

St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 12th September 2025

Newsletter 01

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness

Welcome Back – A New Academic Year Begins!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're delighted to welcome you all to the start of a brandnew academic year at St.Mary's. It's been a joyful and energetic return, with the first two weeks full of learning, laughter, and new beginnings.

A special welcome goes out to our Reception children, who have made a fantastic start to their school journey - we're so proud of how confidently they've settled in. We also extend a warm greeting to the many new pupils who have joined us across other year groups. It's been wonderful to see friendships forming and everyone embracing school life with such enthusiasm.

From classroom activities to outdoor adventures, it's been an action-packed fortnight and the children have already shown great curiosity, kindness, and resilience. We're excited for all that lies ahead this year and we look forward to working together to support every child's growth and success

Thank you for your continued support - here's to a brilliant year ahead!

Black History Month – Coming This October!

As we settle into the new academic year, we're excited to share that **Black History Month 2025** is just around the corner. Celebrated throughout October, this is a special time for our school community to honour and explore the rich contributions of Black individuals to British history, cult

rich contributions of Black individuals to British history, culture, and society.

This year's theme - "Standing Firm in Power and Pride" - invites us to reflect on stories of resilience, creativity, and leadership, while empowering our pupils to embrace diversity and celebrate identity.

Across the school, we'll be marking the month with:

- Inspiring assemblies and classroom discussions
- Creative projects exploring Black excellence in the arts, sports, and public life
- Stories and activities that highlight historical figures such as Mary Seacole,
 Walter Tull, and many more.

We look forward to sharing these learning experiences with you and celebrating the voices and achievements that have helped shape our world.

Let's make this October a month of pride, learning, and unity!

Attendance Winners

Congratulations to **Badgers** for having 100% attendance last week. What a great start to the new year.

Jeans for Genes Day – Friday 26th September 2025

We're excited to be taking part in **Jeans for Genes Day** again this year - a brilliant opportunity to raise awareness and support children living with genetic conditions.

On **Friday 26th September**, all pupils and staff are invited to **wear their jeans to school** as part of this nationwide event. It's a fun way to show support and spark conversations about difference, resilience, and inclusion.

Donations are welcome but not mandatory - every contribution helps fund vital care, equipment, and support for families across the UK. Whether you donate or simply join in by wearing denim, your participation makes a difference.

Let's turn our school blue with denim and kindness — we can't wait to see everyone rocking their jeans!



Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award - keep up the great work!

Rabbits Tallulah
Badgers Vinnie P

Foxes Evelyn & Max

Lions Max

Eagles Tavie-Ann



Hedgehogs



Class News:

What a lovely time we have had welcoming back our Hedgehogs and families to Nursery, and meeting some wonderful new faces too!

The new Hedgehogs are already beginning to settle in and learn our Nursery routine. Our aim is to make sure each child feels welcomed into Hedgehogs Nursery and feels a sense of belonging. Which is why our first focus during term 1 is called "All about me!", planning activities that help us learn all about the children.

The returning Hedgehogs have shown such kindness welcoming our new children and already so many friendships are beginning to develop.

Our book has been, "We're going on a bear hunt", which focuses on repeated rhyme and pattern. The children have been learning some of the actions for the end parts of the sentences and have been acting out running away from the bear!

We've had a whole selection of weather since returning to Nursery which has meant the children have been able to splash in puddles with wellies and enjoy lots of outdoor play in the warm weather too.

We are looking forward to lots of fun and adventures ahead as we all get to know each other better.

Miss James & Mrs Munro



Ducklings





Class News:

Welcome to school Ducklings. We have had a lovely week settling in and getting to know lots of new friends. We have talked about our class rules and routines and have enjoyed meeting our Year 6 buddies. We have learned some new songs. We especially love the days of the week song and the Goodbye song.

Our topic this term is "All about Me". The children will have lots of opportunities to discuss their families and friends and what they love to do outside of school.

