



Public Speaking at St Mary's

Pupils at St Mary's Primary have recently won two big competitions, competing against lots of other local schools.

Speak Out

This year St Mary's Speak Out team of Mog, Ben and Elsie won the competition! Zach was there to step in if needed as well. Speak Out is a speaking and debating competition where 3 students are selected to go and argue their opinions about a chosen topic. The chosen topic was *Online Friends - Are They Real?* Elsie was the chairperson, the person who introduces and rounds off the debate. Mog spoke for the motion, saying why online friends are real, and Ben spoke against, saying why online friendships are dangerous and definitely not real.

Mog said that she found it very fun but it was scary going up in front of the big crowd. She said that she couldn't believe they won and that everyone laughed at their jokes.

Ben said that it was pretty scary when they were called up to go onto the stage and he was really happy that they won because he didn't expect them to actually win! He also said some of the other schools were really good as well; they had some really interesting topics.

Mid-Somerset Festival

In the Mid-Somerset Festival, pupils from Years 1-6 perform poems in front of a judge. The competition was held in Bath. The winner of the Mid-Somerset Festival this year was Year 6 pupil Elsie, who performed the poem *Cat Message* and was presented with a trophy.

Elsie said, "I was really shocked and really happy to win. Everybody did really well and I'm glad that it was a good last Mid-Somerset Festival for me."

It is great to see the pupils at St Mary's get a chance to show what they can do and that they can believe in themselves to go on and perform a poem or a debate. Having an opportunity to do public speaking as a child is a great way to overcome the fear of it.

They were both big wins for the school and in the future they will be doing lots more things like it!

St Mary's News Team



House Points Winners

Well done to our House Point joint winners this week, with **Emerald** & **Sapphire** having the most gems. With not long left until the end of term who will win?

Attendance Winners

Congratulations to **Foxes Class** for having the highest percentage attendance last week. This weeks champions are **Eagles Class** - well done



The Speak Out team with their awards.



The team that performed at the Mid-Somerset Festival.

Gardening Club

We will be starting to plant seeds in the greenhouse this term in preparation for the return of gardening club after Easter. Any donations of seeds would be greatly appreciated. The following seeds would be particularly useful:

- Sunflower seeds
- Tomato seeds
- Cucumber seeds
- Sweetcorn seeds
- Pea seeds
- Mangetout seeds
- Broad bean seeds
- Potato tubers

Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings	Shay, Lilly
Rabbits	Kaenon, Juliette
Badgers	Seyon, Kiereese
Foxes	Freddie WJ, Robin
Lions	Aidan, Sydney
Eagles	Spike & Isabella, Imogen & Zach



Hedgehogs



Class News:

What a fun packed two weeks we have had in Hedgehogs! One highlight has been **World Book Day**. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite stories with the class, some from home and some from our library. Some of the children dressed up as their favourite character and some made their own costumes out of materials we had in nursery and they all looked fantastic! We enjoyed lots of story based activities such as reading *'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'* and then we created a story map of what we could remember.

Last newsletter I spoke too soon about the weather improving and we have enjoyed snow, wind and rain! Nothing has stopped us from enjoying the outside and we have had lots of fun in Forest School making dens, assault courses and as always making lots of potions in our mud kitchen!

We have lots of fun activities planned for the next two weeks- look out for the next newsletter to hear all about them.

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Ducklings

Class News:

What a wonderful two weeks we've had. We really enjoyed sharing **Mother's Day** with so many parents. We hope you liked the singing!

We enjoyed our bookwork last week to celebrate **World Book Week**. We had such fun dressing up, reading books with Years 5 & 6, and going on a book hunt around the playground. Thank you for all the fun photographs you sent in for our **Extreme Reader Challenge**. We enjoyed sharing them in assembly. Please keep reading as much as you can and remember to sign the reading record.

This week is **Science Week**, we've predicted, discovered and recorded many investigations. We've turned cream into

butter with a lot of shaking! We predicted shaking the cream could make the jar explode and even turn into ice cream. We've enjoyed making a bridge for the *'Three Billy Goats Gruff'*. Were the three goats able to cross the bridge? Was it made strong enough? We've also had fun making and measuring how far a paper aeroplane can fly!

