

Welcome

from your co headteachers,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term! We hope you had a wonderful half-term break and enjoyed some lovely autumn family fun. Our term is already off to an exciting start, with a fantastic burst of energy—just like a fireworks night going off with a bang! It's been wonderful to see the children return with enthusiasm, diving into new learning and activities. With plenty lined up this term, we're excited to build on this positive start and create memorable experiences for all.

This first week back has been full of great learning opportunities. In Year 2 pupils have been learning all about fireworks, the Gunpowder Plot, and firework safety. They've enjoyed planning and writing their own fireworks poems, using this activity to explore word classes, especially focusing on nouns and adjectives. Year 6 have been busy learning about how light travels in a straight line by designing their own experiments to explore this concept. In Maths, they have been studying the order of operations, investigating how using brackets can change the outcome of calculations. Lastly, Year 1 has had an exciting start to the term, exploring a range of topics! They've been creating colourful fireworks poetry, learning about the human body and our senses, and even programming a robot, developing early skills in coding and technology.

iShare Themes

As you'll be aware, last term we introduced our new "iShare Learning Themes." These guide our planning and delivery of collective worship. Through this new approach, we share Christian family values and apply our learning to our lives, based on a Bible verse for each theme. At the end of each half-term, the children will reflect on our iShare learning with our 'buddy activity.'

Our iShare theme for this half-term is: **Peace be with you**

Key Learning Points:

- God wants us to know His peace when we are upset or troubled
- There are things we can do to help ourselves and others feel more peaceful
- We are all called to be peacemakers with each other
- Where there is war in the world or conflict in our lives, we can pray to God to bring His peace



Memory Bible verse:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14 v 27



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from your co headteachers,

Little People Limitless Dreams

We're excited this term to introduce our new "Little People, Limitless Dreams" programme at St. Mary's Hampton! This initiative is designed to spark curiosity, inspire passions, and help each child explore their limitless potential. Through unique experiences in STEM, Creative Arts, and Sports & Wellness, children will have the chance to try activities like mini science experiments, drama, nutrition, and even forensic science—all aimed at nurturing their individual interests and talents. You will be receiving more specific information next week regarding your child.

For further information: [Little People Limitless Dreams parents letter](#)

Antibullying Week

Next week, we'll be celebrating Anti-Bullying Week at St. Mary's, an important time in schools across the country where we come together to raise awareness about kindness, respect, and inclusion. This year's theme is all about standing up against bullying and making sure everyone feels safe, valued, and supported. We'll kick off with *Odd Socks Day* on Wednesday, where children (and staff!) are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Throughout the week, classes will engage in fun, age-appropriate activities and discussions that help children understand what bullying is, how it affects others, and what they can do to help. These activities build valuable skills like empathy and courage, helping us create a school community where everyone feels they belong.

We will remember them

On Monday, we will come together as a school community to honour Remembrance Day as part of our assembly lead by Rev. Teri—Anne. We'll be reflecting on the significance of remembering those who served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. Teaching our children about Remembrance is not only about honouring historical events but also about instilling values of gratitude, respect, and reflection. This period of reflection helps students appreciate the importance of peace, understand the impact of war, and recognise the dedication of those who contributed to our freedom. Through age-appropriate discussions and activities, we aim to help our children understand why it's vital to remember and learn from history, fostering a sense of responsibility and respect for the world around them.

