



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 19th July 2024

Newsletter 18

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

Headteacher's Message

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another academic year and heading into the Summer holidays. 2023-24 has been another busy and successful year for St. Mary's. In addition to the variety of trips and experiences we have been able to offer the children, we have enjoyed seeing many of them represent the school in a multitude of sporting and cross Trust events, with fantastic results!

The success of St. Mary's and your children's achievements and progress are continuously supported by the staff team. The dedication they show to their roles within the school is inspiring, and not something I take for granted. I would like to say a big thank you to all staff for working tirelessly throughout the year, going that extra mile for the children and ensuring they reach their full potential every year.

Year 6 have now completed their primary education and will no doubt be excited to start secondary school in September. Well done to all of you on your SATs results which reflected the tremendous effort and work you have put in. I wish you all the very best with your next steps and hope that your time at St. Mary's has provided you with the confidence and knowledge to start Year 7 with enthusiasm.

Thank you also to our amazing PTA who give so much support to the children's experience at school organising events and sales to raise money throughout the year. This year, they have organised events including school fayres and discos, as well as contributing to transport for several trips.

As always, our Local Governing Body has continued to support the school and I remain grateful to them for the time they devote to their governance duties. I am sad to report that our Chair of Governors, Jen Hird, is stepping down after 8 years in the role. I would like to extend special thanks to Jen for her commitment to St. Mary's and the support she has given the school during this time. She will be greatly missed.

Today we said 'goodbye' to Mrs Hayward and Mrs Potts who have both been dedicated to the school since joining us. We would like to thank them for their contributions to St. Mary's and wish them all the very best for the future as they pursue new career opportunities.

In September, we will be welcoming two new members to our staff team: Mr Michael Smart, a teaching assistant and Miss Shannon Lay, an apprentice in EYFS. We are also looking forward to Mrs Bobbie Roberts returning to St. Mary's in October on a part-time basis, after being on maternity leave.

All that remains is for me to thank you, as parents for your continued support and wish you all an enjoyable Summer break - I look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

Mrs Parsons

House Points Winners



Well done to our House Point Winners **Sapphires** who enjoyed a uniform free last day of term!

Poetry Slam



Well done to our Year 4 team of children who performed in a Poetry Slam event hosted at Writhlington School. The team performed an original poem written by Poppy Grant which was titled "Beside the Sea." Each member of the team took to the stage with confidence and put on a great performance, using actions and sound effects to add drama to the poem.

Well done to **Anjaleena, Arthur, Pippi, Phoebe** and **Tavie** for representing St Mary's so brilliantly.



Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings	Lilly
Rabbits	Amelie
Badgers	Leo
Foxes	Teddy
Lions	Cooper
Eagles	Stanley



Reading Party

This year's 'Read Around the World' challenge has been a huge success! 47 children attended the party at the Pavillion to celebrate their amazing efforts with home reading this year. We also invited a selected group of children who have made significant efforts to improve their reading this year. Well done to everyone on a fantastic year for reading at St Mary's. Next year's challenge is set to be the best yet!



Attendance Party

This week, we had another party in the pavilion! Our second party was an attendance party for all the children who achieved 100% attendance this year, which is a remarkable achievement! We also invited a selected group of children who have dramatically improved their attendance or punctuality in school. Well done to all of the children with 100% attendance or significantly improved attendance.



Annual Summer Fair

On Friday 12th July, we had our Annual Summer Fair. We held it at the front of the school. There were lots of activities such as hook a duck, splat the rat, face painting and guess the sweets in a jar! There was also a station where you had to guess which teacher was which from an old photo of them as a baby.

The Year Sixes have also been selling from their own stalls during this term and they held them again at the summer fair. We held a raffle at the fair and each class had to bring in an item in their colour; for example, if your class's colour was pink, you would have to bring in something pink.

Guess the Sweets in a Jar was won by Mog (Y6) and the Guess the Staff Members by their Childhood Photos was won by Lily (Y6).

We would like to thank the parent helpers for their support. The money raised goes to the PTA, which gets put into school events and things like the recent Circus Skills Day that the whole school enjoyed.

We really enjoyed this year's Summer Fair and we hope it will be just as good next year.

Written by: Lily, Mog, Jack and Jasmine.