We're enjoying our topic of people who help us and are regularly dressing up as different characters. Many prefer to be policemen or doctors. We had a great visit from Arthur's Mum this week who showed us what it was like to be a doctor and we were able to learn about how doctors help us get well.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits

Class News:

Another two weeks have gone by so quickly. Rabbit Class has had lots of fun celebrating **World Book Day** and **Mother's Day**. It was lovely to see so many great costumes and extreme reader photos. Rabbit Class enjoyed sharing a book with year 3 and going on a book hunt around the playground.

In English, we enjoyed celebrating Book Week by writing book reviews. We started by choosing a book to review and thinking carefully about our own opinions of the book. We have also been working hard to always include capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in our writing.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about multiplication and division. We have been learning to make arrays and divide by

sharing and grouping. We have also been working on answering more challenging reasoning problems and Rabbit Class has been doing an amazing job at answering these questions carefully.

Finally, this term we have started a new investigation in Science. We have been investigating the question *'Just because I am older, am I taller?'* So far we have been making predictions about what we will find out, creating a class height chart and arranging ourselves into height and age order. We have also been comparing and writing about our findings.

We look forward to sharing some of our learning with you at our class workshop next week on Wednesday 20th of March.

Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:



We've had a busy and fun two weeks in Badger Class. We have enjoyed celebrating **World Book Week** and have read some fantastic books and poems recently including our new writing book: *'The Bear and the Piano'*. We are learning about the progressive verb forms in English and the children are taking on this challenge with great enthusiasm.

In Maths, we are continuing our work on multiplication and division. In Year 2, the children are expected to master the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We complete a times table test 3 times a week and the children are progressing well. You may find a test in their bags which will

help you to identify questions that they are struggling with.

In Art, we are continuing to develop our claywork skills. The children are very good at making a slip now to attach pieces of clay. They are also mastering the skill of rolling and cutting a tile. We look at different artists each week and the children give some thoughtful opinions on their work - we have some future artists and sculptors in the class.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our class assembly on Friday 22nd March followed by our class workshop. We hope you can make it.

Best wishes,
Mrs Newman



Foxes

Class News:



We've had another wonderful two weeks in Foxes Class. We thoroughly enjoyed **World Book Day** and the children's costumes were amazing. They were able to explain their costume and character to the rest of the class. We shared a reading time with Year 1 children, which was fantastic. We completed a treasure hunt and lots of other fun activities throughout the day. We have started our new story *'The Firework's Daughter by Philip Pullman'*.

We have been working hard, learning *how to measure* using metres, centimetres and millimetres. We had our parent workshop during a Maths lesson this week. We had a brilliant time showing our adults our measuring skills. During Science lessons, we have been carrying out investigations and learning how to use charts and graphs to show our results.

In History, we have been learning about how life had changed from the early to the last Stone Age. We learned how people started to create villages and began to grow their own food by farming the land.

In PE, we have continued to develop our dancing skills. This week, we learned how to turn in time to the music and stay in time with each other.

Mrs Hayward

Lions



Class News:

It's been another busy couple of weeks in Lion Class and the term is flying by. We had a lot of fun on **World Book Day** and enjoyed dressing up as characters from our favourite books. We also went on a book treasure hunt and did some shared reading with the Year 2 class which was a lot of fun.

In English, we have been writing stories with a flashback, where there is a story within a story. We have used our class text '*The Butterfly Lion*' as inspiration. Writing a flashback is quite a tricky feature to get the hang of but the Lions have tackled this challenge with great enthusiasm and written some amazing stories as a result.

In Science, we have been continuing our learning about sound. We investigated how sounds are made and how they travel as sound waves. We made telephones using cups and string and experimented with how sound travelled along the string. It was interesting to see whether having the string taut or slack impacted the quality of the sound.

Finally, in Music, we have learned to play three notes on the recorder, b, a and g. We are working hard to stay in tune, to read the musical notes as well as keeping on time.

Keep up the good work Lions!

Mrs Brown



Eagles



Class News:

Last week, we enjoyed lots of different fun activities leading up to our whole school's celebration of reading on **World Book Day**. The book character costumes our Eagles chose to dress up in were amazing. Thank you to all of the parents for your support with this.

In English, we have now completed our newspaper report writing, informing our readers about the strange goings-on in the village written about in '*The Island by Armin Greder*'. We have enjoyed becoming investigative journalists and have gained inspiration from the daily episodes of CBBC Newsround which we watch regularly in class.

