



# St Mary's Church of England Primary School



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

## Autumn Term Newsletter

**October 2024**

### Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents' Evening this week - how can it be half-term already? Walking around school this half-term has been an absolute pleasure as always. The children are working really hard in class and are especially enjoying the new writing programme, 'The Write Stuff' that we started in September. Why don't you ask your child about this?

I had the pleasure of teaching our new Foundation children a couple of weeks ago. They have made a super start to their school career and are quickly learning, 'The St Mary's Way!' I have really enjoyed getting to know them all over the last few weeks and am looking forward to watching them grow and flourish over the next seven years.

As the weather will ultimately get 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!

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 school place is 31st October 2024. The deadline for applying for a primary school place is 15th January 2025. For both applications, the simplest way is online at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions). 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.

We have been really lucky this half-term to partner with GoLearn, the Leicestershire Adult Learning Service to provide Family Learning at St Mary's. Next half-term these sessions will focus on 'Helping Your Child to Read'. Kate, is a fantastic tutor and looks forward to welcoming as many families as possible. Please ring the school office to secure your place. The flyer, with further information on it is attached.

I hope that you all have a wonderful week's holiday and look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 28th October ready for a busy but exciting half-term in the build up to Christmas.

Best wishes

Mrs R Ayres  
Headteacher

# Foundation News

Kahlo class have had a lovely start to their learning journey at St Mary's.

We have been busy exploring all the lovely areas of our new school.



We have learnt all about the artist Frida Kahlo and made some lovely collages of her.



We have made lots of new friends and have enjoyed getting to know each other.



## Year 1 and 2 News

We have had a great start to the year and the children have Settled well into their new classes.

In English, we have been producing some creative writing based on the story, 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. In between retelling the story, the children have enjoyed taking part in experiences including: going on a flight, exploring the moon, and communicating with a friend.



During our Science topic, My Body, we have been testing the power of our senses! The children particularly enjoyed guessing the different smells and tasting a variety of fruits.



As part of our History topic, Terrific Toys, we have been looking closely at how toys have changed over the last 100 years. We focused on Nintendo games consoles and put them in order to create a timeline.



## Year 3 and 4 News

Years 3 and 4 have been completing Commando Joe's missions based on the British explorer Levison Wood. They have worked together to survive in the desert.



As part of Black History month, years 3 and 4 had a Now-Press-Play experience, based on the life of Mary Seacole.

For our English topic we have been creating a holiday brochure, the children enjoyed sleeping at Skara Brae hotel.

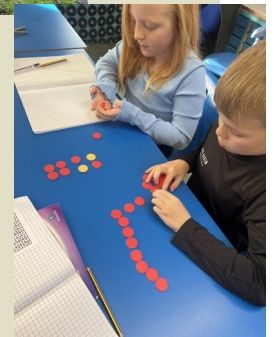
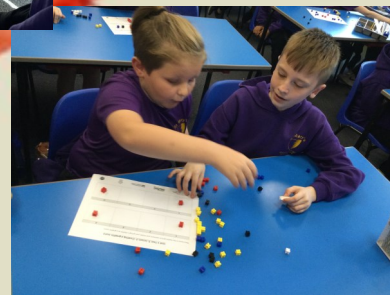


Years 3 and 4 loved learning more about our history topic about Pre-historic Britain.

