# Welcome from your co tteadteachers,

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we've been exploring our iShare learning theme, "Belonging Together." It has been a joy to explore this important theme with the children, helping them understand what it means to be part of a community, not only here at school but in the world around us. Through class discussions, activities, and team projects, we've been focusing on how working together, supporting each other, and embracing differences strengthens our sense of belonging. The children have shown such enthusiasm in learning how their actions impact others both locally and globally. It's heartwarming to see them grasp these big ideas at such a young age!

It's also been wonderful to witness the spirit of togetherness across the school, not only in classes but in friendship groups, clubs, and activities. This week, we've especially loved seeing the children take part in our school rock band, which has been an absolute hit! Watching them collaborate and share their talents on stage was a real highlight. They demonstrated how powerful teamwork can be, and we couldn't be prouder.

We were also delighted to host our first-ever Headteacher Tea Party this week! Our Golden Achievers, recognised for their kindness, hard work, and positive attitudes, were invited to join us for an afternoon of treats and conversation. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements and hear their thoughts about school life. The event was a great success, and we look forward to making it a regular part of school life!



On a practical note, I'd like to remind parents about our school uniform expectations. We know how much effort you put into ensuring your children leave home looking smart in the mornings, and we really appreciate it. However, we also understand that they may return home looking a little less polished - especially after a day full of active learning! That said, we have noticed a growing collection of lost property. Please encourage your children to check for any missing items before they leave school, label everything and feel free to stop by the lost property area to reclaim any belongings.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in making our school a place where every child feels they belong.

Have a great weekend!

God bless,

Mrs Wayland and Mrs Woodier



# Headteacher Challenge

We're excited to offer a creative opportunity for your child to explore their sense of belonging! This fun activity aims to spark their imagination and celebrate their unique experiences. Children are invited to create a "Belonging Collage" to showcase what makes them feel included and valued. We look forward to sharing their wonderful creations in next week's newsletter. Thank you for supporting this engaging project!

## "My Belonging Collage"

### **Think About Belonging:**

Who makes you feel included? Where and what activities make you feel like you belong?

### **Create Your Collage:**

Use pictures, drawings, or magazine cutouts to show what makes you feel like you belong.

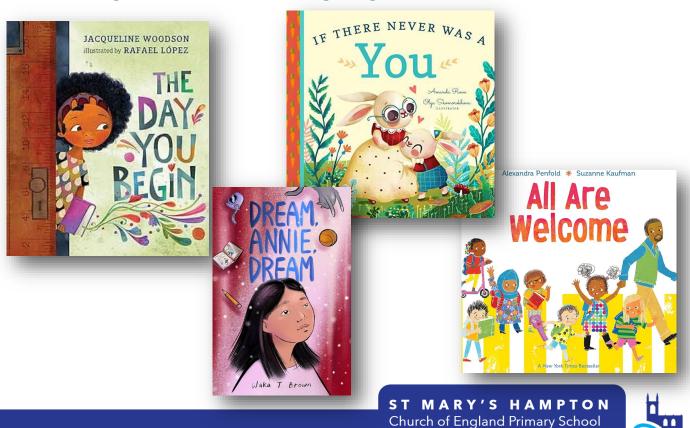
Add labels or captions to explain each part.

### Write a Description:

Write 3-4 sentences explaining how your collage represents belonging.

Bring your collage to share with us!

## Reading for Belonging



# NeWS from year 5 Mr Burkey Writes...

This week, year five have been very busy in their learning. We finished writing and editing our instructions on how to catch a dragon, then took part in a treasure quest to discover our next mission, which was hidden inside a dragon-infested skull! The children will now start work on helping Professor Yobbish learn more about dragons by putting together information booklets.

In maths, we completed our first unit of year five, which was place value; rounding to the nearest 100000, 10000, 1000 and 100 and recapping Roman numerals.

In history, the children learned all about the Viking attack on Lindisfarne and the impact this had on Anglo-Saxon society at the time. We then wrote articles about this for the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

In RE, we looked at the miracle of the wedding at Cana, examining how it showed both the human and divine sides of Jesus.



## Miss Firmin and Mrs Nesbit in year 4 Write ...

Rome Class have got off to a great start this year, we are proud of how hard they have been working in lessons. In maths we have been working on place value with 4-digit numbers, including, comparing and partitioning 4-digit numbers and rounding to the nearest 10 or 100. We have also been working on producing clear and detailed answers to reasoning questions.

In English, we have started reading our class book 'Escape from Pompeii', which links to our History topic 'The Romans'. We asked questions and explored the front cover to try to discover what the story might be about. We have also completed some work on time conjunctions and empathy with the two main characters.