The children have enjoyed having lunch in the school hall this week and have been out to the main playground for break and lunchtime play.

We look forward to the children attending school full time from Monday 15th. PE will be on a Monday afternoon. The parents welcome meeting will take place after school (3.15pm) on Monday 15th.

We are looking forward to a positive and enjoyable Reception Year at St Mary's Primary School.

Mrs Gillard







Rabbits



Class News:

Rabbits have had an amazing start to Year 1! They have all really impressed us with how well they have settled in and their great attitude towards their learning.

We have started off the year by looking at the story 'You Choose' in English. We have enjoyed writing short sentences about our favourite things.

In Maths, we have started our topic of place value up to 10 by grouping, counting and sorting objects. We have been using lots of different resources to help us, such as counters, ten frames, numicon, cubes, number lines and shapes.

In History, we have started our new topic all about toys. Over the next two terms we will be exploring how toys have changed over time. This week we learned what an artifact is by exploring objects from 100 years ago.

Rabbits had a wonderful time exploring the forest school area during their sessions with Mrs Munro.

Well done for a great start to the year Rabbits!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree



Badgers



Class News:

It has been a great start to the year for Badgers and we are thrilled to have welcomed in a new member to the team. We have been so impressed with how well they have settled into our new routine.

We have started off the year with some really fascinating topics, and the children have enjoyed learning about *maps* in Geography and creating different textures in Art using charcoal and oil pastels. We have also enjoyed delving into our first investigation in Science, taking our learning out onto the playground to see what alive, once alive, and never alive things we could find. We are looking forward to beginning our unit on *WW1* in History next week.

Badger's have made a fantastic start to the year and I can't wait to see how much they accomplish this year.

Miss Heath







It's been a great start to the new school year for Foxes, the children have really impressed us with their enthusiasm for learning and their excellent effort levels. We have started some really interesting topics such as *Ancient Egyptians* in History, *Forces* in Science and *Rivers* in Geography and are really enjoying our new class reader called *'Cloudbusting'* which is written as a poem!

We have also linked our Art work to the theme of the *Egyptians* and began to create textured surfaces for our art such as the Egyptians would have used when writing on papyrus.

In PE, the new 4 square game in the playground has been a huge hit with our Foxes and it has been lovely seeing them continue this game throughout playtime with other friends across the school.

Well done on a super start to the year Foxes! **Mrs Brown**



Lions





Class News:

Our newly-formed class of Year 4/5 Lions has made such a brilliant start to the 2025/26 season. I couldn't be more impressed with how this fantastic group of children have settled into life in their new learning environment and how well they have responded to all of the new routines which come with working alongside a new teacher and all of the higher expectations placed on them as they move up through the school.

We are beginning to launch into a lot of our Term One topics, which include Forces in Science, Tropical Rainforests in Geography and Anglo Saxons and Vikings in History.

The Year 4/5 Lions have already shown themselves to be a very impressive cohort of learners and I can immediately see how much they are all destined to have a really successful academic year.

Mr Daniels



Eagles Class News:





It's been a fantastic start to an exciting year for the Eagles! I've been impressed by how well the children have settled in. They've adapted quickly to new routines, embraced expectations and risen to the challenges of Year 6 with maturity and enthusiasm. Already, Eagles are stepping into their roles as school role models, leading by example and consistently demonstrating excellent behaviour for the younger pupils to follow.

We've hit the ground running with our learning. In Maths, we've been exploring numbers up to ten million, deepening our understanding of place value and number patterns. In English, we've been using colons to introduce lists and ideas in our writing and we're already immersed in Chapter 4 of our class Guided Reading book, 'Warrior Boy', which has sparked some thoughtful discussions around identity and bravery.

In Latin, we've begun learning about the past continuous tense and have made links with our English grammar



work to support our understanding. The children have shown impressive skill and enthusiasm when speaking and writing in Latin, creating a lively and engaged classroom atmosphere.

In Science, we've started our unit on light. The children are learning how light travels in straight lines and how this enables us to see objects.