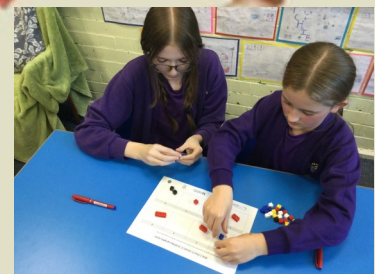
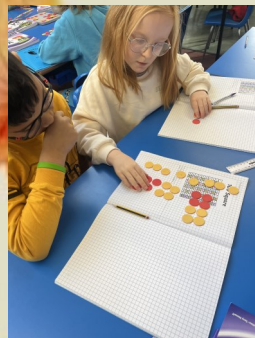
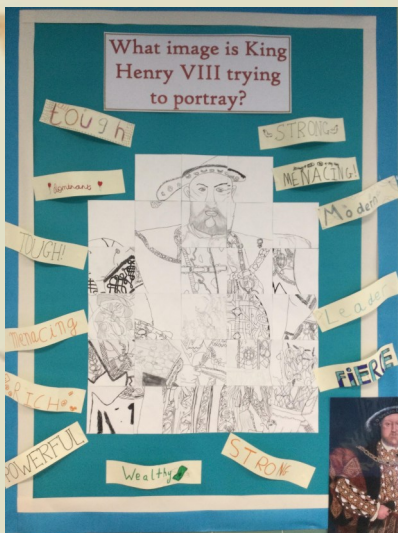
Ann and Mrs Kirby, from Hinckley & District Museum showed the children some amazing artefacts related to Stone Age items found in and around Hinckley.

## Year 5 and 6 News

Our History topic came alive when we visited Market Bosworth last week. Years 5/6 had a fantastic day with great weather which deepened our understanding of the Battle of Bosworth. We had the opportunity to dig for artefacts, use 4 to 6 figure grid references to locate artefacts and to re-enact the story in the lead up to the battle.



Cadbury Class enjoyed recreating a collaborative portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein.



Year 5 have been looking at factors. We investigated different arrays to consolidate our understanding.

In music we have been focusing on pulse; recognising notation, clapping rhythms and writing their own graphic scores.



As part of our English focus, we visited Hinckley library as an experience day, to gather ideas and information for their creative writing based upon 'The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Lessmore'

Last week, we were extremely proud of the Year 1 and 2 children who took part in the 5 a side football tournament at Hinckley Parks. They played fantastically and demonstrated great teamwork. They achieved some brilliant results due to their positive attitude.



Congratulations to our Doodle Maths stars for the summer holidays and for September.



**Doodle Maths stars for the Summer holidays**



**September's Doodle Maths stars**



## Head Boys and Girls 2024-25

Hello, I am Henne, Head Girl at St Mary's C of E Primary School.

I am friendly and committed to representing all of the children at St Mary's to the best of my ability. As Head Girl, I am enthusiastic about encouraging a positive and welcoming school environment where every child feels heard and appreciated. My goal is to be a strong role model encouraging others to reach their potential whilst contributing to the growth and spirit of our school.



I am Toby and I am delighted to have been chosen as Head Boy. It has always been my dream. I am determined to give it my all!

I am smart and I like to help others, especially those who are new to St Mary's. I am a good role model for others and a good listener.

I'm keen to promote our Christian Values and make St Mary's even better than it already is.



Hi, my name is Charlotte. I am thrilled to be Deputy Head Girl at St Mary's C of E Primary School.

I am a conscientious learner, good listener and kind. I like to help people if they feel sad or are hurt. I want to listen to other children's ideas and I will be a good role model. I want to help improve time outside by providing more equipment for us to use.

Out of school, I enjoy reading, singing and dancing.



Hi, my name is Leo and I am happy to announce that I am St Mary's new Deputy Head Boy. This will give me the chance to improve the school in so many possible ways.

I will be a positive role model by making sure I do all of my tasks and come to school in the correct school uniform everyday.

One change I would like is to reintroduce lunch clubs back as these were nice in the past.



## Local Offer Roadshow



### Leicestershire Local Offer Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Roadshow

**Tuesday 12th November 2024**  
10.00am – 1.00pm  
The George Ward Centre  
Barwell LE9 8DG

#### Come along and find out about Local SEND services and support

The Roadshow brings together information and services which support families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) all in one place. A chance to meet and chat with representatives from Leicestershire County Council and its partners.