This week we have begun looking at features of diary, including writing in the past tense, first person and using informal language. Next week we will be using these techniques to write our own diary entries in the role of Tranio or Livia from 'Escape from Pompeii'. In History, we have been finding out who the Romans were and how the Roman Empire started.

We have discussed reasons for their invasion of Britain and have discovering why and how the Romans built many roads and towns here. In Art, we have looked at sculptures and statues, how they are displayed on plinths and why this might be. In the next few weeks we will be creating an exciting piece of art that will be displayed on a plinth, and this will link in with our Roman topic. We are sending home the children's Diagnostic Questions log in details as some children were unsure how to access their maths homework. We will be sending out their Times Table Rock Stars log in details soon.



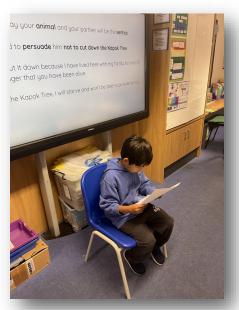




# News from year 3 Mr Tibble Writes...

We have been working incredibly hard on place value over the last three weeks, covering areas such as ordering, comparing, and portioning numbers up to 1,000. The children always seem really engaged and have provided detailed and clear responses to reasoning and problem-solving questions.

In English, we have been exploring the book *The Great Kapok Tree*, as it links to our geography unit on rainforests. At the moment, we are hot-seating and planning a letter to Senhor, who has been sent into the Amazon Rainforest to chop down the Kapok tree. The children are taking on the role of an animal to persuade him not to do it!



PE lessons have focused on tag rugby, and we have started to think about how to pass and receive the ball—showing we are ready with our eyes, hands, and voices.

In RE, we have begun our journey exploring the key concepts of the Bible, starting with the Trinity, Creation, and the Fall, discussing what these are and how they relate to our lives.

The children have started learning French for the first time at school with our initial unit. We have been working on greetings as well as asking, "What is your name?" and how to respond to this question.

We have been reading our class book, *An Alien in the Jam Factory*, and the children are loving it. We read it under the visualiser, and the children follow along, always seeming disappointed when we stop!

It was great to see so many of you at the "Meet the Teacher" session. For those parents who couldn't attend we will send information out to you; please let me know if you didn't receive it.

I will also send home passwords for Diagnostic Question and TTRS with the children, so please look out for them.







# Reminders...

Date	Event
Monday 23rd September	Year 5 Swimming starts
Wednesday 25th September	Music with Aaron Howard in Hymns of Worship
Monday 23rd –27th September	Year 6 PGL Trip
Friday 27th September	Mental Health Service Team 9am in the Hall Managing Anxiety in Children.
Wednesday 2nd October	Whole school virtual art gallery visit
Thursday 3rd October	Year 6 Junior Citizenship at 9am—12pm
Thursday 3rd October	Bishop Wand Open Evening
Friday 4th October	Whole school 'Drama4all' workshop
10th, 11th, 24th, 25th October at 9am	New Reception open morning (2025 intake)
28th, 29th November at 9am	
Tuesday 15th October	Hampton School visiting (Greater depth writers workshop)
Thursday 16th –18th October	Year 3 Richmond walk safely scheme
Wednesday 23rd October	Half termly spelling test
28th October—1st November	Half Term
Wednesday 20th and 21st November	Whole school Parents Evenings
Friday 22nd November	Inset Day
Thursday 5th December	EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Nativity
at 9.10am	
Friday 20th December	Christmas Church Service

## Uniform Details

Thank you so much to those who have shared your thoughts on updating our school uniform. We truly value your input and enthusiasm. While we will be keeping our current policy for now, we're excited to hear your thoughts. Our aim is to ensure that our students always look smart and feel proud. We'll keep you updated on any developments and greatly appreciate your continued support.

Our uniform was chosen, after consultation with parents, to be smart and practical. The school colours are: royal blue & white.



- Royal blue sweatshirt (boys) or cardigan (girls) (with logo)
- White polo shirt (the logo is optional)
- Royal blue fleece (with logo) (not a compulsory item but may be worn as a jacket or as a outdoor top for PE)
- Grey pinafore, skirt or tailored trousers
- Royal Blue and white checked dress/playsuit (summer)
- White or grey socks (not trainer socks)/grey tights
- Flat heeled shoes (not trainers) in black or navy.
- Hairbands, bobbles or small ribbons/bows blue or white. Hair bows should be no more than 8cm in length.
- PE kit navy shorts, blue t-shirt (with logo), trainers (with velcro for children unable to do laces). Navy jogging bottoms or navy leggings to be worn in winter for outdoor PE (branding to be minimal) along with a navy blue hoodie (with logo)
- Navy blue cap (with logo) which can be purchased via the school office only.
- Navy blue bookbag (with logo)- Reception to Year 2 inclusive
- Navy blue rucksack (with logo) Years 3 and above
- Navy blue PE bag (with logo)
- Guidance on appearance

For safety reasons, no jewellery except pierced ears, where pupils may wear small 'starter' studs and these must be taped during PE lessons. Make-up or nail varnish is not permitted.

