St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 20th November 2026 **Newsletter 03**

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



School Pond Restoration!

A huge thank you to our brilliant team of parent and community volunteers (alongside some very hardworking Year 6 pupils!) They all rolled up their sleeves for our volunteer afternoon on Friday 13th November.

Now in its second year, the restoration project has reached an exciting milestone. Together, our volunteers and Year 6 helpers spent the afternoon digging out stubborn brambles right down to the root. One of the local pond experts lending their expertise was actually part of the original team that first installed the pond! Thanks to everyone who has pitched in during previous sessions as well, the surrounding area is now completely clear and ready for Phase 2.

The next stage of the project will transform the space into a thriving outdoor learning habitat and will include:

- Clearing out and re-lining the pond
- Thinning some of the surrounding trees
- Installing new fencing
- Building a brand-new decking area so children can safely access the pond and interact with local wildlife

To help support the investment needed for the new pond liner and decking, our dedicated community volunteers are also actively applying for additional grants and funding.

We are currently aiming to have the entire project completed by the end of Spring 2027, ready for our pupils to enjoy and explore from Spring 2027 onwards.

If you would like to lend a hand, our next official volunteer afternoon will take place on **Friday 4th December**. Thank you once again to everyone who has given their time, energy, and enthusiasm to bringing this special part of our school grounds back to life!

Attendance Winners

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

How are we doing?*

Ducklings	97.50%
Rabbits	94.30%
Badgers	95.80%
Foxes	97.50%
Bees	97.20%
Lions	97.50%
Eagles	92.90%
Total	**96.10%**

*Attendance for the 26/27 academic year.

Christian Values Awards

The children recognised for demonstrating our Christian Values during term 2:

Koinonia	Evelyn
Creativity	Ella, Lilly
Service	Bonny, Indigo, Florence, Ava

Headteacher's Award

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

Class	06.11.26	13.11.26
Ducklings	Dimitri	Tilly
Rabbits	Lohan	Elizabeth
Badgers	Jaycee-Mae	Tallulah
Foxes	Violet	Vinnie
Bees	Malachy	Benjamin
Lions	Lottie	Louie
Eagles	Junior	Bear





Remembrance

We commemorated **Remembrance Day** in school with a special assembly during which we were joined by a parent of one of our pupils who had previously served in the Armed Forces - and who had arrived for this occasion spectacularly dressed in his magnificent service uniform. It was really interesting to hear about some of his experiences from being in the army and of course to find out why each of his impressive array of medals had been awarded to him. The 11 o'clock two-minute silence was perfectly observed as we remembered all those who have served during conflicts around the world. Leading up to this special day, Year 6 pupils had been selling poppies and other related merchandise to raise money for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Hedgehogs

Class News:

We have been having lots of fun in Hedgehogs!

We have been busy thinking about **Remembrance Day**, creating some beautiful poppies out of playdough. The Hedgehog's have also been getting creative, exploring lots of different materials to make some fantastic firework pictures.

We have enjoyed a listening walk and a Gruffalo hunt in the forest, as well as baking yummy bread with Mrs Thomson!

The Hedgehog's are now very excited to start practising the songs for The Twinkly Nativity as Christmas approaches. They can't wait to share their singing with you!

Mrs Summers and Mrs Thomson



Ducklings

Class News:

Ducklings Class have had a fantastic couple of weeks. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about Diwali and performing the story of Rama and Sita. The children used their fine motor skills to create beautiful clay diyas and carefully wrote thoughtful labels for someone special. They loved learning about how Diwali is celebrated and why it is such an important festival for many families around the world.

In Literacy, we have been reading *'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'*. The children have been working hard to use their phonics knowledge to label their wonderful owl drawings. This week, we particularly enjoyed reading *'Funnybones'* and joining in with the repeating refrains. We even wrote simple sentences about our favourite character, the dog, showing off our growing confidence as writers.

In Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of shape. The children have been fantastic at describing triangles and circles using mathematical language such as *curved edges*, *straight edges* and *corners*, as well as counting how many sides it has. We have also been practising finding one more and one less than numbers to 5, alongside developing our subitising skills.



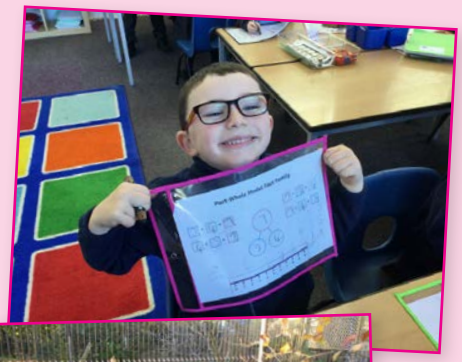




Remembrance Day was a very special occasion for us. We learned about what **Remembrance Day** means and why it is so important. The children created beautiful poppies and had the opportunity to ask Mr Jopling questions about his role. They were fascinated by his medals and loved learning about how he earned them.

During Outdoor Learning, we explored the changing season of autumn and discussed the different colours we can see around us. We went on an autumn leaf hunt and successfully found six different coloured leaves. Using our cutting skills, we made 'leaf confetti' from red leaves and used it to create beautiful poppy artwork to take home.

Mrs Gillard







Rabbits

Class News:

We have had another busy few weeks in Year 1!

In English, we have been writing our own firework poems, using some fantastic onomatopoeia to bring our poems to life. We have also enjoyed performing them to each other! We then brought in our favourite toys from home to help us launch our new English text, *Dogger*. The children have loved sharing their special toys and have been busy writing their own innovated stories about a lost toy.

In Maths, we have finished our learning about addition and subtraction within 10 and have been working hard to practise and secure our number bonds. We have now moved on to exploring place value, learning about numbers up to 20.

In RE, we have started learning about the Christmas story. The children have really enjoyed bringing the story to life through role play. This has linked brilliantly with our upcoming Nativity spectacular, which we have also been busy practising for. We can't wait to share it with you!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:

It has been another brilliant week in Badgers.

The children have been working incredibly hard on their nativity practice and have done a wonderful job learning their lines. We are so proud of the confidence and enthusiasm they have shown so far! Please keep up the amazing practice at home, as this will really help the children feel confident and ready for their big performance.

Badgers have also been working incredibly hard on Doodle Maths and are currently leading the way across the whole school! What a brilliant achievement! We are so impressed with the effort and dedication the children are showing. Keep up the fantastic work!

In Maths, we have been tackling some tricky addition and subtraction questions, particularly those involving crossing a ten. The children have been using their number bonds to ten to help them work out these calculations. We are really pleased with how they are developing their confidence and problem-solving skills.

In English, we have been busy writing our own recounts based on the adventures of *Traction Man*. The children have been working hard to retell events in order and include lots of exciting details.

Well done, Badgers! Keep up the fantastic effort!

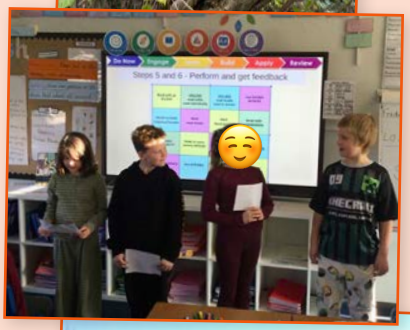
Miss Heath













Foxes

Class News:

It's been a great start to Term 2 with the usual high levels of effort and enthusiasm from the Foxes. In English, we have been writing our retellings of the Scarab's Secret, challenging ourselves to use a detailed, descriptive vocabulary and a range of grammar features. In Maths, we are working on addition and subtraction and have enjoyed using practical resources to help us master the tricky concept of exchanges.

