

St Mary's CofE Primary School



Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Newsletter 03

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



Message from Mr Thomson

As we come to the end of a busy Term 1, I'd like to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic start to the school year. The children have returned with enthusiasm, curiosity, and a real eagerness to learn, which has created a positive and purposeful atmosphere across the school.

One of the many highlights this term was our **Art Exhibition of Excellence**, where the creativity and talent of our pupils were on full display. It was a joy to see their hard work celebrated, and we were delighted to welcome so many of you to share in their achievements.

We also took part in three important awareness events this term: **Hello Yellow Day**, supporting young people's mental health; **Wear Red Day**, as we stood together against racism; and **Jeans for Genes Day**, helping raise awareness and funds for children with genetic disorders. These days not only raised important issues but also prompted meaningful conversations among the children, helping to build empathy and understanding in our school community.

A big thank you to our amazing PTA for organising the fun-filled **Autumn Discos**. This event brought smiles, dance moves and a sense of togetherness to our school hall!

Overall, it has been a very positive start to the academic year. The children have settled well, new routines are firmly in place, and there's a strong sense of community and collaboration across the school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support - it makes such a difference.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for Term 2.

Mr Thomson

Netball Team

Huge congratulations to our very talented netball team who won the **Small Schools Netball Tournament** which was held at Downside School. The team played and won 3 matches against local schools before progressing to the semi finals and then the finals against a strong St Benedicts team. The team showed amazing teamwork and skill to win the tournament which means they now progress on to a county tournament later on this year.



House Points Winners



House point winners for Term 1 are Ruby house! They got to celebrate with a non uniform day on the last day of term, well done Rubies.

Attendance Winners

Congratulations to our attendance champions for the last two weeks, Lions & Eagles.

Term attendance by class:

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

How are we doing?

Badgers	97.75%
Foxes	97.17%
Eagles	97.07%
Ducklings	95.37%
Lions	94.73%
Rabbits	93.86%
Whole School	97.20%

*Class attendance percentages for this academic year so far

Well done and huge congratulations to our Year 6 girls netball team; Tilly, Phoebe, Pippi, Emily, Maggie and Rachel. In addition, our netball team with the very welcome addition of Bear in Year 5 have progressed to the next round of the **B&NES Bee Netball Cup** with a strong win over Paulton Juniors last week. It's onwards and upwards for this fab group of players!

Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings Lily, Sibby, Lohan **Rabbits** Tommy, Dylan, Isobel **Badgers** Joey, George, Alex Harrison, Mila, Noah Foxes

Lions Florence H, Florence C, Leo **Eagles** Phoebe, Emily H, Cooper







Outside Achievements

What a talented group of children we have at St Mary's both in and out of school they shine!

Florence - Level 8 Gymnastics Proficiency Award

Rubie - Level 1 & 5m Swimming Awards

Imogen - Story Challenge

Albie - Football Trophy

Noah - Football Trophy

Ben - Football Medals



Hedgehogs

Class News:

What a busy but wonderful first term! The children have been very creative over the past few weeks, making some amazing pieces for our school Art **Exhibition of Excellence**. They used their fine motor skills to print paint with pinecones, apples, and leaves, created some beautiful leaf art and Autumn trees, noticing what colours they could see on the changing leaves outside. They used their gross motor skills to roll conkers around in paint trays, being careful to use their coordination and balance to not let the conkers fall out!

Our focus books have been "The Enormous Turnip" and "Elmer", both texts teaching us about being kind and helping others. We celebrated Hello Yellow Day for mental health and spent the day thinking about what makes us happy,

and practising mindfulness with relaxation, yoga and belly breathing.

Our Maths focus has been recognising shapes and colours, we even went on a hunt around the school to see what shapes we could find in our environment. The children have also enjoyed following our new "Recipe cards" on the mud kitchen, recognising the numbers of items to add to make some wonderful potions!