Gardening poster

Congratulations to Annabel for winning the Gardening Poster competition for the second year in a row! Well done to Lily and Willow for coming in second and third place. The Timsbury Gardening Club has its annual flower show at the Conygre Hall on Saturday 17th August from 2pm - 4pm.



Chair of Governors

This year has been another positive one for St Mary's, Timsbury; the school continues to go from strength to strength and this is testament to the hard work and dedication of staff, the commitment and engagement of parents and carers and above all the fantastic children who make St Mary's such a wonderful school to be part of.

The end of the year is often a time for reflection, if not from the children, then at least from staff, parents and carers who wonder where on earth the year has gone! This is particularly relevant to me this year as I am stepping down from the Governing body after eight years of volunteering; it's been a real pleasure to have the opportunity to support Mrs Parsons and the wider school community during this time and I'll miss my visits to school. As such there will be a vacancy on the joint Governing Body from September. Further information about what it means to be a school governor can be found under the Governor vacancy link on the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership website: <https://www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com/vacancies.htm>. If this is something you or someone you know are interested in, please contact the school office.

Wishing you all a great (and hopefully less wet) summer holiday,

Jen Hird
Chair of Governors



Volunteers Brunch

This week, five of our volunteers joined us for our annual Volunteers Brunch. We have a large team of dedicated volunteers, including the PTA and volunteer readers. A brilliant group of St.Mary's Young Carers served the volunteers. As a school, we are incredibly grateful to all of the volunteers who have given their time to the school this year.

We'd like to thank every volunteer for their time at St.Mary's this year- it has made a considerable difference to the children and the school.

Wraparound

We want to express our appreciation for the wonderful year we've had in the Breakfast Club and After School Club. The children have smiles on their faces at the beginning and end of the day, even as early as 7:30 in the morning. It has been heart-warming to see the entire group from Year R to Year 6 come together to support and play, setting a positive tone for their school day. Seeing the children enjoying their healthy breakfast and socialising at the table has been a delight. We welcome all the children back in September. Wishing everyone a well-deserved holiday and perhaps even the luxury of a few lie-ins.



Hedgehogs

Class News:

What an amazing year we have had in Hedgehogs! It is hard to believe we are at the end of the year already but we have had so much fun the time has flown by.

The highlight of our last week has been our Leavers Celebration where the preschool Hedgehogs sang a beautiful song to lots of their family and friends and were each awarded a collage of photos from their time with us. We then had a party with music, dancing and party food. Thank you so much to everyone who came and thank you for all your support throughout the year.

We are going to miss the Hedgehogs that are leaving us so much and wish them the best of luck in their Reception classes. We are looking forward to seeing the Hedgehogs staying with us again in September for lots more fun and to welcome some new children too.

Have a wonderful summer - fingers crossed the sun will finally shine!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Ducklings



Class News:

Well done Ducklings, what a fantastic year. You've had a wonderful start to school. We are so proud of all of your accomplishments. The past 2 weeks have been so exciting. We have been up to Rabbits class to meet Miss Tolfree and get to know the new classroom. We enjoyed our Circus Skills workshop. Thank you to the PTA! Many of you were able to join us after school last week for the Summer Fair. The children were so excited to be part of the fun. Thank you also, to parents for all of your support across the year. We have loved sharing our learning with you. We wish you all a very happy and enjoyable summer holiday. Good luck in Year One everyone!

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

Wow! I can't believe it is the end of the school year already. Rabbits have had a fantastic year and it has been a pleasure to teach them all. They have all made fantastic progress and have proved they are ready for year 2.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been very busy with our learning. One of our favourite lessons this week was making smoothies. We selected the ingredients we wanted to use and then prepared them to go into the blender. Most of us loved how our smoothies tasted.

We also really enjoyed the circus skills session organised by the PTA. We learnt how to juggle scarves, spin plates, walk the tightrope and use diabolos. Thank you to the PTA for this fantastic opportunity.

Finally, a massive thank you to all the parents for all of your support across the year. I hope you all have a wonderful summer break.

Good luck for year 2 Rabbits!

Miss Tolfree



Badgers

Class News:



Wow! Where has this year gone? It has been an absolute pleasure to teach Badgers class this year. They have been a delight and everyday has been full of fun and laughter! The last couple of weeks have been as busy as ever and we have squeezed as much learning in as possible!

We had a special visit from Bridget (Joe's mum!) who taught us all about how we can be more sustainable with our energy usage. It really got us thinking about the small changes we can make that can have a significant impact on the environment - thank you!