In Guided Reading we are very much enjoying the story of There's a Pharoah in our Bath by Jeremy Strong and it has led to some excellent performances in our Readers Theatre and the increase in the children's confidence when speaking aloud since the start of the year is amazing to see!

We have been getting outside where we can and had a lovely session in Forest School, building dens, exploring the woodland area and creating natural art. We were then lucky enough to take part in a Scooter Safety Workshop provided for us by South Gloucestershire Council where we practiced being safe when on a scooter and talked about how we could wear high visibility clothing and stay bright and safe in the darker winter months.

Finally, in Music, we have been enjoying using the glockenspiels and shakers to compose music to go with animations. We have listened to some of the most famous film scores such as the music from Star Wars and Jaws and thought about how that changes the atmosphere of the film being watched.

Mrs Brown







Bees

Class News:

It has been a great start to Term 2 in Bees!

In English, we have loved diving into the story of *Varjak Paw* and exploring the seven skills of The Way. Inspired by the book, we have begun writing our own narratives about an exciting adventure Varjak goes on, challenging ourselves to include subordinating conjunctions and speech to bring our stories to life.

In Maths, we have really enjoyed spending time working on our times tables. We have learnt lots of different songs to help us remember each one, with a focus on our 6s and 9s this week. I have been super impressed with everyone's growing knowledge and their ability to apply these facts.

Our DT cooking topic has also been a lot of fun. We started by testing existing biscuits - describing their taste, texture, and appearance while discussing who the target audience might be. Since then, we have baked a basic biscuit recipe and have been thinking about how we can adapt it to make it our own.

In Music, we have been looking at jazz and exploring improvisation, having great fun trying out scat singing and creating rhythms with body percussion. Finally, we had a brilliant time outdoors in Forest School, getting muddy while building dens, playing games and creating artwork using the natural things around us.

Mrs Pope

Lions

Class News:

Term 2 has begun with our Year 5 Lions continuing with their wonderful learning behaviours and the super enthusiasm they consistently show for the wide range of different activities we enjoy within our classroom environment.

Readers' Theatre is always one of our favourite weekly tasks and the children never fail to impress us with their reading fluency, expression and the creative ways each group chooses to bring a text to life. The Hamish series of books by Danny Wallace have really provided excellent opportunities to bring the drama as the Pause Defence Force have tried to defeat Axel Scarmarsh.

Having completed our unit in Music last term on the Vikings, our attention in Term 2 has turned to the glockenspiel. It's great to have a class set of these wonderful instruments. So far, we have learnt about semiquavers, found out how to notate melodies and performed as a group ensemble.

Finally, our Hockey sessions in PE have proven to be very enjoyable. The skills required to be a good hockey player are very challenging but the children have been very impressive with the control they have shown when sending and receiving the ball. They have also taken great care with the use of the wooden sticks, making sure they are safely kept below knee height.

Mr Daniels







Eagles

Class News:







It has been another fantastic few weeks in Eagles! Our main focus has been building independence in our learning. Using The Learning Pit, the children have been exploring the idea that finding a task difficult is a natural part of learning and with determination and problem-solving, they can always find a way through.

In Maths, I have been blown away by the class's enthusiasm for Long Division. Often a concept that daunts Year 6 pupils, the Eagles have tackled it head-on with real confidence, quickly moving on to apply their skills to complex reasoning problems. This week, we moved on to BODMAS (the order of operations). The children have loved using it as a step-by-step checklist to unpick tricky, multi-step calculations.

In English, we have thoroughly immersed ourselves in *Goodnight Mister Tom*. The class has been brilliant at connecting their WWII topic knowledge to the story, developing a real empathy for what life was like as an evacuee. In our writing sessions, we are innovating the opening chapter by creating our own characters in the style of the author. The children have really enjoyed bringing their characters to life using D.A.D. (Dialogue, Action, and Description).