Please book your FREE tickets via  
[https://leicestershirecc-self.achieveservice.com/en/service/Local\\_Offer\\_SEND\\_Roadshows\\_2024](https://leicestershirecc-self.achieveservice.com/en/service/Local_Offer_SEND_Roadshows_2024)  
Free parking available

To find out more about the SEND Local Offer in Leicestershire please visit  
[www.leics.gov.uk/send](http://www.leics.gov.uk/send)



Scan here  
to book tickets



The next Local Offer Roadshow is taking place in Barwell on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

The Roadshow brings together organisations and services who support children and young people with SEND and their families.

It provides an opportunity to speak to services face to face and all in one place.

### Attendance

Attendance has been very good so far this term. Thank you for your help in making sure that your children attend school and arrive on time. Punctuality is really important. Gates open at 8.40am and close at 8.50am. Children arriving after that time will need to enter via the office. Many classes undertake important learning first thing in the morning whilst the children are bright and fresh and it can be unsettling for children who arrive late. If your child is unable to attend school, it is vitally important that you inform us of this and let us know why, before 9.00am on the day of absence. Please email [office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk) or call the school, giving your child's name, class and a brief reason for absence. Please also arrive promptly to collect your child/ren at 3.15pm. Late collection can be upsetting especially for the younger children.

### Are you entitled to Free School Meals?

Children of families in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for additional funding – Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) - which we can use to provide free school milk and lunches for your child. Support with paying for school trips and other educational activities can be offered by the SLT for pupils in receipt of this funding. Even if you don't wish to take advantage of any of these, school can still claim much needed funding for those who are eligible. Under current rules the funding lasts for 6 years, even if your circumstances change in that time. If you have not already applied, or if your circumstances have changed recently, we would encourage you to check eligibility and apply online. Please contact the school office for more details.

## World Mental Health Day

On Thursday 10th October, the children at St Mary's dressed up in clothes which made them Happy to celebrate World Mental Health Day. Along with having an assembly raising the importance of our mental health. It was great to see so many different outfits and costumes.



The agencies below are provided to support you and signpost you to relevant resources that you may find helpful.

**Action for Happiness**  
**Young Minds**  
**Mental Health First Aid**  
**England**  
**MIND (A-Z on Mental**  
**Health)**  
**NHS Advice**  
**CAMHS**  
**Healthier Together**

### Dogs

Please may I remind you that we do not allow any dogs on site, even when they are being carried. Many children are afraid of animals or have allergies and all dogs, however well trained, can be unpredictable in certain situations. For these reasons we also kindly ask you to be considerate with your dog at the school gates. If you need to tie them onto the school railings, please do so as far away as possible. If waiting for your child outside the school gates, please wait away from the entrance gates. Thank you for your support with this.



No dogs allowed  
in the school  
grounds

### Fundraising

Thank you for all your the generous donations of cakes and biscuits. During our Macmillan cake/biscuit sale after school on Friday 27th September and during breaktime on Monday 30th September, we managed to raise £101.25 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you as always for your kindness.



## A message from Ben Pearson-Vice Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the first term of a new academic year, we need to focus on a crucial aspect: school attendance.

As explained in our last newsletter of last year, regular attendance is important for several reasons:

- **Academic Success:** Regular attendance leads to higher academic performance and progress in a child's education.
- **Social and Emotional Development:** Helps children build friendships, develop social skills and feel connected to the school community.
- **Setting Them Up for Success:** Consistent attendance helps establish good habits and routines that are essential for lifelong success.

The school will continue to support attendance by:

- **Continued Clear Communication:** We will consistently highlight the importance of attendance.
- **Provide Support Systems:** Counselling and academic support are available to help students facing attendance challenges.
- **Positive Reinforcement:** We will continue to celebrate good attendance and use positive reinforcement to encourage this behaviour.

As parents and guardians, please help by:

- Ensure your child attends school regularly and punctually. Missing a day of school takes several days to catch up.
- Reach out to us if your child faces any challenges affecting their attendance.