We had a fabulous school trip to the SS Great Britain. It really was a highlight of the year. The children represented the school brilliantly and showcased their super understanding of The Victorians. We learnt how to fix holes in the ship, dressed as Victorians and celebrated the launch of the ship, had a brilliant tour and saw some unusual sights and visited the Brunel Museum. There was

so much to see some children asked if they could stay forever!

Our brilliant PTA organised a circus skills session for us and we learnt how to juggle, walk a tightrope, spin plates and hula hoop to name a few of the amazing activities! Thank you so much for providing the children with such wonderful opportunities.

Also, we have had multiple parties this week to celebrate excellent reading at home, 100% attendance and sadly to say goodbye to Seyon. He will be greatly missed next year as he is such a kind and funny member of the class but we all wish him the best of luck at his new school!

Finally, thank you to the lovely parents and carers of Year 2 Badgers! It has been great working with you this year and I wish you a relaxing (if possible) and happy summer break.

Best wishes,
Mrs Newman



Foxes

Class News:



What an amazing end to this academic year!

I am impressed at how the Year 3 children have become more independent and love to learn. They are amazing historians and were amazed when we discovered that we can see evidence of an Iron Age Hillfort from our school field!

In Science, we have learned lots about light and how shadows are formed. We made shadow puppets and investigated what happened to the size and shape of the shadow when we moved our puppets and the light source.

In Maths, we have learned lots of new names of 3D shapes. We used our knowledge of Latin to work out the names of unfamiliar shapes. We enjoyed learning about and can now describe, using mathematical language, what a trapezium, a kite and a rhombus are.

In English, we wrote a newspaper article about the 'missing' children from The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

We investigated rhythm and pitch using glockenspiels and we were inspired by Evelyn Glennie.

We had great fun learning some Circus Skills and the children are all proud of their determination to have a go at everything.

Finally, we made pneumatic toys using cardboard boxes, a balloon and a tube. They were great fun to make and the children loved designing and making their own pneumatic toy to take home.

The children have been wonderful to work with and I am sure they will continue to excel in Year 4.

Have a restful holiday.

Mrs Hayward



Lions

Class News:



What a fantastic year we have had in Lions Class! The children have been fantastic, we have covered so much and had a lot of fun along the way. Most recently, the children were excited to have a Circus Skills workshop where they got to practise skills such as juggling, tight rope walking and hula hoop. This was really enjoyable and a big thank you to the PTA who provided this for the children.

In Computing, we used Scratch to write an algorithm to create our own computer games, adding movement, sound and repetition using loops. The children have really enjoyed their Computing this term and created some great games using quite complex code. A special mention to Joe who went home and created his own football themed game for his family to play. Well done Joe!

In DT, we have been constructing pavilions using a range of different materials. We had to think hard about how to join different sections together and problem solve by using corner supports for added stability. We looked at lots of different designs of pavilions around the world for inspiration and the children came up with some wonderful ideas.

In Maths, we have got to grips with angles as part of our learning on shape and in History we have learnt about some of the significant Ancient Greeks who have had a huge influence on modern day life and their legacy. Ask us about some of them!

Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents and carers who have given us so much support this year. Wishing you all a very relaxing summer break.

Mrs Brown



Eagles

Class News:



It's been a fun end to the school year for all of our Eagles with lots of exciting activities and events taking place right to the very last day.

Thank you to everybody who was able to come along and see our The School-O-Vision Song Contest production. You were brilliant audiences for us to perform to and it's fair to say that the acting, singing and dancing talent on stage was some of the best we've ever seen at St Mary's so a huge congratulations to our hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic cast. Thank you to all of you who helped out so brilliantly with costumes and props too.

Our very ambitious target of £850 to provide us with the funds required for a climbing wall on the last day of term has been absolutely smashed by our young entrepreneurs and the successful businesses they have set up and run over the last few weeks. Thank you to everybody in the school community who has supported us in achieving this total. It has been a phenomenal team effort.

Our final DT lesson of the year saw Year 5 Eagles creating their own Eton Messes! They all worked brilliantly well

as a team, distributing roles between themselves and communicating their preferences for their ingredients. All of the Eagles were brave enough to try their creations, which, unsurprisingly, were delicious!