It has been so lovely to see the friendships develop over this term, the children have so much fun during group play with imagination games and role play.

Have a fun half term and we look forward to seeing you all at the start of Term 2!

Miss James & Mrs Munro



Ducklings





Class News:

What a fantastic first term at school Ducklings!

We have learned so much already and it has been lovely getting to know you all.

In Phonics, we have learned all of the phase 2 phonemes. Next term we will start to learn and recall phase 3 phonemes. Any reading and practise you can do over the half term holiday will help keep the children's learning fresh in their mind.

In Maths, we have been looking at the composition of numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children have continued to develop their understanding of patterns and enjoyed making repeated patterns from fruit and vegetables. In Literacy, we have been reading 'The Colour Monster' and have discussed all of the different emotions that we feel. The children have created their own monsters and have written a sentence about them using the learned sounds. We continue to add to our bank of common exception words, words that can not be sounded out phonetically.

We have enjoyed our PE topic and have developed skills in spatial awareness and following game rules. The children have shown fantastic teamwork skills and have supported each other's learning.

Have a happy half term holiday. Mrs Gillard









Class News:

It has been a fantastic end to Term 1 in Rabbits.

In English, we have been writing a class book inspired by the story 'Not a Stick'. We have been writing sentences independently using our own ideas.

In Maths, we have been learning about addition within 10. We have been exploring the part-whole model to help us understand how to form number sentences. We have also been working hard to ensure our numbers are formed correctly.

We really enjoyed displaying our work at the **Art Exhibition of Excellence** last week. We had been working really hard over the past few weeks to ensure everything was ready for the exhibition. Rabbits visited the Exhibition on Friday and were amazed by the artwork that was created by the other classes.

Finally, we had a great time taking part in lots of events over the last few weeks. We enjoyed celebrating hello yellow, wearing red to stand against racism and watching the harvest festival led by Foxes class.

Well done Rabbits for an excellent first term in Year 1. I hope you all have a great half term and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree

Badgers





We've had a brilliant Term 1 in Badgers! Everyone has settled into their learning amazingly well and has continued to impress us with their hard work and enthusiasm. I've been especially blown away by the number of children logging into Numbots and TTRS at home every day, as well as the amount of extra writing and maths they've been bringing in to show me. Well done, Badgers!

In English, we've been writing some fantastic Kennings poems using our knowledge of badgers. The children have written clues to help the reader discover what (or who) their poem is about. We've been exploring the suffix **-er** in our poems and have also been learning about the **-ly** suffix and adverbs, creating posters to teach the Rabbits class everything we've learned.

In Maths, we've been focusing on addition and subtraction. We've used

a range of concrete resources and hundred squares to help us solve "ten more" and "ten less" problems. I've really noticed how much the Badgers' resilience has grown throughout this unit and how confidently they tackle challenges.

We've been working incredibly hard in Art to create our **Art Exhibition of Excellence**. Thank you to everyone who came to see all of Badgers' brilliant work on display! In History, we've started learning about the causes of World War I and what life was like in the trenches. In Geography, we've continued to explore maps—what they are for and how to use them.

Badgers have had a super first term back, and I can't wait to see all the amazing things they'll accomplish next term!

Miss Heath







Foxes Class News:



We have had an amazing Term 1 in Foxes! The children have settled into their learning brilliantly and continue to impress us with their resilience and enthusiasm for everything we have done - which is a lot! In Science we have been exploring forces and magnets. Most lessons have been filled with lots of hands-on learning. We have investigated how wide the magnetic field is, which materials are magnetic and whether all magnets are the same strength. We have enjoyed making predictions and analysing our results to find answers and patterns. We have even had a go at recording our data in a bar chart.

In Art, we had a very enjoyable time finishing our *Egyptian Scrolls* ready for display in the **Art Exhibition of Excellence** and the finished results looked fantastic. Continuing with our Egyptian theme, we enjoyed having lots of parents and family members in our classroom for an Egyptian themed workshop where we mummified a tomato! Thank you to those who came

along for your help with this one - it's very interesting to watch the mummification process in action at the moment and we can't wait to see the finished results!

