

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,

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents' Evening on the last week of the first half term. Walking around school has been an absolute pleasure as always. The children are working really hard in class and their behaviour around school is polite and respectful as always.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Kahlo Class over the last half-term. They have made a super start to their school career and are quickly learning 'The St Mary's Way!' I have really enjoyed interacting with them at lunch times and am looking forward to watching them grow and flourish over the next seven years.

As the weather is 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 place is 31st October 2025. The deadline for applying for a primary school place is 15th January 2026. 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.

We were delighted this week to receive a 'Music Mark of Recognition' from the Music Mark, the UK association for Music Education and extremely proud of the comments made.

"Congratulations! Leicestershire Music Hub would like to celebrate the value that you place on music in your school by presenting you with the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication & Improvement. Each year Leicestershire Music are invited by Music Mark to select schools, based on the focus on quality music provision within the school as well as engagement with the Leicestershire Music Hub". Thank you to Mrs Jenkinson for all her hard work.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school this half-term for what is always a busy and exciting time in the build up to Christmas.

Best wishes

Rachel Ayres
Headteacher

Foundation News



We are delighted with how the children have settled into school life. They are learning our class routines and have had a lovely time making new friends and exploring their new environment.



We had a great time at the MacMillan coffee morning, it was lovely to have so many parents and family members join us.



Kahlo Class loved making bread and learning about harvest. We used our senses to explore the bread and enjoyed tasting it with raspberry jam!



We have great fun dressing up and pretending to be rock stars for the day when Rock Kidz came in.



As well as beginning our phonics learning we have also been focusing on mark making, pre-writing patterns and lots of fine motor practice. This is preparing the children for the year ahead!



Year 1 and 2 News



Our new school year started with International Week where each class learnt more about a different country. Teresa Class explored India, Elizabeth Class found out more about Poland and Stafford Class learnt about Nigeria. During the week, the children also took part in flamenco dancing and samba drumming which were both delivered by visiting instructors.



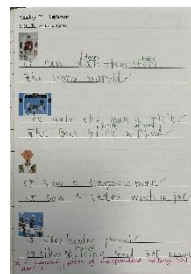
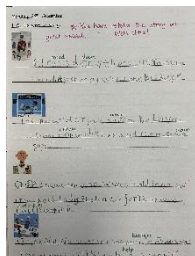
We have now moved on to our next story, Little Red Riding Hood, and have taken the children on a walk around trees in the Mead. We imagined what it would be like for her as she made her way through the woods to her grandmother's cottage.



Our topic in Geography this half term, 'Where do I live?' has taken us around the four countries of the United Kingdom and back to Hinckley! We have explored UK capital cities as well as famous features and landmarks. Locally, we have looked at familiar buildings around Hinckley, especially those close to our school.



In English this year, we have started our writing based on the story 'Last Stop on Market Street'. To support their writing, the children have also taken part in some drama activities and experience. For example, we role played a trip on a bus and imagined the different characters we could meet just like CJ in the story. We have been very impressed with the stories that the children have written about CJ's adventures with his Nana.



Black History Month – Walter Tull. We have been researching the life and achievements of Walter Tull. Walter Tull was one of the first black professional footballers in England, as well as one of the first black officers in the British Army. He fought bravely during World War 1 and received medals as a result of his courage.

Year 3 and 4 News



Rock Kidz - We loved having a visit from Rock Kidz. We have learned about the importance of not giving up and always trying our best in everything that we do. We enjoyed getting to dance and sing along with Rock Kidz throughout the day.



Class names - Children in each class have been finding out about the famous people behind their class's names - Isaac Newton, Coco Chanel and Antoni Gaudi.



International Week - During International Week, the children loved finding out interesting information about their countries. Children in all 3 classes enjoyed learning and performing traditional dances from around the globe. Chanel class studied Brazil; Newton class researched Cameroon and Gaudi Class learned about Peru.