Have a blessed weekend and thank you for your continued support,

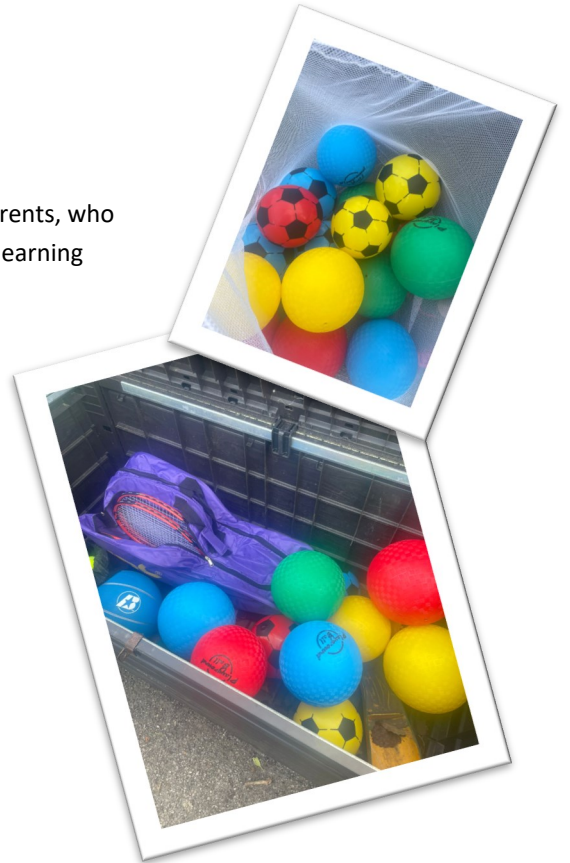
Mrs. Woodier & Mrs. Wayland



Thank you to our PTFA

The PTFA (Parent—teacher association) at St Mary's is a vital group of parents, who work together to support the school community and enhance children's learning experiences. They organise fundraising events, such as fairs, colour runs, quizzes all to raise money for school resources and special projects. They are huge advocates for the school's needs and coordinate activities to engage families throughout the year. Overall, the team strengthens the partnership between home and school, creating a positive environment for all. .

We want to say a huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA for their generous contribution of new sports equipment for lunchtimes! The impact has been incredible—it's fantastic to see the children so active, engaged, and enjoying a variety of games together. The new equipment has truly brightened lunchtimes, helping children build friendships and create special memories. We're so grateful for your support!



Christmas Fair

We'd love for all families to come along and enjoy our festive Christmas Fair! It's the perfect opportunity to get into the holiday spirit while supporting our school. There will be plenty of fun activities, games, and wonderful stalls, as well as a chance to pick up some unique gifts and treats. This is a fantastic event to bring the whole family together, meet other parents and teachers, and spread some festive cheer. Your participation helps raise funds for school resources and special projects, so come along, have fun, and support our school community! We look forward to seeing you there!



News from year 2

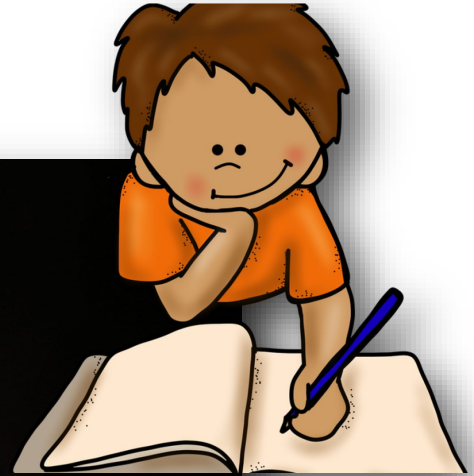
Mrs Purnell writes..

It has been lovely to see everyone back at school this week after what seems to have been a busy half-term break! For our first week back, we have been learning about fireworks, the Gunpowder Plot, and firework safety. The children have been planning and writing fireworks poems, which we have used to support further exploration of word classes, specifically nouns and adjectives.

In spelling lessons, we are now progressing to the next stage of the Little Wandle Year 2 spelling programme (referred to as *Bridge to Spelling*), and you will see that, for this half-term's spelling words, spelling rules are starting to be applied. There are exceptions to the rules, which we discuss in class, but please support your child in understanding how the rules apply to the spellings they are learning each week, as this is preferable to rote learning.

In maths, we have started Unit 4 on money, so please empty your purses, wallets, and piggy banks to give your child an opportunity to see and handle real notes and coins at home. In this unit, we will be adding and subtracting, finding total amounts using coins and notes, calculating and giving change, and solving word problems with amounts ranging from a few pence to £100. We have set some work on your School Jam accounts to support learning at home as we move through this topic.

Our English topic for this half term is *Frozen Planet*, which allows us to explore polar animals and polar explorers. This also links to our geography topic on continents and oceans, which began this week with the countries of the UK and will expand to include all continents, including Antarctica.



News from year 3

Mr Tibble writes..

In English this half term, we are using *Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age*. So far, we have been exploring the illustrations and characters, as well as the concept of anachronism and its humorous effect in the book. Next week, the children will be creating their own Stone Age games and writing instructions so anyone can play!

In maths, we've been focusing on addition and subtraction, now tackling exchanging, regrouping, and even missing number problems. The children have embraced these challenges with great determination.

In PE, the children are thoroughly enjoying our tag rugby sessions. Today, we worked on attacking skills, discussing how speed and agility are needed to create space and get past defenders. We emphasized moving forward and not being afraid to have tags removed. The children were fantastic—and a little muddy (sorry)!

Our new science unit this half term is rocks. We were thrilled to have visitors from the Geographical Association deliver a workshop on different types of rocks, how to group natural rocks, and the rock cycle. The children were highly engaged and even received a new badge!

In PSHE, our focus is on celebrating differences. This week, we discussed families and how they can be both similar and different. We explored definitions of family, looked at pictures of various family types, and shared how each one is unique to us. It was wonderful to hear about the diversity in our class!

In RE, we're learning about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas. Our first lesson introduced the Advent wreath and what each candle represents. We discussed the term *prophet* and how Isaiah foretold Jesus' birth and character. The children then thought about the qualities Jesus has as a leader and reflected on what responsibilities they'd hope he'd take on today, such as addressing world hunger, education, and homes for everyone.