In DT with Miss Tolfree, the class has been exploring the wartime ethos of *Make Do and Mend* by learning how to upcycle an old T-shirt into a reusable tote bag. So far, the children have drafted their designs and practised the specific stitches they will need to construct their bags. Keep an eye on Seesaw over the next few weeks to see their finished creations!

Finally, in RE, we have been exploring the concept of pilgrimages and their significance across different world religions. We have started to look at religious places that pilgrims visit and why they are significant to different religions.

Although we are only a few weeks into Term 2, Eagles have already accomplished so much. We look forward to sharing more of their hard work with you at the end of the term!

Miss Woods

The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - another successful year!



A huge thank you to all the families who generously donated items for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. In total, we were able to put together 19 boxes! On Wednesday, the School Council gave up their lunchtime to sort and organise the donations by age and gender before carefully packing them up. Seeing their enthusiasm to help children less fortunate than themselves was a real joy and they are a true credit to our school community. This year, with the help of Mrs Rhymer, we are taking the boxes to the Methodist Church in Midsomer Norton who will be collecting shoe boxes from around the area and shipping them before the end of November.



Antibullying week

This week, our school is proud to be taking part in **Anti-Bullying Week 2026**, focusing on this year's theme: **"Break the Silence"**. Odd Socks Day is a fun, simple way to celebrate what makes each of us unique. By wearing mismatched colours or patterns with their normal school uniform, children send a clear message that being different is something to be proud of, and that everyone belongs here.

Outside Achievements

We love watching our St. Mary's children grow, thrive and succeed in everything they do.



Free School Meal Changes for the 2026 to 2027 Academic Year

Many families will become eligible for the first time under the expanded FSM Criteria which is changing from September to the following:

- Targeted FSM, which continues to be based on the exiting threshold, covering pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less
- Expanded FSM, a new category covering pupils who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but who are in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earning of £7,400 & above

If you believe you may qualify for the expanded FSM please make an application now. Please see the link here:
www.bathnes.gov.uk/form/apply-free-school-meals

Dates for your Calendar - Autumn Term 2

Date	Event
02.11.26	*Start of Term 2*
20.11.26	Odd Socks Day - Anti- Bullying
25.11.26	Inset Day - school closed to children
26.11.26	Year 3 Foxes - Bristol Museum Trip
26.11.26	Great Timsbury Bake Off 3.15 PM - 4 PM
01.12.26	Parent Workshop Lions 9.00 AM
02.12.26	Christmas Elf Shop KS2
03.12.26	Parent Workshop Foxes 9.00 AM
03.12.26	Parent Workshop Bees 2.00 PM
03.12.26	PTA Christmas Movie Night 3.15PM - 5.15 PM
07.12.26	Christmas Elf Shop KS1 & EYSF
08.12.26	KS1 Nativity 2.00 PM
09.12.26	KS1 Nativity 9.30 AM
09.12.26	Book Fair - Main hall after school 3.15 PM - 3.30 PM (also running 10th,11th & 14th)
11.12.26	Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children
14.12.26	Father Christmas Visit at 10.00 AM
15.12.26	Parent Workshop Eagles 2.00 PM
15.12.26	EYFS Nativity 2.00 PM
16.12.26	Christmas Lunch - wear a Christmas Jumper
16.12.26	EYFS Nativity 9.30 AM
17.12.26	Christingle @ St Mary's Church 9.30 AM
18.12.26	*Last Day of Term 2*

School Uniform Reminder

Here's a reminder of the school uniform for anyone needing to purchase new items over the summer break.

Winter Uniform	Navy blue, grey trousers Navy blue, grey skirts or pinafore dresses Light blue polo shirts Navy blue jumper or cardigan with or without the school logo embroidered on it Navy, grey, black or white socks Navy, grey, black tights Shoes should be plain black low heeled or flat and sturdy for outdoor play. An appropriate school coat for all weathers
Summer Uniform	Navy blue, grey or black tailored shorts Blue and white checked / striped dresses
PE Kit To be kept in school at all times in a PE Bag	Plain white T-Shirt with no logo Navy blue or black shorts Plain black daps or trainers
Additional options	Wellington boots, any colour

Staple items such as trousers, tops and plain jumpers can be purchased anywhere. However, if you wish to have items with our logo embroidered on, then you will need to purchase these online from Mapac.

