



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

*Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation*

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Newsletter 10

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

## Friday 3rd February Booknic Reading Event

Children in **Foxes**, **Badgers** and **Lions** will be taking part in the 'Young Readers Programme' this year, funded by the National Literacy Trust.

The 'Young Readers Programme' provides free books for children to take home and keep, encouraging a love of reading through fun activities and book events. Reading for enjoyment is important for many reasons, and research shows it helps to improve children's wellbeing, and their learning in school.

There will be **three** events over the course of this school year where children will bring home a **free book**.

The first event will be on **Friday 3rd February** and will have a booknic theme! We invite children to **bring a teddy bear** in for this fun filled, teddy bears booknic!

At the event, there will be a range of fun activities as well as an opportunity for your child to choose a book to keep for their very own.

Please help support your child in reading for enjoyment by asking them about their new book and looking at it with them.

We are really looking forward to our work with the National Literacy Trust this year and are very excited for the amazing reading opportunities it will provide.

To find out more about the Young Readers Programme, visit [literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-readers-programme](http://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/young-readers-programme)

To find out more about the National Literacy Trust, visit [literacytrust.org.uk](http://literacytrust.org.uk)

## SEND Coffee Morning



We will be hosting our next parents' coffee morning on Thursday 2nd February. Our speech and language therapist (Lizzie Fox) will be joining us to give an overview of the importance of speech and language and provide us with some top tips about things we can do at home to help. All parents are welcome to join us to ask any questions about speech and language, SEND in general or talk to the SEND team. As always, this will be an informal event around a cup of coffee and some cake with time to chat. It would be great to see lots of you at this event.

## House Points Winners



Well done to the **Emerald** for being our House Point winners this week.

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations to **Badgers** last week and this week **Foxes** for excellent attendance.

## Christian Values Awards



The children recognised for demonstrating our Christian Values over the last two weeks are:

**Courage:** Dawson, Joe P, Tavie-Ann  
**Service:** Merryn, Flo

## St Mary's Netball Team

Another spirited performance from our netball team who are growing with confidence every time they play. We have some new players this term who played their first ever match and were very welcome additions to our squad. The team sadly lost to a strong St Benedict's side, but showed great determination and team spirit.

Well done to: Lily W, Heidi, Noah, Annabel, Esme, Lily M, Jasmine, Alissa and Ava.

# A few exciting changes in Hedgehogs...

As you will know Hedgehogs Nursery is now very much a part of St Mary's school. During the Autumn Term a huge investment was made and the children now benefit from an exciting range of new resources to enhance their learning environment.

If your child is turning three in the Summer Term you could be entitled to 30 hours of free childcare. Please get in touch with us to find out more.

## Watch this space...

Our next plan is to develop our outdoor area. If you ever have any old utensils or kitchen equipment we are always looking to update our mud kitchen selection.



			
<b>Miss James</b> Room Leader Mon/Wed/Fri	<b>Mrs Harrison</b> Teaching Assistant Tues/Wed/Thurs	<b>Miss Jacobs</b> Teaching Assistant Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri	<b>Miss Woodland</b> Apprentice Mon-Fri
			
<b>Mr Thompson</b> Deputy Head / SENCO Mon - Fri	<b>Mrs Winney</b> EYFS Lead / Reception Teacher Mon/Tues/Fri	<b>Mrs Munro</b> Reception Teacher Tues/Wed	<b>Mrs Blackmore</b> Office Manager Mon-Fri



# Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award.

- Ducklings:** Albie, Ben P
- Rabbits:** Merryn, Oscar E
- Badgers:** Theo H, Bobby
- Foxes:** Rachel, Charlie
- Lions:** Ava, Spike, Lola
- Eagles:** Freddie, Mia



## Children's Mental Health Week - 6-10th Feb

This year we are supporting **Children's Mental Health Week** which runs from the 6-10th February. Classes will take time to consider the importance of mental and emotional health and will do a series of activities throughout the week designed to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing. Friday 10th February will be a non-uniform day to give us a chance to raise awareness and also to support the charity Place2Be who work to provide easy access to mental health support for all children.