Welcome to our new Governor, Tomi Orioke, who was appointed at our first Governors meeting. Tomi will be part of the Finances & Resource Committee.

Together, we can ensure that every child at St Mary's has the opportunity to progress and flourish.

Thank you for your support,

Ben Pearson

## Harvest

On Monday 7th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church. A huge thank you to all our families who joined us and to everyone who donated food and produce. Our donations went to the Hinckley Food Bank to help families in our local community. We donated enough food and produce to provide **270** meals.



## Dates for your Diary

Friday 1st November	Flu Vaccinations (whole school)
Wednesday 6th November	Irwin Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 8th November	Rock Up and Read @2.45pm
Monday 11th November	Remembrance Service @10.50 at the War Memorial
Tuesday 12th November	Odd Sock Day—children can come to school wearing odd socks as part of anti-bullying week
Friday 15th November	Children in Need
Wednesday 20th November	Cadbury Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 22nd November	Christmas Fair @3.30pm / Hinckley Christmas lights switch - on
Tuesday 26th November	Rock Kidz visit
Wednesday 27th November	KS1 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Friday 29th November	KS2 Gold Award Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Monday 2nd December	Live Advent begins - more details to follow
Tuesday 3rd December	Foundation Production - @ 2.00pm in the Hall
Wednesday 4th December	Foundation Production - @ 9.30am in the Hall
Thursday 5th December	Choir to sing at 'Remembering with love' @ 7.00pm in St Mary's Church
Tuesday 10th December	Belgrade Theatre Trip to see Dick Whittington
Wednesday 12th December	KS1 Nativity @ 9.30am in the Hall
Wednesday 18th December	Shakespeare Class Assembly @ 09.10 in the Hall
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Carols on the playground @ 2.00pm
Friday 20th December	Christmas Service @ 1.30pm in St Mary's Church
Friday 20th December	School closes for Christmas holidays
Tuesday 7th January 2025	School opens for Spring 1 term



Don't forget to follow us on our Facebook page here at St Mary's so why not give us a follow or a like! [www.facebook.com/stmarysceps](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysceps)

### Christian Values

The Christian Value we are focusing on next half term is Respect.



### 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.

# GoLearn!

Leicestershire Adult Learning Service

 Leicestershire  
County Council

 Ofsted  
Good  
Provider

 GSI

 matrix

 Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

## Family Learning

### Free

# Helping your Child Learn to Read



There will be 3  
sessions in school  
(come to one or  
come to all)

Dates and Time:  
Wednesdays  
6<sup>th</sup> November  
13<sup>th</sup> November  
20<sup>th</sup> November  
9:15 to 10:45am

*All materials  
provided*

The Family Learning team are pleased to invite you to  
**3 sessions at St Mary's School**

- Join us for refreshments when you have dropped off your child in school
- Discover different ways to support your child's reading with a mix of resources and fun, practical home activity ideas
- Build your confidence to support your child

To book your place  
please ring the school office on 01455 637477

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

The award winning

# Trinity Players

Presents



# ROBIN HOOD



The greenest panto around!

(well, in a colour sense, those lights use a lot of electricity!)

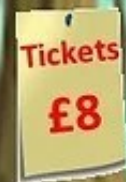
By Andy Leadbetter

**5th - 8th December 2024.**

At the Trinity Hall, Marchant Road, Hinckley

Thurs, Fri and Sat at 7pm, Sat and Sun at 2pm

Matinees to include a special  
visit from Father Christmas



Call 01455 238982, online from

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/trinity-players-hinckley](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/trinity-players-hinckley)

Or Email: [tickets@trinityplayershinckley.co.uk](mailto:tickets@trinityplayershinckley.co.uk)

[www.trinityplayershinckley.co.uk](http://www.trinityplayershinckley.co.uk)

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# Violin lessons

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With  
Natasha  
Pattinson

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Feel free to contact me  
Email :  
[npattinsonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:npattinsonmusic@gmail.com)

Mobile :  
07967397923