Parents can view all available products by visiting the company's website. There is a separate sheet in the pack explaining how to register with Mapac.

http://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/stmarystimsburyBA2

The school does not purchase any items of uniform or keep items here. From time to time, the PTA sell "pre-loved" items of uniform. Pre loved items are also available at Timsbury Library for a small donation.

We are keen to encourage independence and responsibility. Your child is responsible for his/her belongings and the school cannot be held responsible for any losses. We discourage children from bringing personal/valuable belongings into school; this avoids things being lost or broken.

Please help us by ensuring that ALL items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We require all children to have a full PE Kit in school at all times, clearly labelled and in an appropriate bag.

Hairstyles

Long hair should always be tied back, particularly during PE. Children should not be sent to school with extreme haircuts or hairstyles. Hair bands must be white/black or blue, and fashion accessories including large bows are not acceptable.

Shoes and accessories

Shoes should be smart black school shoes and appropriate for school. Black trainers should not be worn as shoes. For safety reasons, children must not wear shoes with an excessively high heel to school or trousers with an excessive flare. Equally, only stud earrings are allowed and children should wear no other jewellery. All earrings must be removed before PE. Nail polish is not permitted at school.

A Reminder About Safeguarding

We are committed to keeping every child safe and supported. If you ever have questions or concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of any of our pupils, please reach out to the school office.

Ask for our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or any of our Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Woods or Mrs Purnell.

THE GREAT TIMSBURY BAKE OFF

THURS NOV 26TH

READY, SET, BAKE!!

WE WELCOME EVERY STUDENT TO TRY THEIR HAND AT BAKING, SWEET OR SAVORY, WHOLE CAKES OR INDIVIDUAL PIECES, WHATEVER YOU FANCY.
EVERY CHILD WILL RECEIVE A PARTICIPATION MEDAL!
AND WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN NIGELLA & PAUL READY TO TEST THEM WITH PRIZES FOR THE BEST IN EACH CLASS.
GOOD LUCK!

BAKE SALE THURS 26TH NOV
3:15PM - 4PM.
SCHOOL HALL
CASH OR CARD
ALL WELCOME
GOODIES FROM £1
WHOLE CAKES FROM £10

PLEASE BRING ALL BAKES IN A CLEARLY LABELLED CONTAINER WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS.
IF YOU CAN SPARE SOME TIME TO HELP AT THE BAKE SALE, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH.
WE'D ALSO LOVE YOU TO SPREAD THE WORD AND BRING ALONG FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

Thought of the Week

'And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.' (Romans 5:5 NLT)



'Hot Air Balloon Hope' - Corissa Nelson (2013)

Hope is one of those intangible things that many of us struggle with. As children, we're not keen about the idea of hope. 'I hope it doesn't rain on my birthday', 'I hope I get that new toy', 'I hope my brother/sister gets told off for something'. Coupled with the rather annoying "we'll see" when we ask our parents or carers for something, hope isn't secure like knowing something will happen.

Even as adults, hope can still be difficult, but now the things we hope for are quite different. 'I hope I can pay that bill', 'I hope our child will find friends at their new school', 'I hope mum/dad recovers and doesn't get any worse'. Our hopes as adults are often more serious, but the feeling is still the same. We want to know rather than hope.

I've noticed over the last 40 years that Christmas is definitely getting earlier and earlier. I'm not making it up. If you go back to the 70s and 80s, decorations only started appearing in houses around the middle of December. This year, "winter lights" have been around since October! And don't start me on garden centres, where Christmas seems to start as soon as the children go back to school.