In English, we have been busy writing a newspaper report about the wedding of the Egyptian Cinderella and also writing poetry to celebrate harvest. Speaking of which, well done to the Foxes for leading our harvest celebrations in church this week, you were all fantastic and spoke so clearly and confidently.

Finally, we enjoyed an afternoon of fun on our scooters provided to us by the B&NES Road Safety Team. The children learnt how to check their scooters to ensure they were in good condition, what good safety gear looks like and then how to scoot in a controlled and careful way paying attention to other pavement users.

Well done for a fabulous first term Foxes, have a great half term break!

Mrs Brown

Lions

Class News:





What a brilliantly successful Term 1 we have had. Well done to all of our Lions for settling so well into a new school year and establishing yourselves as motivated and dedicated learners. I've been so impressed.

We have continued to have a lot of fun as we've neared the end of this first term. We've been standing on tables (very safely) again in Science as we have completed our work involving investigating forces. This time, we were identifying the effects of air resistance on a range of paper helicopter spinners which had blades of different lengths. We concluded that spinners with longer blades took longer to reach the floor as there is more air resistance so they travel more slowly.

Our work in Music ended with us learning about musical notes and their different lengths. We then used the glockenspiels to play different

notes - quavers, crotchets, minims and semibreves - to accompany the music we have become familiar with during this topic of composition notation with an Ancient Egypt theme. We found this quite challenging to begin with but, with practice, ended up enjoying a successful outcome.

Finally, thank you to all of our visitors who joined us for the Parent Workshop, especially to those of you who were superstars and took part in the activity. Hopefully, you now understand what our weekly Readers' Theatre activity involves and why it has become such a favourite part of our

Our team of hardworking Lions now totally deserve a well-earned rest. Have a great holiday, everybody!

Mr Daniels







Eagles





It has been a busy but productive term in Eagles so far! We have been working hard to settle into the Year 6 way, learning new concepts and being incredible role models for the younger pupils. Although it has been a challenging term, we've hit the ground running and are ready to tackle Term 2 with confidence and resilience.

In Maths, we have been learning the dreaded long division method - which turned out to be much more exciting than we expected! We took our time going through each step carefully until we were confident enough to apply the method to more complex problems. I have been so proud of the Eagles' efforts -they've been excellent mathematicians this term.

In History, we have loved learning about World War II and discovering how children were affected during this period. Eagles have been fascinated by what it meant to be evacuated, who was evacuated and how the Blitz impacted

their lives. To show their understanding, they wrote letters from the perspective of an evacuated child, beautifully capturing what life might have been like back then.

In Reading, we have been enjoying our class Guided Reading text, "Warrior Boy". Eagles have been completely gripped by this story and have enjoyed unpicking tricky vocabulary to deepen their understanding. We have also been answering inference questions by finding clues in the text to make thoughtful inferences about the characters' emotions and personality

It has been wonderful to see the Eagles approach every challenge with such enthusiasm, determination and teamwork. I am incredibly proud of all their hard work this term -they truly embody what it means to be outstanding Year 6 learners.

Miss Woods

PTA News

As we head towards the end of the year, it's a very busy time for the PTA, with lots of fundraising and events lined up for the children - and the adults too!

Do check out our Facebook page for all the most up to date information: just search for 'St Mary's School PTA, Timsbury'.

- On Tuesday 4th November, we have an evening of Line Dancing at Camerton Community Hall (see the following pages for details).
- On Thursday 6th November is the 3rd annual Great Timsbury Bake Off (more information on the following pages).
- On Friday 7th November is our annual Christmas Market at Conygre Hall. We still have a few tables available if any of our families run a business that would like to join us (Further information is also available on the following pages). We will be running our popular adults only Slosh Sleigh raffle at the Christmas Market, so if you would like to donate an alcoholic bottle/can towards the raffle, these can be passed to any member of the PTA before the event.