## Spare clothes

We are in need of spare uniform and Forest School clothes, we would love donations for KS1 children 4 - 8 years old please. (joggers, jumpers, socks, pants, any school uniform in those sizes) Please bring it to the office to donate. Thank you.

## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

We have been making the most of the cold Winter weather the last couple of weeks in Hedgehogs!

The children enjoyed lots of welly walks this week and using different tools to break up the ice they discovered, we even helped rescue some of our toys that have been stuck inside big blocks of ice in our garden! Our school starters are doing an amazing job learning our sounds of the week and playing lots of games that have helped us learn our sound 'd'. We spoke about Lunar New Year with the children and they enjoyed learning about traditions from other cultures!

EYFS Team



## Outside Achievements



Congratulations to **Ben, Robin** and **Max** for being super swimmers and collecting so many certificates this week.



# Ducklings



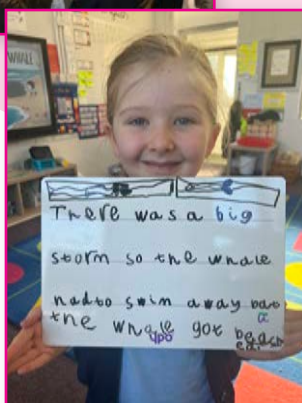
## Class News:

We have loved having lots of interesting visitors in Ducklings Class during the last few weeks as part of our "People Who Help Us" topic. Last week Midwife, Jen, came to visit us and this week a very familiar Dentist popped in.

The children have enjoyed learning about new roles, aspirations for future careers are being established. In Maths, our focus has been on reading and ordering numbers to 10 and beyond. The children are getting much better at finding and naming a digit when out of sequence and recalling a number that is one more or one less than a stated number.

In Art, we have continued our learning of colour by looking at the works of Kandinsky. The children have explored colour mixing and making marks with shapes. We have even discussed how some colours make us feel. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our parent workshop today. A very creative morning for everyone.

Mrs Winney



# Rabbits



## Class News:

Rabbit Class has been having 'snow' much fun. We have been inquisitive scientists investigating which material makes the best fake snow. We had to plan our investigation and make sure it was a fair test. Ask your child about the results. We had to mark against a very specific set of criteria. We have also been bird watchers as part of the 'Big Schools Birdwatch'. We've been tracking the different types of birds we see and made bird feeders in Forest School.

Our Geography learning has been around weather, we have used Google Earth to explore the world. We found the hot and cold places of the world and have learned all about the equator. I was amazed with how much the children already knew about animals around the world!

As writers we have been learning to retell our class story 'Storm Whale'. We have used our impressive imaginations to come up with new ways to save the whale when it was beached. We've also been using ambitious vocabulary.

In Maths, we have been building numbers to twenty in multiple ways. We have challenged ourselves to find missing numbers and represent a number in as many different ways as possible!

A great two weeks Rabbits, keep it up!

Mrs. Roberts

# Badgers



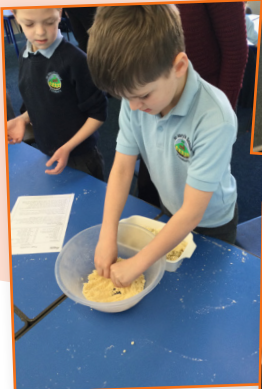
## Class News:

We have been busy, busy in Badger Class. We were excited to start our 'Great Fire of London' topic in History and the children opened a mysterious suitcase full of clues about what our topic was going to be. Among the artefacts was a loaf of bread from a bakery. The Badgers were thrilled to discover that the Great Fire of London did in fact start in a bakery in Pudding Lane. They were relieved that their bread was a little bit fresher and not over 350 years old!

The children continue to impress me with their fantastic phonics work. They approach their phonics work with such enthusiasm and are making fantastic progress.

Finally, we are enjoying Science, learning about materials and have conducted a variety of experiments looking at which are the best materials for a particular use and how the same materials can have different properties depending on what it is being used for. Another great few weeks Badgers - well done!

Mrs. Brown



# Foxes



## Class News:

There has been a real buzz in Foxes' Class over the last couple of weeks! The first thing the children ask in the morning is 'when are we doing DT?'

