School Newsletter

Autumn 2

Dates for your diary...

Thursday 12th November: School Open morning.
Wednesday 18th November: 8am arrival Year 5 and 6 RAF Museum. Late return.
Thursday 19th November: Stable Mates- Farmers class trip (Reception and Pre School) Year 1 and 2 Multi skills and Young Leaders event at BGN.
Friday 20th November: PJ dress down day- Please bring in a donation.
Friday 23rd November: 10:30am Advent Service in School.
Friday 27th November: Belgrade Panto Trip
Monday 30th November: Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 1st December: Year 5 and 6 Houses of Parliament trip. Late return. Scholastic Book Fair.
Monday 7th December: Christingle Service 10:30am
Wednesday 9th December: Parent Book Look
Monday 14th December: KS1 Christmas Performances 1:30pm and 6pm
Tuesday 15th December: KS2 Christmas Reflection in the Church, 1:30pm and 6pm.
Wednesday 16th December: Rock Steady Concert
Thursday 17th December: End of Year Mass and Carols round the Crib Service.



Clubs Autumn - Please book all on Parent Pay

Monday: Football & Cooking after school clubs.
Premier Education Football lunch club.
Tuesday: Nerf Games after school club.
Wednesday: Arts and Crafts after school club
Mon-Fri: Rising Stars

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen a great deal of activity involving our Governing Board. Our governors continue to play a vital role in supporting and challenging the school, and we are grateful for their commitment to St Mary's.
This week, Mrs Atkins met with Mrs Morgan in her role as our SEND Governor. One key outcome from this meeting was the opportunity to revisit and share information about the excellent My Happy Mind resources that families can access at home. A separate email has been sent with details of how to log in and make the most of these resources with your child.
On Friday, Mrs Appleby, our Allergy Governor, will be visiting school to review the implementation of the new allergy guidance and the procedures we have in place to keep all pupils safe. Governors have also completed updated safeguarding training this week, ensuring that they remain fully informed and able to fulfil their responsibilities effectively.
We are delighted to welcome our newly appointed Foundation Governors, Mrs Walker and Mrs Lifford, to the Governing Board. Many of you may already know Mrs Lifford, who previously served as an Associate Governor. We look forward to working closely with both governors as they begin their new roles.
Sport continues to flourish at St Mary's. Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils have embraced their new sports lunchtime clubs with tremendous enthusiasm and are out training today. It has been wonderful to see their commitment, teamwork and enjoyment. Next week, on Thursday 19th November, our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a Multi-Skills Event. Participation in sport supports children in so many ways, developing confidence, resilience, teamwork, physical wellbeing and a positive attitude towards healthy lifestyles.
A huge thank you to everyone who has already donated filled jars for the Christmas Fair, and to our Mini Vinnies for organising collections of toiletries, biscuits and chocolates for the Love Christmas Campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. However, we still need many more donations to support these worthy causes. As an added incentive, pupils will receive five house points for each donation they bring into school.
Finally, our Young Leaders have suggested a special Pyjama Day to support these collections. Children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas or cosy clothes and bring a donation for either the Christmas Fair or the Love Christmas Campaign. We think this is a wonderful idea and are pleased to announce that Friday 20th November has been chosen for this event.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Laura Concannon
Headteacher
St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Safeguarding

Lead: Mrs Concannon

Deputy: Mrs Morgan

Mental Health: Mrs Morgan

<u>My Happy Mind</u>

At St Mary's, all children take part in My Happy Mind, an award-winning mental health and wellbeing programme designed to help children understand how their brains work, build resilience, develop positive relationships and learn lifelong strategies to support their emotional wellbeing.
Children participate in a weekly My Happy Mind lesson every Wednesday with Mrs Taylor, where they explore topics such as self-esteem, confidence, gratitude, mindfulness and managing emotions. The programme is structured around five key modules: Meet Your Brain, Celebrate, Appreciate, Relate and Engage.
To help families continue these valuable conversations at home, we have sent a separate email containing the school's login details. Through the parent portal, you can access a wealth of supporting materials, including videos, activities and practical strategies that mirror what the children are learning in school.
We strongly encourage all parents and carers to explore these resources and share them with their children. Working together helps reinforce the positive habits and wellbeing skills that support both learning and personal development. 🌟
If you have not received the email or require the login details again, please contact the school office.

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Reading Challenge Autumn

In your child's planner, you will find their Reading Passport. Every time your child reads at home, they should colour in one of the squares in their passport.

For every 50 reads, children will receive:

- A token for their House Team, contributing towards House Points.
- A special Reading Certificate.
- An invitation to our termly reward trip.

This term, our reward will be a Cinema Trip, selected by our Young Leaders as a celebration of pupils' commitment to reading.

The deadline for qualifying for the Autumn Term Cinema Trip is Friday 20th November.

To ensure your child's reads are counted, please ask them to show their planner to Miss Bothwell before this date.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading at home. Regular reading is one of the most powerful ways to help children develop their confidence, vocabulary and love of learning.

Book Fair Competition

The Book Fair will be in school on Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore a wide range of books and develop their love of reading.

To celebrate the event, School Parliament is running a competition with five £5 book vouchers to be won. 'Design a bookmark' entry sheet can be requested from the class teachers and needs to be returned by Friday 27th November.

Keep reading and good luck to everyone who takes part!



Filled Jars Please!!

Northamptonshire 'Eyes Wide Campaign'.

The Eyes Wide Open campaign, a one-minute video, played by actors, aims to raise awareness of the harm that young children can be exposed to while online and encourages parents to have conversations with their children, while setting appropriate online and device restrictions to help protect them.

Between June 2024 to May 2026, a total of 3091 online crimes were reported to Northamptonshire Police where the victim was under 18.

A total of 1,148 offences relating to indecent images of children were recorded in the same period.

Teenage children were identified as being most at risk of harm, with those aged 13-15 accounting for almost 40 per cent of all online child offences.

A greater percentage of children will know their offender as an acquaintance, family member or partner than those recorded as a stranger.

Today, adolescence is lived both offline and online. Young people are constantly connected — through phones, tablets, gaming platforms and messaging apps.

While being online can have benefits for young people, harm exists in places and ways that we wouldn't always recognise.

According to OFCOM research, algorithms drive content exposure. About 35 per cent of children report seeing potentially harmful or inappropriate content simply by scrolling through their feeds.

Over half of children (56 per cent) use AI tools, with some using them for companionship. However, many struggle to distinguish between different AI tools or question their accuracy.

About two-thirds of children watch livestreamed videos.

Nearly three-quarters of older children (ages 11–17) report seeing harmful content online.

A third of children say they have accepted a friend request from someone they do not know. The UK's most senior doctors have made a stark comparison: Social media use is now considered as significant a risk to young people's health as smoking.

This campaign aims to help raise awareness of where parents and young people can go to find information on online safety and actions they can take.

It also allows partner agencies and schools to be able to use the materials to open up conversations with young people about online safety.

For support with understanding the online world, speaking to your child about online safety, setting parental controls and keeping young people safe online, visit the NSCPCC website.



Safeguarding

Lead: Mrs Concannon

Deputy: Mrs Morgan

Mental Health: Mrs Morgan

Keep in Touch

01295 660258

head@stmarys-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk

bursar@stmarys-pri.northants.gov.uk