And before we know it, it will be December and we will be focusing on the School Christmas Fayre. We will again be asking for donations of Jolly Jars (always a children's favourite), so you might want to think about saving empty jars and treats now. More information about the Fayre will come nearer the time.

Finally, we will have the PTA Annual General Meeting on Monday 8th December at 6pm at school if anyone would like to know more about what we do as a Parent Teacher Association.

Thank you for your continued support of the PTA so that we can help the children make some very happy memories of their time at St Mary's.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact Stef Mills at stefmills@aol.com or 07790778453.

Hello Yellow

The school had a fantastic day dressed up in yellow to celebrate **Hello Yellow** as part of **World Mental Health Day**. The children enjoyed a range of activities such as mindfulness, colouring, playing outside and building dens. The children also reflected on the importance of talking about thoughts and feelings and sharing worries with a trusted adult. Thank you to the wider St Marys community for helping us celebrate this important day.





The Equalities Team led an assembly this month to discuss their role in the school. We agreed that it is about celebrating differences. We take pride in the fact that we are all unique individuals. We believe that people should not be treated differently. It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of their race, religion or belief, gender, age, sexuality or disability. This works alongside the British Value of *Tolerance* and the St Mary's School value of *Compassion* towards others.

October is **Black History Month**. It is a time to remember to give 'Racism the Red Card'. You will have noticed the posters around the school. On Wednesday, we invited the children to stand up to racism by wearing red for the day.

We have created a whole school Black History Month bunting display. This month we remember black people throughout history who have made a positive difference to society.

Mrs Gillard and the Equalities Team.

Art Exhibition of Excellence

Friday saw our annual **Art Exhibition of Excellence**. Thank you to all those people who came to visit our display. The children visited the exhibition with their class and gave some rewarding and considered feedback to our wonderful artists. I'm sure you'll agree that there was an array of wonderful creations, mixed media, paintings, drawings and clay models. What fantastic talent we have at St Mary's Timsbury!

Mrs Gillard Art and Design Technology Lead





Upcoming Events

Term 2/Week 1 - The Great Timsbury Bake Off - Thursday 6th November!

Get your aprons ready – it's time for the **Great Timsbury Bake Off!** On the first week back-**Thursday 6th November**.



This fun-filled event, organised by our brilliant **PTA**, invites children to bring in their best homemade bakes to be judged by our special panel. We're looking forward to seeing (and tasting!) all the creative and tasty entries. There will be **prizes for our top three bakers**, so get mixing and whisking!

At the end of the school day, we'll be holding a **Cake Sale** in the school hall, giving everyone a chance to enjoy a slice and support the school at the same time. All proceeds will go towards upcoming PTA projects that benefit our children.

Thank you in advance for your support, and happy baking!



Term 2/Week 2 - Pupil Progress Meetings with Parents/Carers 2025

We will be holding face-to-face Parent/Carer & Teacher consultations on Tuesday 11th November & Wednesday 12th November. Please see the dates below for each class. It is important that all parents sign up for this, as it is an opportunity for a two-way conversation about your child's academic progress and well-being.

You will be able to book your child's face-to-face 10-minute appointment via the link.

https://stmarystimsbury.schoolcloud.co.uk/

You must log in by entering your details, your child's name & their date of birth.

Please note that we have selected preferred names from our pupil database rather than legal names. However, if you have problems logging in, please do try different variations of your child's name, e.g., 'Ben' for 'Benjamin'. If your child has a hyphenated name, please first try writing it as you would normally, but if that doesn't work, try with or without a hyphen.

Please contact the school office if you have questions or would like assistance booking your meeting.



Term 2/Week 2 - Christmas Shoe Box Appeal- Change of Date

Please note that the event previously mentioned in our last newsletter for Friday 7th November will now take place on Friday 14th November, to run alongside Children in Need Day.