In PE, we've kicked off the term with football. We've been focusing on dribbling techniques, learning how to keep control of the ball using different parts of the foot and improving our spatial awareness during movement. Teamwork and communication have been key themes as we continue to develop our skills.

I'm really looking forward to seeing the continued progress of the Eagles this term. Keep up the excellent work. Well done, team!

Miss Woods

The PTA would like to welcome everyone to the new school year. We hope you all had a relaxing summer in the sunshine Our first meeting of this new term is on Thursday 18th September at 3.15 in the lodge at the upper side of the school. We will be setting out our ideas and confirming dates for the year ahead.

We will have refreshments including cake!
It would be lovely to see you if you feel you have time, energy or ideas to bring to us for all of our fundraising efforts this year.
Your children are welcome to join us - of course we do all these events for their benefit!

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the PTA, we'd be very happy to talk.
You can contact Stef on 07790778453 / stefmills@aol.com

Wraparound Care

Welcome back! It's been wonderful to see the children return refreshed and ready for the new school year. Breakfast Club has been buzzing with friends catching up over a healthy meal, while activities, games, and outdoor play remain as popular as ever. Everyone has enjoyed exploring the vibrant new playground markings, with the Four Square game proving a big hit.

Next week we will be welcoming some Duckling children who will be starting school full time, we have places available and these can be booked on ParentPay or by calling the school office if it's the same day.

Start of Term Reminder: Staying Safe Online

Welcome back to a brand-new term! As our pupils dive into exciting learning adventures -both in the classroom and online- it's a great time to remind families about the importance of internet safety.

At school, we teach children how to use technology responsibly, but your support at home makes all the difference. Here are a few simple tips to help keep your child safe online:

- **Talk regularly** about what they're doing online and who they're interacting with.
- **Set clear boundaries** around screen time and device use.
- **Use parental controls** to help filter content and monitor activity.
- **Encourage open conversations** let children know they can come to you if something doesn't feel right.

Together, we can help our children become confident, respectful, and safe digital citizens. If you'd like more advice or resources, feel free to contact the school or visit Childnet or Internet Matters.





Please can all children have a pair of named wellies in school at all times please. We have lots of storage to keep them safe and this means that the children can use our fabulous grounds year round without ruining their lovely new school shoes!

If you have any unwanted wellies that your children have grown out of, we would really appreciate donations for spares.

A note about safeguarding...



If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school office and ask to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or any of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman (maternity leave), Mrs Purnell & Miss Woods.

The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

School Office



As we start the new academic year we thought that a few reminders for returning parents and introductions to St Mary's school life for our new parents would be helpful.

Firstly an introduction, there are two of us that work in the school office and between us we manage the administration and day to day communication in the school and nursery. Miss Rose Govey is our Receptionist / Administrator & I am the school Office Manager, my name is Mrs Emma Blackmore, we work closely together as a team.

The school office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm, you are able to contact us via Seesaw, email - office@stmarys.mnsp.org.uk or you can leave a message on the answerphone 01761 470245 and if requested, we will return your call as soon as possible.

Please remember that if your child is unable to attend school that you need to let us know by 8.55am by any of the methods above stating the reason for their absence. We ask that if they are unwell you give a brief description of their illness/ symptoms, rather than stating unwell.

SCHOOL LUNCH BOOKING - deadline is 11.59pm Thursday for meals the following week.

Please ensure you pre-book your child's school meals. A universal free school meal can be ordered for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children who are eligible for Free School Meals / Pupil premium can also pre order a free school meal. If you are unsure if you are eligible please complete this online form from BANES.

https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/form/apply-free-school-meals

Any children who have not pre-booked a school lunch will need to bring a packed lunch. There will be no spare lunches prepared by the school kitchen. If your child arrives in school without a packed lunch or a school lunch booking we will call to ask you to bring them in a packed lunch from home.