Just a few reminders: Please encourage your child to read up to five times per week and record this in their reading record. Weekly spellings are given on Monday, Diagnostic Questions on Wednesday, and times tables challenge on Thursday, with children bringing home their current sheet on Friday!



NEWS from year 4

Mrs Nesbit and Mrs Firmin Writes..

Just before half-term, we read the final page of *Escape from Pompeii*, where the two main characters return to visit the ruins of Pompeii many years later. In response, Year 4 wrote beautiful "I miss you" poems reflecting on how things can change over time. Many of the poems were very emotional and even brought a tear to the teachers' eyes! We have written our poems neatly and will use them to create a class book for our book corner. This term, we will be reading *Oliver and the Seawigs* by Philip Reeve and Rachel McIntyre and working on writing our very own fantasy stories.

In Maths, we have completed our addition and subtraction unit. We are now confident in using the column method to solve equations and understand how to use the inverse to check our answers. Next week, we will begin a new unit on measure, focusing on perimeter. This will include converting between different units of measure (for example, kilometres to metres and hours to minutes) and measuring and calculating the perimeter of rectilinear figures (including squares) in centimetres and metres.

In Science this term, we will be learning about states of matter. We'll be setting up a variety of demonstrations and investigations to help us understand the processes of melting, freezing, evaporation, and condensation. Watch this space for more information and photos in our next class update!

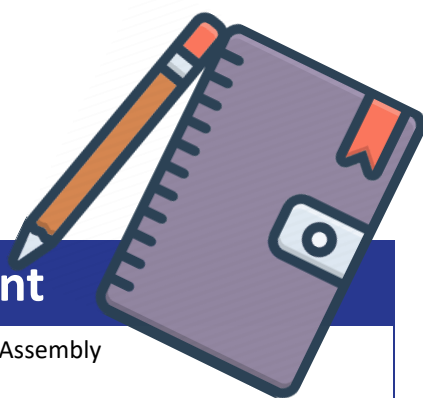
In RE, we began exploring our big question: "Is the Christmas message of peace still relevant in today's world?" This topic will nicely connect to our previous Year 3 learning about the true meaning of Christmas. We started by identifying Christian symbols of Christmas and explaining their meanings. The children then thought about Christmas symbols that hold personal importance and why. The teachers were impressed by the responses; everyone chose symbols that reminded them of family, rather than focusing on presents!

In Art this week, we finished our clay Roman bust sculptures by adding a layer of paint that we carefully mixed to resemble the marble used in Roman times. The children did an excellent job shaping the clay, and we are very impressed with the finished products. We will create a display in class to showcase our amazing achievements, so look out for them at parents' evening.

We have started our first Geography topic of Year 4, titled *Rivers*. This week's lesson included experiments to help us understand how water changes state from liquid to gas or solid, and back again. We froze water in a balloon and watched it turn back to a liquid, boiled water in a kettle and observed the gas, then condensed it back into water on a saucepan lid. We used some technical vocabulary to help explain these changes, such as *evaporate* and *condensate*.



Reminders...



Date	Event
Tuesday 12th November at 2.30pm	Year 6 Class Assembly
Wednesday 13th November	Anti-bullying week
Friday 15th November	Children in need Children are welcome to wear <i>optional</i> 'Pudsey ears' to school
Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st November	Whole school Parents Evenings
Thursday 21st November	Non-uniform day in exchange for bottles for the Christmas fair
Friday 22nd November	Inset Day
Tuesday 26th November at 9.15am—10am	New Reception 2025 Stay and Play
Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November at 9am	New Reception open morning (2025 intake)
Friday 29th November	Non-uniform day in exchange for cakes for the Christmas Fair
Saturday 30th November	St Mary's Christmas Fair 2pm—5pm
Thursday 5th December at 9.10am	EYFS, Year 1 and 2 Nativity
Tuesday 10th December at 10am	Choir performance for the residence at Linden Hall
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Friday 13th December at 2.30pm	Rock steady concert (invited event only)
Friday 20th December	Christmas Church Service
Each Friday morning at 8.45am (MTV Hampton)	Parents prayer group



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 Updates:

Advice for Children: Be SMART when using the Internet

Remember to use **SMART rules** when using the Internet on any device:

Safe: You wouldn't give a stranger on the street personal information, so don't do it online. Stay safe by not posting or sharing information (name, address, password etc.).

Meeting: It is dangerous to meet someone that you have talked to online but never met. Never go without telling someone and always ask permission from parents or carers - they need to come with you!

Accepting: There are loads of ways to download information on the Internet. Accepting emails, Internet messages, text or pictures from a source you don't know (a person or company etc.) may contain viruses or inappropriate information!