Reading raffle ticket winners - Congratulations to the children who have earned reading raffle tickets for each week they have completed 5 or more signed reads in their reading diaries. Some lucky children had their reading raffle tickets drawn out of a hat – well done!



Year 5 and 6 News

All our year 5/6 children have settled in amazingly, taking on board everything that this year group has to offer. We can't wait for the rest of the year to see where our journey takes us.



The Greeks - We are currently researching Ancient Greece and the society at that time, including city states of Athens and Sparta, warfare, Gods and Goddesses, daily life and culminating in the legacy.



International Week - After a couple of days of getting to know our classes, we embarked on an international week of learning, focussing on Germany, Romania and Jamaica. The children experienced a range of activities - including food tasting, dancing, listening to music, speaking the language, crafting, traditions and looking at its location in the world.



Commando Joes - 'Be like Ranulph Fiennes.' Children have completed three missions that have concentrated on using teamwork to be record breakers, preservers and rescuers - successfully.

Rock Kidz Children dressed up as rock stars of the future, practised their moves to an inspirational, Christian song called 'Don't Quit'. Year 5/6 won battle of the year groups.



September's Doodle Maths winners from each year group



September's
Doodle Maths
stars



Years 5/6 girls took part in the Girls' Rugby Festival on 26th September and all did brilliantly.



St Mary's took part in the first cross country of the term on Saturday 27th September at Brookvale Groby Learning Campus. All the children were amazing.



Junior Leadership Team 2025-26

Emily – Head Girl



I am delighted to be Head Girl. I am a positive role model for others because I respect all my teachers and classmates. I am a sensible student and I always have a can-do attitude.

Pearl – Deputy Head Girl

I am thrilled to be Deputy Head Girl. I am looking forward to helping my school become a better place and environment for every individual pupil, to give them a great 7-year experience like I've had and am still having.



Arthur- Head Boy



I am delighted to be Head Boy and looking forward to representing my peers and voicing their ideas. I would like to organise more activities, such as team-building games to help bring the school together. Most of all, I want to make our school a positive experience for everyone.

Teddy-Deputy Head Boy

I am excited to be Deputy Head Boy. I will listen to other children's ideas and share them with teachers. I will help new children feel welcome and be a good role model for younger children. I promise I will always try my best.



Geography Competition

These are the winners of the geography 'Countries' competition from Year 1/2, 3/4, 5/6. They were able to remember and tell me some really interesting facts about the country they studied. Fantastic! Well done to all those who took part and sent in a competition entry. Thankyou



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,

I am the governor supporting SEND, having a background of working with SEND in education for many years and I recently had the privilege of carrying out a monitoring visit for SEND at St Mary's. My focus was two-fold – to look at progress and to look at systems. I met with, Mrs Nethercot, the SENDCO who oversees support for the children with SEN. If you are a parent of a SEND child many of you will have met her to discuss your child's learning plan/pupil passport or to talk about your child's needs and progress. Learning plans have relevant targets relating to the needs of the children and these are regularly monitored and reviewed.

SEND progress and inclusion is important at St Mary's and we are committed to working with you to achieve the best outcomes for your child. Alongside this I observed the support being offered, spending time with a few children working with Teaching Assistant support as they access areas of the curriculum. Any support provided is under financial restraints so it is important that all stakeholders along with parents work together to ensure progress is being made for each child. I, alongside the staff want to see your child thrive in all aspects of their education, to make progress and achieve their potential by the end of their time at St Mary's.

Elaine Stock
SEND Governor

Christmas Fair



ST. MARY'S

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Stallholders Needed

If you are interested in having a stall at our Christmas Fair, please contact us on [01455 637477](tel:01455637477) or email office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk

 Friday 21st November 2025
3.30 pm - 5.00 pm

 1-3 Station Road
Hinckley LE10 1AW

The poster features a festive background with snowflakes and two Christmas trees. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a snowman, a boy in a yellow coat and blue hat, and a girl in a blue coat and pink hat, all smiling and waving.