Hair should be of a natural colour and style and must be appropriate for School. Hair must be tied up at all times. Hair extensions or hair braided with beads or cotton is not permitted. Any hair accessories worn e.g. headbands, should be blue in colour and discrete. If wearing a bow, no longer than 8cm in length.

Hair length should not be less than a grade 2 and hair carvings (including eyebrows) or styles with dramatic variations in length e.g. Mohican style or 'V' style are not appropriate. Similarly extreme fashion hairstyles e.g. dip dying or contrasting colours are



# Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of our pupils is the responsibility of every staff member at St Mary's. Regular training is provided to all of our staff to ensure they are able to act swiftly, effectively and compassionately should they be made aware of a safeguarding concern. This academic year, the safeguarding team is:



# Online safety Need app ideas?

Internet Matters have curated a list of age-appropriate apps depending on what your aim is when your child is spending time online:

**Skill Building apps**: If you would like to help your child develop a new skill, then you might find some useful ideas here: <a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/skill-building-apps-guide-forkids/">https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/skill-building-apps-guide-forkids/</a>

Apps to keep your child entertained: These apps are organised into age groups so you can find an app that is suitable for your child: <a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/13-great-apps-to-keep-yourkids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/">https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/13-great-apps-to-keep-yourkids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/</a>

Apps to help get your child active: Again, these apps are organised by age group: <a href="https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/apps-guide/">https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/apps-guide/</a> apps-to-help-kidsget-active/

**Wellbeing apps**: These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing: https://www.internetmatters.org/res ources/wellbeing-apps-guide-for-kids/

## WhatsApp: chat lock/secret code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.

Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (face id/fingerprint). Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.





# Attendance

## why is attendance at St Mary's important?

Regular attendance is directly linked to better academic performance. Missing classes often results in falling behind in lessons, missing important subject knowledge, and struggling to catch up.

Being present allows children to actively engage in class discussions, group activities, and hands-on learning experiences, which deepen understanding and grows self confidence.

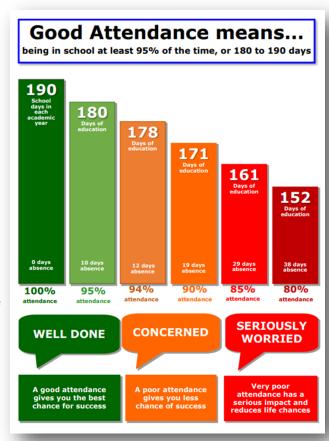
Good attendance and punctuality are key to your child's success at school. Here are some practical tips to help your child maintain strong attendance:

### For Children:

- **Set a Regular Bedtime:** Ensure your child gets enough sleep each night with a consistent bedtime routine.
- **Use an Alarm Clock:** Encourage them to take responsibility for waking up on time by using their own alarm clock.
- Prepare the Night Before: Help your child pack their school bag and lay out their uniform the night before to avoid a rushed morning.
- Create a Calming Bedtime Routine: Turn off TVs and other screens before bed to help them unwind and get ready for a restful night's sleep.

### For Parents:

- Stay in Touch with the School: If your child is absent, keep communication open with the school to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- Schedule Appointments Outside of School Hours: Where possible, arrange medical or dental appointments outside of school times to minimize missed learning.
- Show Interest in Their School Work: Ask your child about their day, even when they say they can't remember.
   Engaging in their learning shows support and encourages responsibility.
- Support Their Efforts: Encourage your child's efforts at school by recognizing their hard work and helping them stay motivated.





Adverts





## Job Opportunity: Lunchtime Supervisor

Are you looking for a rewarding part-time role? We are looking to recruit a dedicated and caring individual to join our team as a Lunchtime Supervisor. In this role, you will help support the safety and well-being of our students during lunchtime, supporting them in the dining hall, playground, and other school areas.

#### **Key Responsibilities:**

Supervise children during lunch breaks.

Encourage positive behavior and social interaction.

Ensure a safe and enjoyable lunchtime environment.

Hours: Monday to Friday, term-time only.

If you are friendly, reliable, and enjoy working with children, we'd love to hear from you!

For further information and to apply, please contact our School Business Manager.







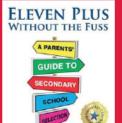


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