In Science, we are currently investigating breakfasts! Our job has been to plan a scientific investigation to answer the

question: 'Do girls eat less cereal than boys?' To help with this, if anybody is able to send us information regarding the amount (in grams) of cereal your child would typically eat in a morning, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you! We are also researching the most popular breakfast choices and will be identifying whether the selections of pupils generally at St Mary's are healthy ones.

Finally, in Dance, our Bhangra performances are taking shape and we have been enjoying learning the different motifs and choreographing routines. We have particularly liked how high-energy this style of dancing is and being able to perform to some very uplifting music.

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath



NSPCC PANTS

During collective worship time this week, we have been talking about PANTS.

Developed in consultation with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS is here to help children understand their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. Pantosaurus has helped 1.5 million parents Talk PANTS and keep their children safe from sexual abuse.



Live Well
Bath & North East Somerset



Support for families and young people with special educational needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Explore the SEND Local Offer to find out what support there is available for young people with SEND and their families. Live Well B&NES includes details of wellbeing groups, social clubs, inclusive activities, holiday clubs, mental health support services and opportunities beyond formal education.

Dedicated information sections signpost to support around benefits and funding, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's), health services and how to access impartial advice and guidance from specialist teams.

Parent Carers of young people with SEND can identify ways they can access support for their role as a parent carer of a child with additional needs.

You can also apply for your child's free Rainbow Resource card providing discreet confirmation of their additional need, and enabling them to access dedicated activity sessions, quiet spaces and support, and in some cases concessions to venues across the South West.

Visit the [SEND Local Offer](#) to find out more.

A note about Safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell.

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

Music Tuition at St Mary's

We can offer Music lessons with an external provider.

Music lessons should be booked directly with the WEMA Service.

We currently have an excellent guitar teacher on site with 2 additional slots available.

Please contact visit [https://wema.org.uk/young-](https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/)

[people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/](https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/)

You will then be sent a link to an online application form. You can also call the West of England Music and Arts Service on 01454 863147.

For more information have a look at our website:

<https://www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk/parents-zone/music-tuition.htm>



Polite Reminder - Please Park Responsibly

Parents & Carers

Please can we ask that you park responsibly when collecting and dropping off children at the school. We have received several correspondences over the past couple of weeks with regard to the end of the school day and the illegal parking which is putting families at risk .

Waiting parents/carers are respectfully asked to observe parking regulations, as these are in place both to ensure student safety and for the benefit of the local community and other road users. Please be courteous to each other.

Drivers should not park near the school entrance. As well as anywhere that prevents access for emergency services, at or near a bus stop, opposite or within 10 meters of a junction, over a dropped kerb, and in front of an entrance to a property. Yellow zig-zag lines indicate the length of the road where stopping or waiting is strictly prohibited.

Outside Achievements



As part of our Creative Writing Club, the children participated in a Young Writers competition & what a great result - here they are with various certificates and awards.



Dates for your Calendar 2023/24 - Term 4 onwards

Date	Event	Notes
15.03.24	Comic Relief	Whole School
19.03.24	Dance Umbrella	Year 4
20.03.24	Rabbit Year 1 Parent Workshop	2.15 pm
21.03.24	Down Syndrome Day	Whole School
22.03.24	Badger Year 2 Class Worship/Parent Workshop	9 am
25.03.24	Parent / Teacher Meetings	Whole School
26.03.24	Parent / Teacher Meetings	Whole School
27.03.24	Eagles Year 5/6 Parent Workshop	9 am
27.03.24	Lions Year 4 Parent Workshop	2 pm
28.03.24	Easter Service at St.Mary's Church led by Foxes Year 3	9.15 am
30.04.24	Bikeability Year 5 Group 1 - Day 1	
01.05.24	Bikeability Year 5 Group 1 - Day 2	
08.05.24	Bikeability Year 5 Group 2 - Day 1	
09.05.24	Bikeability Year 5 Group 2 - Day 2	
20.05.24	Bikeability Year 6 Group 1 - Day 1	
21.05.24	Bikeability Year 6 Group 1 - Day 2	
22.05.24	Bikeability Year 6 Group 2 - Day 1	
23.05.24	Bikeability Year 6 Group 2 - Day 2	

