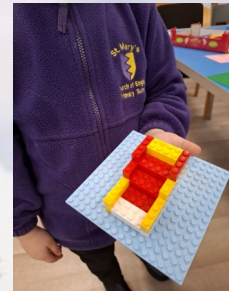


## After School Family Fun

The Family Learning team invited pupils of St Mary's to three after school free activity sessions at Hinckley Library. Each week there was a different theme and the photos below show the Lego and K-Nex challenges. This helped discover how Family Learning helped parents to support their child's learning journey at St Mary's.

Please see below the review from one parent who enjoyed the sessions.

Please look out for details after half term for sessions on how to help you support your child in maths.



"Hello Kate,

*I would like to say Thank you for everything you have done for us.*

*Please find below my review on your program.*

*I recently completed the three-week session of the "Help Your Child Read" program, and I am thoroughly impressed with its quality and effectiveness. This program is thoughtfully designed to equip parents with practical tools and strategies to support their children in developing essential reading skills.*

*The sessions were highly engaging, combining theory with hands-on activities. Kate was knowledgeable, approachable, and genuinely passionate about helping families succeed. She provided clear explanations of the reading process, addressed common challenges, and offered simple techniques that are easy to implement at home.*

*What I appreciated most was the focus on creating a positive reading environment. The program emphasized fostering a love of reading rather than just focusing on mechanics. I left each session feeling more confident and empowered to help my child thrive.*

*Overall, I would highly recommend the "Help Your Child Read" program to any parent or caregiver looking to support their child's literacy journey. It's an invaluable investment in your child's future.*

*Kind regards  
Amela Papa"*

# GoLearn!

Leicestershire Adult Learning Service



## Family Learning

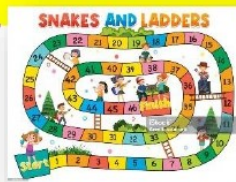
**Free**

# Magic Maths Games

(for families with children attending St Mary's School, Hinckley)

There will be 2 sessions at **Hinckley Library**

Dates and Time:  
**Wednesdays**  
**3:30 to 4:30pm**  
**5th March and**  
**12th March**



The Family Learning team invite you and your children to these free sessions at Hinckley Library

- With your children, take part in fun maths activities  
Week 1: play board games and have fun with giant dominoes  
Week 2: make your own board games and dice to take home
- Discover how Family Learning can help you support your child's learning journey

Places are limited so to book, please speak to the school office



Call FREEphone 0800 988 0308  
[www.GoLearnLeicestershire.ac.uk](http://www.GoLearnLeicestershire.ac.uk)  /LeicsGoLearn

## Parents' Feedback!

### Young Voices

The children sang beautifully.  
Really enjoyed the mini concert.  
Well done!

Brilliant, thoroughly  
enjoyable.

Fantastic singing.  
You should all be  
very proud. A lot of  
hard work.

Thank you to all of you for  
such a wonderful happy start  
to the week! Young Voices  
has been such a fabulous  
experience. You are  
wonderful.

Amazing! Congratulations  
kids and teachers! Was  
great! Thank you!

Lovely singing from  
everyone. Great job.

### Chanel Class Worship

Brilliant, inclusive and  
uplifting assembly.  
Fantastic

Everyone did a  
wonderful job on a  
very important topic-  
well done!

An amazing performance from  
everyone. Superb acting skills,  
brill dance routines and the  
singing was lovely. Well done  
all (and staff)

Really enjoyed. Love how  
confident the kids were.

Fantastic performance and a  
great message for the kids to  
learn

Well organised,  
thank you.

### FS/ES1 Gold Award

I'm always proud of you.

Well organised,  
thank you.

Lovely singing

Lovely assembly, fantastic  
stuff!!

Well done everyone

Well done! So  
proud. Keep  
smashing it

Fab assembly. Very  
proud

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 27th February	Cake Sale—Years 3&4; Parents of children in Years; 3&4 to donate cakes to sell
Friday 28th February	Tuck Shop
Tuesday 4th March	Pancake Day Themed School Lunch
Wednesday 5th March	Newton Class Assembly @9.10 in the Hall
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day—Children to come dressed in their favourite character from a book
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day Themed School Lunch
Monday 10th March	Meeting for Parents of Year 2 children attending Beaumanor Hall
Monday 10th March/Tuesday 11th March	All Classes except Kahlo Class Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11th March	Zoolab to visit Kahlo Class
Wednesday 12th March	Kahlo Class Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12th March/Thursday 13th March	Giant Journeys to deliver Science Workshops to Years 1-6
Friday 14th March	Gaudi Class Assembly @9.10 am in the Hall
Wednesday 19th March	Stafford Class Assembly @9.10 om in the Hall
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief—Non-uniform Day
Wednesday 26th March/Thursday 27th March	Year 2 Residential Trip to Beaumanor Hall
Thursday 27th March	Cake Sale—Years 5&6; Parents of children in Years 5&6 to donate cakes to sell
Friday 28th March	Mothers' Day Assembly Kahlo Class
Friday 28th March	Tuck Shop
Friday 28th March	Mother's Day Themed School Dinner. Years 1&2. Letter to follow
Thursday 3rd April	Foundation & KS1 Gold Award @9.10 am in the Hall
Friday 4th April	KS2 Gold Award @9.10 am in the Hall
Friday 4th April	Rock Steady Concert in the Church. Time TBC
Wednesday 9th April	Easter Disco: 4.00-5.15 pm KS2 / 5.15-6.15 pm F&KS1
Friday 11th April	End of Term Service @1.30 pm
Friday 11th April	School closes for Easter holidays
Monday 28th April	School opens for Summer 1

# Saturday Morning Sports Club



Future School Fitness

@ Westfield Junior School, Hinckley!

3 hours of FUN games and sports from 9am–12pm every Saturday, for children aged 5+ years!



First Session FREE!!!



No weekly commitment..  
Drop in on any Saturdays!

Pay As You Go  
only £10 per session

Certificates to be won every week!

For more information or any questions, simply contact Dean via:

Tel: 07986 131 790 E-mail: [futureschoolfitness@gmail.com](mailto:futureschoolfitness@gmail.com)



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