Recycling Heroes

On 16th October, Hinckley & Bosworth Council and Councillor, Lynda Hodgkins, came in to judge our children's Recycling Heroes. Thank you to all who participated. The winners were Ava, Odelia, Piper-Rose, Daisy and Olivia.



Attendance

“Be in to win ...!”

Dear Parents and Carers,

You know from previous communication how much emphasis we place on school attendance. We know that children who attend school regularly tend to do better in their learning than those who have a high percentage of absence. You can read research here https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d2cf8f4702aacd2251cbae/The_impact_of_school_absence_on_lifetime_earnings.pdf about the link between attendance and lifetime earnings.

As I am sure you are aware regular school attendance continues to be a national priority as there are simply far too many children missing too much school across the country. Therefore, since last year, the Government changed rules around penalty notices (fines) by increasing the cost and limiting the number of times a penalty notice can be issued before a prosecution takes place. We have communicated about this further but have also added information to the attendance page of our website <https://www.stmarys.leics.sch.uk/attendance>

At St Mary's, our focus is to support first and enforce later wherever we can. We want to support children and families in attending school and avoiding the need for enforcement notices where at all possible.

To support the message of 'Moments Matters, Attendance Counts', this year we are delighted to introduce our exciting attendance campaign, '**Be in to win!**' This provides opportunity for us to celebrate the attendance of all children in school.

Each child has been given an Attendance Passport for this academic year, where they receive a stamp for each week that they manage to be in every day, on time. This means they need 100% attendance within a week to achieve their stamp and they cannot get a stamp if they are late or they do not attend for any reason (i.e. including authorised absences).

We understand that there are valid reasons why children may be absent from time-to-time but our new campaign still creates opportunities for children to win prizes/gain stamps even if they have had the odd difficult week for attendance.

Our Attendance Shop will open at the start of each half term so that the children will have the opportunity to come along, with their passports, to redeem their stamps for prizes. If they have the willpower, they could save their stamps for something they want to save up for. If your child decides to hold out until the end of the year and has had the perfect attendance thus managing to collect the maximum number of stamps (38) = 100% attendance, there will be a 'Mystery Prize' reward. Please see overleaf for what can be purchased with their stamps from our shop.

The Government expectation is that parents/carers ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and schools are required to take necessary action where children fall in this category.