The reason I believe people want to start Christmas earlier is because it is the season of hope. Life is difficult for many of us a lot of the time and we crave hope. We need joyful times, peaceful times and a time of celebration. Lights, decorations and music can give us those feelings.

We desire to recreate those happy memories that many of us enjoyed as children and young adults and by lighting up the house, buying some festive food and inviting friends and family around for a drink we can manufacture an atmosphere that resembles what we once had and are often desperate to have again.



Today's verse is all about hope. When the Bible refers to hope, it is referring to something a lot more tangible. This is because it is paired up with faith. In the book of Hebrews it says:

'*Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.*' (Hebrews 11:1 NCV)

This is about believing in a God who dearly and deeply loves us and trusting him regardless of what's happening in front of us. This 'faith' in an almighty God enables us to believe for the things we hope for, which may well change as a result of knowing him. That doesn't mean that everything will work out exactly as we want, but there is a reason for hope and a person to hope in. Because God became man and lived among us, hope is no longer intangible, hope is no longer disappointing. Hope is a sure thing.

Paul Marvin
MNSP Christian Distinctiveness Lead



Christmas Elf Shop

Wednesday 2nd December - KS2
Monday 7th December - EYFS and KS1

Christmas jumpers can be worn to school on your childs chosen day to visit the Elf Shop!

Our PTA elves have been extremely busy preparing for our first ever Christmas Elf Shop!

During the school day, children will have the opportunity to independently choose gifts for their loved ones, which will have been pre-paid for by parents and carers.

There will be a lovely selection of gifts suitable for parents, carers, grandparents, aunties, uncles, siblings and friends – making it the perfect chance to pick up a little something special for everyone!

Payments via bank transfer to: St Mary's School PTA
Account: 26204029 Sort Code: 60-19-12
Reference: Childs name and year group





£3.50 per gift - All payments for gifts to be made by 8pm on Mon 30th November please



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ST MARY'S SCHOOL PTA AGM

TUES 24TH NOV

WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for a new Chair - could this be you?

AT SCHOOL

EVERYONE WELCOME

Please meet at school reception

17:30-18:00

Come and see how much money we have raised and what we have spent this on. And have your say about how we spend the money we raise in the future.

stmarysschooltimsburypta@gmail.com →
Or contact the school office for more info


Join our adult wind bands!
West of England MUSIC & ARTS
Choose from:
Encore Wind Band
For wind, brass and percussion players of Grade 6 upwards, with an experienced conductor.
Overture Wind Band
For novice or returning players, around grade 1-3 standard, who want to play in an ensemble.
Overture Band: 5.45-6.45pm
Encore Band 6.50-7.50pm
Bath Music Centre - Wednesdays
wema.org.uk/adult-wind-bands
Registered Charity Number 1204508
create@wema.org.uk · 01454 863147


CHRISTMAS DINNER!
WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER
ON THE MENU
MEAL CHOICES
CHRISTMAS TURKEY PARCEL
• Roast Potatoes / Sausage / Vegetables / Festive Shortbread biscuit
VEGETARIAN OPTION
• Roast vegetable parcel / Roast Potatoes / Sausage Vegetables / Festive Shortbread biscuit


West of England MUSIC & ARTS
NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES
DJ skills
Music Production
Brand new sessions for young musicians.
Mix, produce and make your own tracks.
Saturdays · Backwell · from 9.30am
Mondays · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
Wednesdays · Bath · from 5.45pm
Bookings open now
wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons
Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium


West of England MUSIC & ARTS
NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES!
Out of School Music Lessons
Woodwind | Brass | Piano | Strings | Guitar | Drum Kit | Music Production | DJ Skills
Make music outside school hours | Available at your local WEMA Music Centre | Join an ensemble when you're ready.
Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium
Bookings open now
wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons
DJ & Music Production times
Saturdays · Backwell · from 9.30am
Mondays · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
Wednesdays · Bath · from 5.45pm