Reliability: Just because it is on the Internet does not mean it is true. Anyone can add or edit information on the Internet, or even lie about who they are! Try to stick to websites you trust for information and only chat to friends and family.

Tell: If anything happens that leaves you feeling worried or uncomfortable when using the Internet, you need to tell someone. The best people to talk to are trusted adults - parents, carers, teachers etc.

Remember, talking to someone for a long time online does not mean you really know them!

Always tell an adult if you are being cyberbullied.



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.



Autumn Adventures



Action for Nature - Make a Splash!

Ponds can be home to an interesting range of wildlife, and even a small one made from a suitable container can attract animals including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts.

Any pond can become a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats - the best natural garden pest controllers - and your pond needn't be big. A washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink could all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure creatures can get in and out.

If you don't have your own outdoor space at home, why not help the environment by watching what you wash away?





Some of our favourite washing-up liquids and cleaning products can be harmful to wildlife with long-lasting effects. Brands like Ecover, Method, Bio-D and some supermarket own-brands have good products made from natural and environmentally-friendly ingredients.

Using eco-friendly detergents in your clothes wash is also a great way to watch what you're putting into rivers and seas, keeping water clean for wildlife."

How to build a mini wildlife pond



You will need:

- a watertight container* 
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles 
- pond plants 
- spade 

* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.
- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush

Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Don't introduce frogs, fish or even water from another pond as this can spread disease.



Adverts

ST MARYS PTEA

MUFTI DAY

Thursday 21st November 2024

Come to school in your favourite clothes and bring in a bottle towards our Christmas Fayre Bottle Tombola.

ST MARY'S PTEA

MUFTI DAY

Friday 29th November 2024

COME IN TO SCHOOL IN YOUR FAVOURITE CLOTHES AND BRING SOME CAKES IN FOR OUR CHRISTMAS FAYRE.



Adverts

St Mary's
PTFA
CHRISTMAS
FAYRE

Saturday
30th
November

2:00pm-
5:00pm

REINDEER FOOD,
FESTIVE TREATS, AGGY,
ECO SHOP, QUIRKY
CATS
JEWELLERY, CHRISTMAS
GIFTS, SCHOOL CHOIR
PERFORMANCE,
CHRISTMAS GAMES,
CRAFTS, FACE PAINTING
AND MUCH MORE

Please come and
join us



Adverts



**The Fulham Palace
Festive Light Display**

28th November to 22nd December.
5.00pm - 9.00pm
FULHAM PALACE

www.londonilluminatedlights.co.uk



Adverts



ST MARY'S HAMPTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION 2025 OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 10th October
Friday 11th October

Thursday 24th October
Friday 25th October

Thursday 28th November
Friday 29th November

Join us from **9am** for a talk and tour

Please contact the school office to book your place

Flourishing through faith, hope and love

 admin@stmaryshampton.school.org.uk  020 8979 5102



Adverts

Santa Fun Run 2024



Run, jog or walk 5K and raise money for your local Hospice.

Sunday 8 December at Bushy Park.

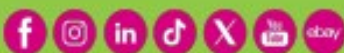
Sunday 15 December at Sandown Park

Racecourse followed by a Christmas Market.

9.30am for a 10.00am start.



Scan the QR code or visit
pah.org.uk/santafunrun



Princess Alice
Hospice

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ST MARY'S HAMPTON
Church of England Primary School



Adverts



50% OFF FIRST SEASON MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW PLAYERS

SUNBURY & WALTON HAWKS HOCKEY CLUB

We're looking for new players across all age groups. Join us at our training sessions from September:

U8 & U10 Boys & Girls: Sundays 9-10:30am
U12 Boys & Girls: Thursdays 6-8pm
U14 Boys & Girls: Tuesdays 6-8pm
U16 & U18 Girls: Wednesdays 8-10pm
U16 & U18 Boys: Thursdays 7:30-9pm

new players may want to attend a younger aged session

St. Paul's Catholic College
Manor Lane
Sunbury-on-Thames
TW16 6JE

Contact Mark for more info:
headjuniorhockey@swhawks.com



Halliford School

SHEPPERTON

Independent Senior Day School
Boys 11-18 years • Girls 16-18 years

Visitor Mornings

Thursday 7th November 2024 9am-11am
Tuesday 12th November 2024 9am-11am

Personal Tours

Available throughout the year

- Small class sizes for personalised attention
- Dedicated teaching staff committed to each student's success
- Wide range of co-curricular activities to suit all skills and interests
- Extensive coach service and short walk from Shepperton Station
- Shuttle services from Walton-on-Thames and Staines Stations



THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

Book your visit here:



Come as you are. Go as all you can be.