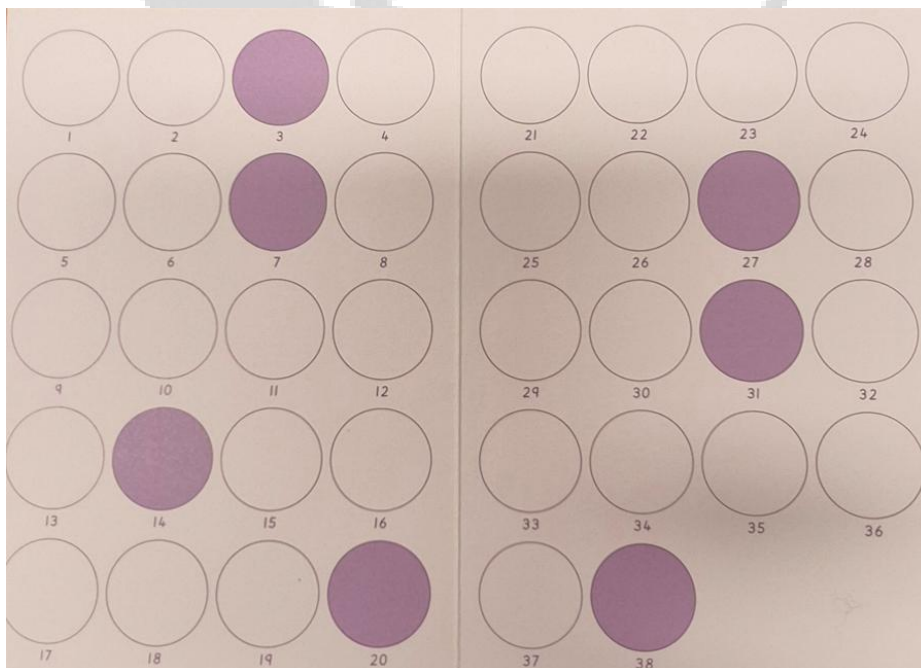
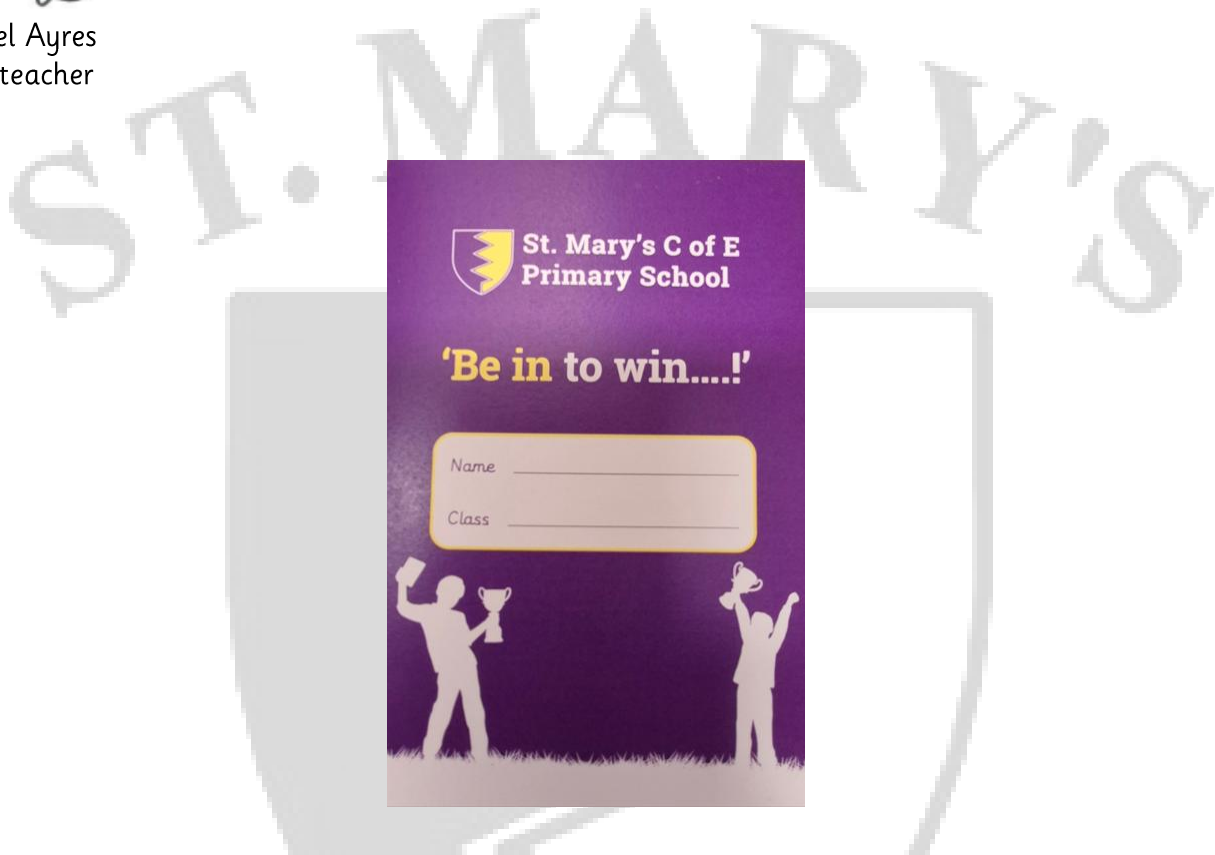
At St Mary's, we pride ourselves in achieving excellent attendance and set clear expectations with our target of 96%. Last year we managed to end the year above both the Local Authority and the National average for attendance with the support of our families. Thank you.