AUTHOR TALK

Timsbury
Library



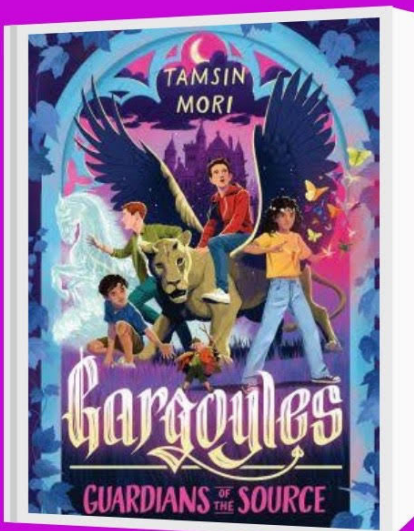
TAMSIN MORI



Join us for our children's author talk and
Q&A with Tamsin Mori

As we discuss her latest book :
**Gargoyles
Guardians of the Source**

**Saturday 15th June
11am**



Online safety: top tips

Going online is a huge part of most young people's lives so it's important to talk to them about online safety. Here's our tips to get you started.



Chat to them about what they like to do online

The best way to find out what your child is doing online is to talk to them and have regular conversations so that online safety is part of everyday discussion. Ask them open-ended questions like 'What's your favourite game or app to play on?'.

- Listen to what they have to say and show an interest. They could give you a demo of their favourite app or show you their favourite YouTube or TikTok account.
- They will probably be able to teach you things you don't know! This will also give you an opportunity to chat about any safety settings they might already have in place.
- Regular conversations with your child will encourage them to come to you if they ever need support or advice.

Talk about who they are in contact with online

There are lots of different ways that children can talk to people online – messaging apps, on social media, and less obvious ways such as chat on online games. Talk to your child about who they are talking to and what they are sharing with them.

- Use settings to help limit who can contact your child.
- Remind your child that they shouldn't share personal information with people they don't know online.
- Let your child know they can come to you or another trusted adult if any conversation makes them feel uncomfortable.

Help manage what they see and do online

Parental controls and privacy settings can help you manage how your child spends time online and help to keep them safe.

- Device settings – manage things like location sharing, screen time and in-app purchases. Most tech and gaming companies have dedicated pages to support with setting these up.
- App or game settings – in-app tools that can help to keep your child's account private and manage who they're talking to. You can normally find information on these in account settings or directly on the platforms website.
- Mobile or network provider settings – help to manage browsing access and stop your child from visiting inappropriate sites or downloading apps that aren't suitable. Contact your mobile or broadband provider for more information about setting this up.

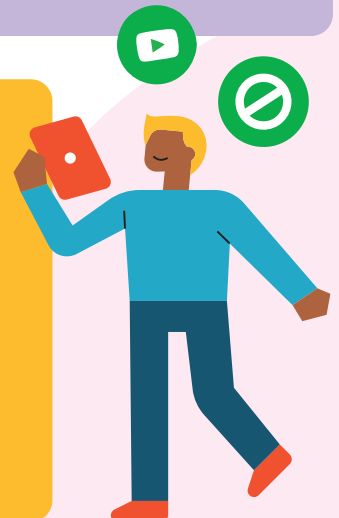
Make sure to talk to your child first before implementing any new settings and explain to them how they help to keep them safe.

Remember it's ok to ask for help!

Remember you don't have to be an online safety expert – that's our job! We're here to help, with resources and advice to help support you and your child.

If your child asks you a question you don't know the answer to, or speaks to you about a negative experience they had online, here are some of things you could do:

- Visit the NSPCC online safety hub: nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety
- Call the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000** to speak to an advisor
- Ask another parent
- Speak to your child's teacher
- If your child needs more support, they can contact Childline: childline.org.uk



NSPCC

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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ARE YOU READY TO GET YOUR
DANCING SHOES ON?

St Mary's School
Spring Disco

WEDNESDAY 27TH
MARCH 2024

KS1 & EYFS: 5-5.45PM

KS2: 6-7PM

ENTRY IS FREE!

ALL CHILDREN WILL ALSO GET A
FREDDO CHOCOLATE/HARIBO SWEETS
AND A DRINK OF SQUASH