Breakfast & After School Clubs are bookable from now. If you wish to pay by Tax Free Childcare or need a monthly invoice please let the office now. All other bookings must be paid for in advance of the club being attended.

Prices:

- £4.75 Breakfast Club inc Breakfast from 7.30am
- £3.50 short after school club until 4.15pm please provide a snack
- £7.50 long after school club until 6pm please provide a snack / light tea.

Bookable on Parentpay or on the day with the office (subject to spaces)

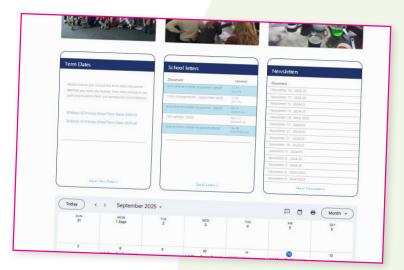
Parent /Carer events at school

For afternoon parent workshops the gates/doors will be opened 10 mins before the start time, allowing enough time to sign in. We are unable to let parents in before this.

For morning parent workshops we ask parents to wait until after the 8.55am bell to come to the lobby to sign in. We have a small lobby and it can get very busy and very noisy and we need to ensure that any late arriving children can sign in first.

If you are unsure when events are happening you can always check out our <u>website</u>, where you will find lots of useful information, including a school calendar, term dates and newsletters!

We are always happy to help if we can with any questions or queries you may have - please pop by the office at drop off or pick up times or email us.



Thought for the Week

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6 - NIV)

So the summer is over and we're all back to school. If you've been doing this even as half as long as I have, you can sometimes feel a bit flat at this point in the year; like you're going through the motions. "Do their shoes still fit?" "Where did their lunchbox end up?" "How do I pay for things now?"

Even though it is a new start - a new year, a new teacher, maybe even a new school - there are still lots of routines that have to start up again that we probably haven't been missing.

Coupled with this, the summer has come to an end. I'm not sure about you, but there have been signs of Autumn for a week or so now and this last weekend, I really noticed the evenings beginning to creep in again. Wait until the clocks go back and it's dark at half past four!

There has also been some troubling things happening nationwide as well. Although not as disturbing as the riots last summer, it has left many of us feeling upset and worried. Whatever your views, it can be very disturbing to see people reverting to violence.

Today's verses were written by King Solomon, who ruled Israel about 2900 years ago. He wrote a lot of The Book of Proverbs, which contains hundreds of wise sayings (although it is believed that Solomon wrote about 3,000 proverbs in total).

To help people remember parts from the Bible, different musical artists create songs that include the words from the verses. I remember hearing a song based on these verses during the 1990s and it became a bit of an <u>earworm</u>. Although I found it quite annoying at the time, it has meant that these verses have remained with me for about 30 years now and they have been a source of comfort during difficult times.

There is so much happening in the world today that we probably don't understand and can't explain, but these verses remind us not to rely on ourselves and what we know. It tells us that we just need to trust God and to follow him in everything we do. This isn't easy, but the good thing is that if we do make a mistake, we can say sorry and start again.

So, even with all the annoying routines, the darker evenings and distressing world events, I hope this term starts well for you. And if you haven't considered these verses before, maybe now's the time to start. Trusting in ourselves rarely works. We often need the support of others to get us through difficult times. Why not ask God for this support?

Paul Marvin (Christian Distinctiveness MAT Lead)



Dates for your Calendar 2025/2026 - Term 1

Date	Event
15.09.25	Ducklings parent meet the teacher 3:15pm
18.09.25	Open Day 9:30am
23.09.25	Badgers parent workshop 2:00pm
26.09.25	Jeans for Genes Day (children & staff can wear jeans / non uniform)
01.10.25	Open Day 9:30am
02.10.25	Ducklings parent workshop 9:00am
06.10.25	Individual & sibling photos from 8:45am
08.10.25	Rabbits parent workshop 9:00am
09.10.25	Foxes parent workshop 2:00pm
10.10.25	Hello Yellow Day (children & staff are invited to wear yellow / non uniform)
15.10.25	Eagles assembly & parent workshop 9:00am
17.10.25	Open morning - 9:30am
17.10.25	Excellence Exhibition (open to parents before 8.55am registration bell & after 3.15pm end of day)
20.10.25	Lions parent workshop 9:00am
22.10.25	Wear Red for Racism (children & staff are invited to wear red / non uniform)
23.10.25	Foxes Harvest Service at the Church
24.10.25	Inset day - school closed for children
03.11.25	Autumn Term 2