We ask that you to continue to work with us in 2025/26. We know there are reasons for absence but we also know that, working together, we can support children in attending regularly and doing as well as they can. We trust that we can rely on your support in ensuring your children attend school on time, every day.

Best wishes



Rachel Ayres
Headteacher



ST. MARY'S



ATTENDANCE SHOP

3 Stamps



PENCIL



RUBBER



STRETCHY CREATURE



BUBBLE WAND



GLIDER

7 Stamps

14 Stamps



BOUNCY BALL



SLAP BAND



BOOK MARK



SQUISHY TOY

20 Stamps



SLINKY



PUTTY



FOOTBALL SPINNER



POP KEY-RING

27 Stamps



SCRATCH NOTEBOOK



LIGHT-UP YOYO

31 Stamps



LUCKY BAG

38 Stamps



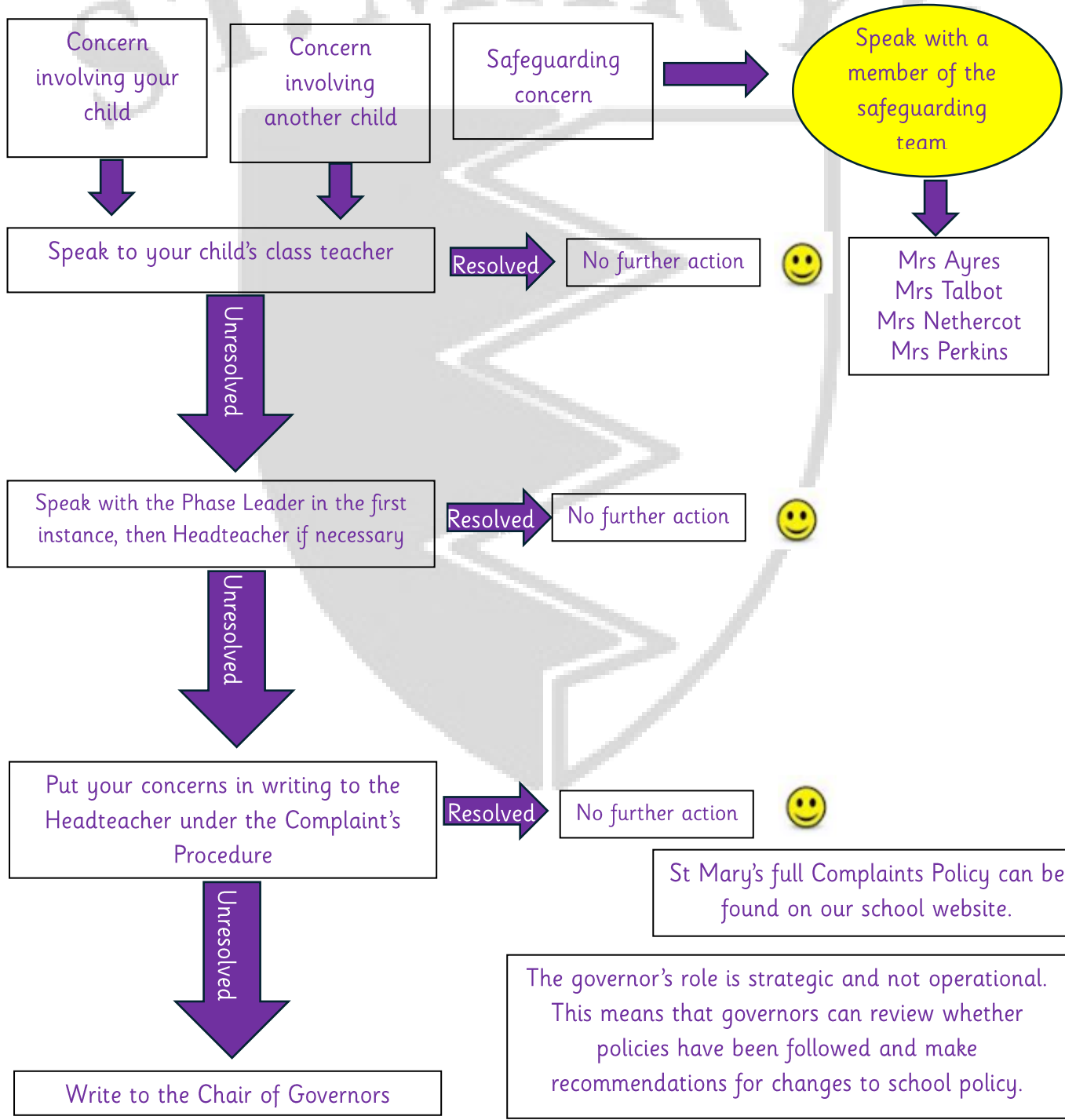
MYSTERY PRIZE



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.



Attendance

Attendance has been 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 8.40 am and close at 8.50 am. 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 9.00 am on the day of absence. Please email 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 3.15 pm. 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. Even if you do not 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.

All school meals are free for Foundation and Key Stage 1 pupils in Year 1 and 2

Payments

Thank you for all payments to date for the Annual School Donation. We have 48 payments outstanding.

We have 3 outstanding payments for swimming for Shakespeare and Newton classes.

Please do not forget to sign up for the following After School Clubs:

Monday 3rd November to Monday 8th December for Year 1-6 Creative Clay 3.15 pm to 4.15 pm

Friday 31st October to Friday 14th November KS1 Move It Shake It (Dancing) 3.15pm to 4.15 pm

The Christian Value for next half term is Respect