They have been really enjoying our topic on 'Eating Seasonably' and have really impressed us with their courage to try new foods. We have made Japanese fruit kebabs and apple crumble with the expert help of Mrs Roper! It was a lovely treat to have a warm bowl of crumble before assembly on Friday.

In English, we are writing to persuade Mr Zuckerman not to kill Wilbur for his Christmas dinner. The children are using flattery, rhetorical questions, emotive language and imperative verbs to be as persuasive as possible. They are doing a fantastic job and we can't wait to see the finished letters.

Finally, please join us on **Wednesday 8th February** at 2:15pm for our next parent workshop. We will be performing the songs we have learned with Mrs Munro on the ukulele and showcasing our Science knowledge of rocks and minerals with Mrs Downing. We hope you can make it!

Miss Guest and Mrs Downing

# Lions



## Class News:

What another couple of fantastic weeks learning in Lion Class. In Computing lessons, we have been learning how to write and debug algorithms. We learned how to repeat commands using a count-controlled loop.

In Science, we enjoyed investigating air resistance. We ran across the playground with a sheet of paper and felt the air resistance pushing against the paper. We also made parachutes and investigated whether the size of the parachute affected the speed at which they fell. During our swimming lessons, we walked in the shallow end and felt the force of water resistance slowing us down. We made streamlined shapes to help us glide further through the water.

In Geography, we have learned that not all mountains are formed in the same way. We had great fun pushing paper together to make our own folded mountains.

We have used a range of different materials to create backgrounds to our portraits in Art lessons. We carefully considered where the colours would go and how the portrait will look when it is placed over the top. Some stunning results!

Mrs. Hayward



# Eagles



## Class News:

The Year 6 Class at St Mary's always visit 'Lifeskills' at some point during the school year. 'Lifeskills' is an interactive centre in the Create Centre in Bristol. It is built as a realistic village, designed to teach children how to deal with potentially difficult or dangerous situations in a safe environment. The programme of activities which takes place there is specifically aimed at the Year 6 age range and it aims to show pupils that they should be beginning to take personal responsibility for their own safety. As they are taken around the centre by the volunteer guides, the children learn how to assess risk and cope with difficult situations by being confronted by a range of different scenarios.

It was a valuable, enjoyable and memorable experience as the children negotiated their way through a myriad of different scenarios. They were faced with some 'dangerous' situations which included witnessing an attack in a dark alley, escaping a house which had caught fire and dealing with a casualty who had collapsed and was unconscious. They were then trained in how to phone the emergency services. Alongside these very serious situations were more general commonplace safety issues the children might be faced with during their everyday lives, such as how to increase their safety when out walking or cycling, when in the kitchen making toast or a cup of tea, and also how to identify and remove hazards in the home which could cause injury. There was even a Co-op supermarket there where the children learned to ask for a receipt and to check their change before leaving the shop.

It was a brilliant morning full of vital information which our Eagles found interesting and useful as well as good fun too. There is always a real buzz on the coach on the way back because everybody is excitedly sharing their experiences. The staff at 'Lifeskills' were glowing in their praise for our class, saying how engaged they were. Well done to all of our fantastic Eagles!

Mr Daniels



# Courage

The Public Speaking and Debating club helped to lead our Collective Worship time this week. Jedd and Bear had a lively debate on whether the Monarchy should exist in the UK. This was followed by a thought provoking debate by Mog and Lily on whether additional housing should be built on existing green spaces (chaired by Elsie). The children are in the early stages of learning to debate and they hosted the collective worship in preparation for the upcoming 'Speak Out' debating competition. All of the children demonstrated our Christian Value of Courage by having a live debate in front of the school.



## Mid-Somerset Festival

St.Mary's will be entering children from year 1 to year 6 into the 'Mid-Somerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition' on **Tuesday 7th March 2023**. The event is hosted in Bath City Centre at the Bath Citadel (Salvation Army). This event will happen in the school day (exact timings will be sent closer to the time). The children will need to memorise and perform a short passage or poem from a children's book. The aim of this event is to promote speaking and to give pupils the opportunity to develop the skills and self-confidence associated with public speaking. It is a fantastic event and we'd love to see lots of children take this opportunity. The deadline for entries is the end of January.