On the day, children are invited to wear spotty clothes to show their support for Children in Need and to bring in an item for our Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

What is the Christmas Shoebox Appeal?

The Christmas Shoebox Appeal is a wonderful initiative where we collect small gifts and essential items to send to children in need around the world. Each shoebox is filled with thoughtful items to bring joy and comfort to a child this Christmas.

- Examples of suitable items include:
- Health care items toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hairbrushes, flannels
- Toys small cuddly toys, balls, toy cars, puzzles, dolls
- School supplies pencils, pens, crayons, notepads, colouring books
- Other useful items socks, gloves, hats, hair accessories

Please ensure all items are new and suitable for children.

If you have any cardboard shoeboxes at home, we would be very grateful if you could bring them in and give them to Miss Woods to help us pack the donations.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Upcoming Events 2

Times Tables Rock Stars & Numbots Day



On Friday 21st November, we will be holding our regular **Rock Stars and Robots Day**. This ties in with our learning in Maths where we regularly practise our subitising skills using Numbots and our knowledge of multiplication facts on Times Tables Rock Stars. Children are invited to dress up as rock stars or robots for the day. There will be a number of different activities taking place including a *Battle of the Bands* competition, prizes for the best costumes and board games challenges. This event will be run by our team of Maths Ambassadors. There will even be a performance by our school's newly formed rock band! It should be a really fun experience for all the children and encourage everyone to continue making good use of these Maths websites at home.

A Friendly Reminder About Parking Considerately

We know that drop-off and pick-up times can be a rush, and finding a convenient spot can sometimes be tricky! However, we've recently received a few polite complaints from our neighbours regarding parking practices around the school.

Specifically, we've heard that some driveways are being obstructed for extended periods, making it difficult for residents to get in and out of their homes.

We deeply value our relationship with the local community, and we kindly ask all parents and carers to take an extra moment to be mindful and considerate when parking near the school.

Please ensure you are not blocking any private driveways or entrances, even if you are just stopping for a minute. Keeping these routes clear is essential for maintaining good relations with our neighbours and ensuring smooth access for everyone.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation in helping us be great neighbours!

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.

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

Thought for the Week

'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9 NIV)

Have you ever had to follow in someone else's footsteps? In most cases, it isn't very easy. In the Old Testament, there was a man called Joshua who had to take over from someone else, and they'd been in leadership for decades!

Moses had been leading the Jewish nation from Egypt, through the wilderness and to the edge of the promised land for 40 years and he was a tough act to follow. When Moses died, Joshua took over as leader. Now after such a long time leading the people relatively successfully, I'm sure it would have been a bit daunting for Joshua to take over from this "giant of faith".

Today's verse is taken from the book of Joshua and it comes at the very start of the book, just after Joshua had been commissioned. It says in the Bible that God spoke to him and told him to be strong and courageous. He also told him not to be afraid or discouraged.

I'm not sure about you, but when I am told not to be worried or anxious about something, it can often have the opposite effect - it can often make me feel more anxious and worried!

Sometimes a word of "encouragement" from someone, who tells you to stand up straight, to stop worrying and to face whatever's coming head on can have quite a negative effect. These people may not struggle with fear or anxiety, but just telling someone to "sort themselves out" isn't usually very helpful.

What's better is knowing that someone's got your back - that they are with you. While you're going through your difficult challenge or situation, are they thinking about you, or even maybe praying for you? They will be the person who will ask you how things are and also be the person on the other end of the phone when you need someone to sound off to.

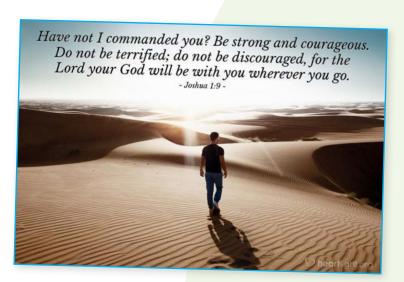
These people make the real difference and often just knowing that they are there and that you can confide in them can give you the courage and strength you need.