Dates for the Diary

27 th October am 2025	School closed for Mrs Williams Funeral
27 th October pm 2025	School opens at 1.15 pm
3 rd November 2025	Creation Week
3 rd November 2025	Phonics Meeting for Year 1 Parents @ 8.45 am
5 th November 2025	Irwin Class Assembly @9.10 am
7 th November 2025	Severn Trent Assembly
7 th November 2025	Film Night KS2
10 th November 2025	Odd Sock Day – children can come to school wearing odd socks as part of anti-bullying week
11 th November 2025	Phonics Meeting for Kahlo Class Parents @ 8.45 am
11 th November 2025	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial @10.45 am
12 th November 2025	Flu Vaccinations
14 th November 2025	Non-uniform Day / £1 donation
19 th November 2025	Cadbury Class assembly @9.10 am
21 st November 2025	Years 3/4 singing at the 'Light Switch On'
21 st November 2025	Christmas Fair
24 th November – All week	Bikeability for Year 6
26 th November 2025	Kahlo Class/KS1 Gold Award @ 9.10 am
28 th November 2025	Gold Award KS2 @9.10 am
28 th November 2025	Tuck Shop
1 st December 2025	Live Advent starts. Information to follow
2 nd December 2025	Kahlo Class Nativity @2.00 pm
3 rd December 2025	Kahlo Class Nativity @9.30 am
9 th December 2025	KS1 Nativity @ 2pm
10 th December 2025	KS1 Nativity @9.30 am
11 th December 2025	Choir to sing at 'Remembering with love' @7.00pm
12 th December 2025	Rock Steady Concert in the Church @2.30 pm
17 th December 2025	Shakespeare Class Assembly @9.10 am
17 th December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day
18 th December 2025	Carols on the playground @2.00 pm
19 th December 2025	Christmas Service in Church @1.30 pm
19 th December 2025	School closes for Christmas at 3.15 pm
6 th January 2026	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.