## Dates for your Calendar 2022/23 - Term 3

Date	Event	Notes
Tuesday 31st January	BIBLE Presentation	Whole School
Thursday 2nd February	SEN Coffee Morning with Speech and Language Therapist 9am	
Fri 3rd February	Y2 - Y5 Reading Event 9-12pm	
Thursday 6th February	Rabbits' Class Parent Workshop 2pm	Rabbit Class
Wednesday 8th February	MNSP SpeakOut!	
Wednesday 8th February	Multi-Sports EVENT KS2 @ Writhlington	KS2
Wednesday 8th February	Foxes' Parent Workshop 2:15pm	Fox Class
Thursday 9th February	Scientist visit to Year 2	Badger Class
Friday 10th February	"Dress to Impress" Non Uniform Day to support Children's Mental Health Week.	Suggested donation £1 per child - available to pay through Parent Pay.
Tuesday 7th March	Mid-Somerset Festival	Y1-Y6

# COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value COURAGE. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK TOGETHER about Courage

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

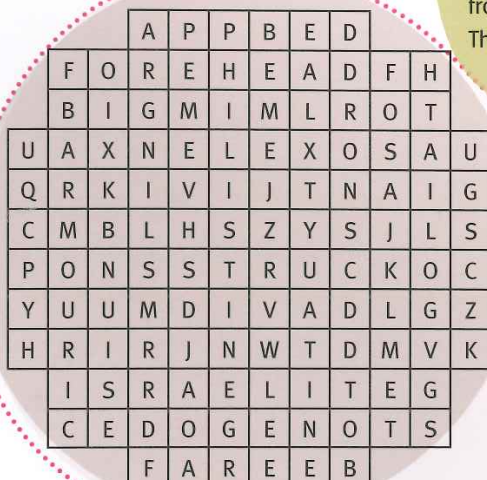
Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

## THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

*Nelson Mandela*



## READ TOGETHER...

### The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17

## QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

- |            |          |           |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ARMOUR     | BOY      | DAVID     |
| COURAGE    | FOREHEAD | GIANT     |
| GOLIATH    | GOD      | ISRAELITE |
| PHILISTINE | SHIELD   | SLING     |
| SOLDIER    | STONE    | STRUCK    |





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## w/c 30 January



### Bath Central Library

#### Storytime Session

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 31 Jan

#### Baby Bounce & Rhyme, Family Fun

Wednesday 11.00 - 11.30 am 1 Feb

#### Boy Giant Sand Sculpture

Mon - Sat During opening hours 18 Jan - April

#### Art in the Library - Tin City by Jo Nye

Mon - Sat During opening hours 5 Jan - 24 Feb

#### Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat During opening hours

#### Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

### Keynsham Library

#### Baby Bounce & Rhyme

Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00am 31 Jan  
10.30 - 11.00am

#### Storytime & Craft

Thursday 11.00 - 11.30 am 2 Feb

### Midsomer Norton Library

#### Baby Bounce & Rhyme

Monday 11.00 - 11.30am 30 Jan

#### Storytime Sessions

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00 am 1 Feb

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

# RULES FOR USING THE INTERNET SAFELY



## BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SHARE ONLINE

Never post personal information online, like your address or telephone number.

## THINK BEFORE YOU POST

Don't upload or share anything you wouldn't want your parents, teachers or friends to see. Once you press 'send' it is no longer private. You can't be sure who will end up seeing it.



## BE CAREFUL WHO YOU CHAT TO

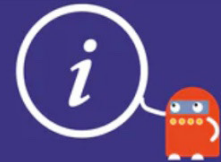
Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are. Never go alone to meet someone you have met online. Always take an adult.

## KEEP IT PRIVATE

Always remember to keep your passwords private and make them difficult for other people to guess.

Password

\* \* \* \* \*



Prize Raffle  
on the night

## BARN DANCE

In Aid of the Bath NASS Group  
and Air Ambulance

Saturday 4th March 2023

Paulton Rovers Football Club,  
Winterfield Rd, Paulton, Bristol BS39 7RF

7.30pm till 11.45pm

Adult £15  
Child £10  
(Under 14 Yrs)

Ploughmans Buffet Included

Contact Stuart Tibbs Tel: 07702 501110

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Free School Meal Vouchers during February Half Term 2023**

As you may be aware, over the last 2 years Bath and North East Somerset Council has provided funding during school holiday periods to support households with children who receive benefit related free school meals, by issuing vouchers to parents. The Local Authority is looking to provide similar support during this February half term.