Community day

Saturday 13 September, 12 - 4pm

Join us at the RUH and Lansdown Cricket Club, entry is free

- Meet RUH staff
- Emergency vehicles Live music (12:30 9:30pm)
- Health checks and information
- Art workshops (12.30 3.30pm)
- Careers information
- Food and drink
- Family-friendly activities
- Fundraising for RUHX
- Meet PAT dogs





Our free-of-charge Discovery Days take place each term and are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.





Sign up using the QR code or visit wema.org.uk/discoveryday



Roald Dahl Story

This year we have our Roald Dahl trail in the children's area

- how many Roald Dahl books

Aidsomer Norton. Children are

invited to decorate and colour sweets, chocolates, lollies and

golden tickets and add to our

displays. At Keynsham library

Dahl display featuring pictures

of characters from his books and articles comparing film portrayals of his characters

compared to his idea of how

they should look from his

there is a wonderful Roald

can you spot? We also have Charlie and the Chocolate

factory themed displays at

Bath Central Library a



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Here's what is happening in your Libraries this week

For any ticketed events, the link will be online via Social Media or via the blog.

Bath Central Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Bath Children's Literature Festival Venue

26 September - 5 October

*Book Tickets Directly with Lit Fest

Children's Storytime - with a regency twist! Stories will be aimed at children aged 0-5.

Regency dress up is encouraged. Jane Austen colouring will be provided. Drop in

Tuesday 16 Sept 10.30 - 11.30am

10.30 - 11.00am

(term-time only)

Every Wednesday

Keynsham Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme

Baby Bounce & Rhyme

Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

Storytime

Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years. Midsomer Norton Library

Drop in suitable for parents & carers

with children aged 0 - 5 years.

9.30 - 10.00am & 10.30 - 11.00am **Every Tuesday** (term-time only)

10.30 - 11.00am **Every Thursday**

(term-time only)

10.30 - 11.00am **Every Monday** (term-time only)

10.30 - 11.00am **Every Wednesday** (term-time only)

Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years. **Mobile Library**

The Mobile Library may stop near you! Pop in for a visit, return your books, collect a reservation & choose something new to read. You can do all this & more with your B&NES or LibrariesWest library card.

For the Route Timetable, please visit: https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/mobile-library-service

▶ Thursday 18th September ▶ Wednesday 1st October ▶ Friday 17th October

▶ Thursday 13th November ▶ Wednesday 3rd December



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR

OPEN MORNINGS

St.Mary's CofE Primary School

St.Mary's is an 'OUTSTANDING' school with a big vision of 'I can do all things'. We would be

delighted to meet you and take you on a tour of our beautiful school in Timsbury on one

of the following dates at 9.30am. If these dates do not suit you, please contact the office

FOR MORE INFORMATION

and we can arrange an alternative.

Lansdown View, Timsbury, BA2 0JR





BIO – JACKIE CROSS

My name is Jackie Cross, although the children in my last school used to call me Mrs Happy! I have been a music teacher for the last 36 years and I spent most of my teaching career as Head of Music at Kingswood Prep School in Bath, where I taught music to children from age 2 in Nursery through to age 11 in Year 6. I also have lots of experience giving individual piano and singing lessons to children and teenagers. I have lived in Peasedown for 27 years and you may also see me on Reception at The Hive.