We were also very fortunate to have a visit from two circus artists, who spent the morning with the Eagles teaching them exciting tricks! From juggling, to the tightrope, to balancing beams, the Eagles all had a super morning showcasing their new skills.

One final thank you to everybody who has supported Mr Daniels and Miss Heath throughout this academic year. It has been greatly appreciated. Working so closely with you has meant that all of our Eagles have made tremendous progress. Well done to our wonderful Y6 pupils who have set themselves up to have a brilliantly successful time at secondary school. Fly high and always believe! You're all ace!

Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath



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.

During the school holidays if you have a concern about a child, please contact BANES Social Work Services

You can raise your concerns in any of the following ways:

- Call our Children's Social Work Services on 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29 (weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm, except Fridays when we're closed from 4.30pm)
- Drop into the **Keynsham One Stop Shop** and ask for the duty children's social worker

- Discuss your concerns with someone who works with children and families:

- Health visitor	- Social worker
- School nurse	- Teacher

- **Out of office hours**

- If you think a child is in immediate danger please BANES Emergency Duty Team on 01454 61 51 65

Tell us immediately about any of the following and open the relevant option for details on how to report your concern:

- A child is suffering significant harm
- You want to protect a child from abuse or serious neglect
- You feel the child requires urgent or short-term care (acute services)

Or you can contact the NSPCC

NSPCC Contact Us

HCRG Care Group

Are you concerned about your child's weight?

Do you struggle with your child eating healthy meals?

Are you able to ensure an active lifestyle for your child?

Would like any support, and be interested in 1-2-1 free sessions for you and your child?

Or would you be interested in attending a fun, free, after school group, covering healthy eating, activity, emotional eating, and challenges?

If you would like to discuss this, please contact Chrissie from the Children's Healthy Weight Team on 07443660890 or email

Chrissie.kay@hcrccaregroup.com

Or please, express an interest to the school.



Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 1

Date	Event
02/09/2024	INSET DAY
03/09/2024	Term 1 begins
09/09/2024	Meet the Teachers - Year 5 and 6 - afterschool
10/09/2024	Meet the Teacher - Year 2 -afterschool
11/09/2024	Meet the Teacher - Year 3 and 4 - afterschool
12/09/2024	Meet the Teacher - Year 1 - afterschool
25/09/2024	Parent Workshop - Year 2 Time TBC
26/09/2024	9.30 - 10.30 am Open Morning
27/09/2024	Jeans for Genes Day
01/10/2024	Black History Month
01/10/2024	Classics Day at Downside School (Year 5 and 6)
01/10/2024	Parent Workshop - Reception Time TBC
01/10/2024	KS1 Trip to Bath Literary Festival
09/10/2024	Year 6 Assembly - Time TBC
10/10/2024	Coffee Morning SEND - Time TBC
10/10/2024	Parent Workshop Year 1 - Time TBC
11/10/2024	Hello Yellow
18/10/2024	9.30 - 10.30 am Open Morning
23/10/2024	Wear Red - Racism
24/10/2024	Harvest Performance at the Church - Lions - Time TBC
25/10/2024	INSET DAY



What another fantastic year of fundraising!

The PTA is so grateful for the support that the families of St Mary's have given us this year. It has meant that we've been able to do lots of things to help create magical memories for all of the children at school.

We helped Santa gift every child a book at Christmas, we've provided a free school Disco, we provided the prizes for the first Timsbury Bake Off, we've contributed towards the fabulous outdoor reading lodge, we gifted every child an ice lolly at Sports Day and we were able to bring Bristol's Circomedia to school to run circus classes with everyone, amongst many other things!

We're pleased to say that the Summer Fayre was a great success, raising over £650! So many families stayed and enjoyed the afternoon with us and we even managed to chase the rain away just in time!

Without the amazing team of volunteers within the PTA, none of this would be possible. There is a lot of preparation that we have to do behind the scenes to ensure that all events run smoothly. We'd like to send special thanks and gratitude to Michelle who is leaving us this term now that Alissa is off to Secondary school.

We really do need more volunteers to ensure that we can run more events in the future, so please do get in touch if you can spare any time at all to help us out. Suggestions for events, ways to fundraise, grants etc. are always welcome too.

Have a restful and hopefully sunny summer!
Stef Mills - Chair of St Mary's School PTA
stefmills@aol.com

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

Delivered in partnership with libraries

Marvellous Makers