Well fortunately for Joshua, God didn't just tell him to just stop worrying and get on with things. God told him that he would be with him wherever he went. Joshua knew that God had his back covered. He knew that he could come and talk to God about anything - the troubles and the joys, the struggles and the successes.

Knowing someone has got your back means a lot. For many people like Joshua, knowing God's got them means a whole lot more!

Paul Marvin (Christian Distinctiveness MAT Lead)





Dates for your Calendar 2025/2026 - Term 2

Date	Event
03.11.25	Autumn Term 2
06.11.25	Great Timsbury Bake off!
07.11.25	PTA Cake Sale - (after school)
11.11.25	Remembrance Day
11.11.25	Parent / Teacher meetings
12.11.25	Parent / Teacher meetings
13.11.25	Open Morning 9:30am
14.11.25	Children in Need & Christmas Shoe Box Appeal wear spots/non uniform
18.11.25	KS2 Boys Football - Norton Hill Secondary School
19.11.25	Ducklings Parent Workshop 2:00pm
20.11.25	Rabbits Parent Workshop 9:00am
25.11.25	Badgers Parent Workshop 9:00am
28.11.25	Anti-Bullying Day - (wear odd socks)
02.12.25	Swim Gala
02.12.25	Lions Parent Workshop 9:00am
02.12.25	Flu Vaccines
03.12.25	Open Morning 9:30am
04.12.25	Foxes Parent Workshop 9:00am
05.12.25	Non Uniform Day - for Christmas Fayre
09.12.25	Nativity - KS1 2:00pm
10.12.25	Nativity - KS1 9:00am
12.12.25	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
12.12.25	Christmas Fayre
16.12.25	Nativity - EYFS 2:00pm
16.12.25	Eagles Parent Workshop 2:00pm
17.12.25	Nativity - EYFS 9:00am
17.12.25	Christmas Jumper Lunch
18.12.25	Christingle at Church
19.12.25	Last day of Term 2







Following the huge success of previous years, our third annual Great Timsbury Bake Off will take place after half term.

We will be having a children's competition and also an adult's competition!

All entries need to be clearly labelled and bought to school on the morning of Thursday 6th November ready for judging. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize for children as well as a prize for adults. All entrants will also receive a coveted bake off medal for taking part.



Then from 3.15pm we will have a bake sale in the school hall so you'll get to taste all of the amazing cakes for yourself.



Join us for an evening of fun and Line Dancing

Bring your pals or come alone, you'll be sure to meet some lovely people!

Tues Nov 4th — (School-Night Fun!!)

Camerton Village hall

19:30-21:30

Tickets £10 – all proceeds to St Marys School PTA – attempting to make school magic

For tickets, please email:

stmarysschooltimsburypta@gmail.com

With your name and number of tickets you've paid for.

Scan this QR code to secure and pay for your tickets! (Or Transfer to: Account no.: 26204029 Sort code: 60-19-12 Account: St Mary's Primary School PTA

QR use this link: https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QDM1894U







Half-Term Holiday Activities: Art Adventures



27-29 October 2025, 10:30-15:30

Take inspiration from Wells Art Contemporary (WAC) installations in the Cathedral this half term with our creative drop-in workshops for families!

Monday 27 October

Branching Out

Explore relationships between humans and trees with 2D and 3D art

Tuesday 28 October

Willow and Windows

Create a willow-framed suncatcher

Wednesday 29 October

Decorate a Deck

Design a deck and create your own mini skateboard model



Admission FREE with adult entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day! Plan your visit online at wellscathedral.org.uk/holidays

Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for 12 months from date of purchase, so you can enjoy access to a number of seasonal events including exhibitions and Family Holliday Activities beyond your initial visil. Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult an exhibition of the purchase of the purcha