Each voucher will have a value of £15 per child. The Household Support Fund that B&NES receives from the Government, is the funding source for these vouchers, and has restrictions on how the money must be spent. Households who are in emergency need may be able to access other support with food across the area, including the council's Welfare Support Team <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-welfare-support> and the Community Wellbeing Hub <https://communitywellbeinghub.co.uk/>

**The February Half Term voucher system will be the same as previously used for the Christmas holiday period.**

#### **Please note:**

**Since Christmas we have worked with both the Free School Meals Team and Early Years Team, to ensure children/young adults that are no longer in receipt of Benefit Related Free School Meals are removed from the automated drop.**

**Parents/guardians affected by this data matching exercise will receive an email regarding this.**

#### **Eligible parents/guardians who received a voucher during the Christmas holiday period**

Parents/guardians who received a voucher during the Christmas holiday period will automatically be sent an e-mail that will ask if you wish to receive a voucher for your eligible children for the February Half Term by clicking a hyperlink. This will generate a further e-mail which contains the select codes with links to the council's supplier, Hawk Incentives. This will then take you to a landing page where you will be presented with a selection of supermarkets to choose from, and a reward total which may be split by different supermarkets. Select codes may be added for each qualifying child to increase the reward total, and these will be issued to the value of £15 per child for the February half-term

Parents/Guardians will not need to reapply unless they have received an email following our data-match exercise noted above.

Parents and Guardians should receive an e-mail during the afternoon of Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023. If you have not received the automated e-mail by the end of that day, please check in your Spam and/or Trash folder before contacting the Benefits team on 01225 477277 (option 1).

### **For parents/guardians who are eligible for Benefit Related Free School Meals but have not claimed a voucher previously**

For parents/guardians who are eligible for free school meals but have not claimed a voucher previously, you can make a claim through the council's web portal which will open in the afternoon of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The web link below will request you to submit an e-mail address and some details about yourself and your child/children including your National Insurance Number. From this information we will cross check with the benefit related free school meals register and issue a code back to your e-mail address where applicable. This may take a few days to complete.

Web Link:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meal-supermarket-vouchers>

Once you have applied for vouchers, eligible households will receive Select codes with links to the council's supplier, Hawk Incentives. This will take you to a landing page where you will be presented with a selection of supermarkets to choose from, and a reward total which may be split by different supermarkets. Select codes may be added for each qualifying child to increase the reward total, and these will be issued to the value of £15 per child for the February half-term.

Once you have selected your chosen supermarket you may checkout via your shopping basket, and after having entered your name and email address, vouchers will be dispatched to your email address within 24-72 hours.

### **For all parents and guardians**

Please ensure you are happy with your choice of supermarket **before** you checkout, as this **cannot be changed** once it has been picked. **It is also very important that upon receiving your voucher for your chosen supermarket that you download and save it to your smartphone or computer, as replacements will not be issued.** Full terms and conditions are displayed on the voucher.

**The select codes will only be valid for 2 months once issued, however once a chosen supermarket is selected the normal terms and conditions of that store apply, which range from 12 months to two years.**

If you do not have electronic means of contacting us, then please phone the Benefits team on 01225 477277 (option 1) where you will be asked to provide the same data and a voucher will be made available to you via alternative means depending on your circumstances.

### **Easter Holiday period**

The council can also confirm that it has secured the funding to be able to provide vouchers for the Easter holiday period. We will provide further details on this in the next term.

Yours sincerely

Bath and North East Somerset Council



# February Half Term Holiday Camps



 **13th – 17th February**  
**St Benedicts Primary School,**  
**Radstock**

- **Multi-Skills Camp**



-  Medals for all children
-  Presentation ceremony on the final day of the week (parents welcome)



**£20** Per day

**10%** Whole week discount


**15%** Sibling discount



Inspired Schools

 07494175299

 [hello@inspiredschools.co.uk](mailto:hello@inspiredschools.co.uk)

 [inspiredschools.co.uk/parents](http://inspiredschools.co.uk/parents)