I am really excited to bring Shine Music to Peasedown St John. Beginning in September 2025, I will run a music group for children aged 2 – 4 years (Pre-School) called Twinkle Musicians; a choir for children in Reception to Year 2, called Sparkle Choir, and a choir for children in Year 3 to Year 6, called Shine Choir. I will also be offering a limited number of individual music lessons in piano or singing.

WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD JOIN SHINE MUSIC?

Learning music from a young age offers significant benefits for your child's cognitive, social and emotional development. It enhances skills such as memory, attention, gross and fine-motor control, and can improve language processing, vocabulary, reasoning and even mathematical abilities. Furthermore, music fosters creativity, selfression and self-discipline, whilst also promoting social skills, self-confidence and emotional well-being. Music increases the number of connections made on both sides of our brain, and long-term studies have shown that musical children succeed both academically, socially and emotionally. Music is fantastic for mental health, and is a world-wide language that connects us across cultures and generations. Whether playing instruments or singing, children who join Shine Music will have fun, make new friends and learn new skills. I hope they will gain a sense of community and belonging, a love for music and a place where they can SHINE!





CONTACT INFORMATION



07840739515



jackieshinemusic@gmail.com



The Hive, Bath Rd, Peasedown St John, Bath BA2 8DH



For more info & to register: jackieshinemusic@gmail.com

TWINKLE MUSICIANS

Twinkle Musicians is a music group for children aged 2 – 4 years, but not yet at school.

We will sing fun action songs, play percussion together, try out larger instruments, dance, move to music and have a sound-story time.

The sessions will run on Tuesday afternoons, in the Acacia Room at The Hive, from 2.15pm – 3.00pm. Parents or carers must stay with their child or children at all times.

Numbers limited to 12 children maximum.

Cost £6 per session, to be paid half-termly.

Will your child be a Twinkle



SHINE CHOIR

Shine Choir is open to all children from Year 3 to Year 6, in any school, or home-schooled. We will learn to sing a wide variety of songs in many different styles. We will sing rounds, and songs in several parts as we increase our vocal skills by listening to each other, supporting each other and learning new singing techniques. Sometimes we will sing

using words, sometimes using music notation and sometimes from memory. Shine Choir will perform to parents and friends at the end of each term.

Shine Choir will run on Tuesday afternoons, in the Acacia Room at The Hive, from 4.30pm – 5.15pm. Parents or carers should register their child or children at the Acacia Room on arrival, and must pick up promptly at the

Numbers are limited to 25 children maximum.

Cost £6 per session, to be paid half-termly.

Are you going to Shine today?

PIANO OR SINGING LESSONS



I currently have 5 spaces for individual piano or singing lessons for any children or teenagers aged 7 or older, beginners to more experienced musicians.

These lessons will take place on Tuesdays, in the Acacia Room at The Hive, from 5.30pm to 8.00pm. Lessons will be 30 minutes long and cost £20 per lesson, to be paid half-termly. We can learn for fun or work towards music exams or other qualifications. Please note, piano lessons will take place using a digital piano because there is no acoustic piano at The Hive. For all enquiries about individual music lessons,

SPARKLE CHOIR

Sparkle Choir is open to all children from Reception to Year 2, in any school, or home-schooled. Each week we will warm up our voices with fun vocal activities, learn all sorts of songs together, improve our singing skills, and enjoy some giggles along the way! We will learn what it means to be in a choir team together, to support each other, sing with each other, and give our first performances later in the year. Sparkle Choir will run on

Sparkle Choir Will run on
Tuesday afternoons, in the Acacia Room at
The Hive, from 3.30pm - 4.15pm.
Parents or carers should register their child
or children at the Acacia Room on arrival,
and must pick up promptly
at the end of the session.
Numbers limited to 25 children
maximum. Cost £6 per session,

to be paid half-termly.
Will you Sparkle today?



MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

please email me directly.

For more information and to register your child for any of the Shine Music activities

Toriany or the armine music activities
 Twinkle Musicians, Sparkle Choir, Shine Choir
 or individual music lessons please contact me
 directly via email: iackieshinemusic@gmail.com





