



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 21st November 2025

Newsletter 04

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

Head's Message

As ever, it has been a very busy start to the term St.Mary's. I am delighted to share with you the wonderful successes we have recently enjoyed at St. Mary's. Our annual '**Great Timsbury Bake Off**' was a tremendous triumph, raising over £300 for the PTA. The creativity, effort and enthusiasm shown by both children and parents made it a truly memorable event. The PTA have also held a **Line Dancing Evening** raising £415.80 and also a Christmas Market raising £545 - thank you to all the volunteers who help organise and run these events and our families and the community for supporting them.

Equally inspiring was our **Christmas Shoebox Appeal**. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, with an incredible number of boxes donated. At this time of year, when demands on everyone are so great, your kindness and willingness to give to others is especially impressive.

These achievements highlight what makes our school so unique. Thank you to all our parents, carers and of course our fantastic children for your thoughtfulness and community spirit. You truly are an impressive bunch and your contributions help make St Mary's such a warm, caring and very special place to be part of. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Mr Thomson

House Points Winners



The race is on to become Term 2 Champions, with **Rubies** winning Term 1 who will win. Currently at the end of week 2 the leaders are **Topaz** closely followed by **Sapphires**.

Keep up the great work teams!

Attendance Winners



Well done to our weekly attendance champions -

Foxes wk 9

Badgers wk 10

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

How are we doing?*

Ducklings	94.23%
Rabbits	94.03%
Badgers	97.9%
Foxes	97.28%
Lions	94.88%
Eagles	96.96%
Whole School	96.2%

*Class attendance percentages for this academic year so far

Outside Achievements



What a talented group of children we have at St Mary's both in and out of school they shine! Well done children we love you sharing your achievements with us every week.



Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings	Sibby, Ezra, Jimmi
Rabbits	Henry, Rubie, Aniyah
Badgers	Evie, Ella, Lilly
Foxes	Malachy, Lucas
Lions	Dawson, Max, Dexter
Eagles	Anjaleena, Lola, Charlie



Hedgehogs



Class News:

What an exciting first few weeks of term 2 we've had in Hedgehogs! We mixed different colours with lots of glitter to make bright and colourful fireworks pictures for November the 5th, and the children shared with us how they celebrated outside of nursery. We had fun using the musical instruments to make loud noises like the fireworks, practising stopping and playing the instruments to a beat.

We held **Remembrance Day** by making and hanging poppies on the tree, watching some of the London parades and talking about the soldiers and why we remember them.

We've spent so much time enjoying the outdoors in all the weather, the forest school area looks so colourful covered in leaves at the moment. The children have so enjoyed exploring, finding bugs, climbing the trees and listening to the rain. We even had a dinosaur treasure hunt based around our focus book "Worrysaurus" about a little lost dinosaur. Our other focus books were "Room on the Broom"; the children enjoyed collecting sticks and making their own brooms to ride on, and "10 Little Monkeys", which supported our Maths focus: counting, recognising numbers, and for our older children subitising up to three.

During sound time, we've been learning our sound and word of the week, playing "Silly Soup" and "Match the Sound." With our younger children, we've been practising tuning into sounds on "Sound Walks," where they explore what noises they can make in the environment.

The children have been very excited to begin practising for our **Nativity** this week. They are already singing along to the words and copying the actions, showing such wonderful confidence! We can't wait to share this with our families at the end of the term!

Miss James & Mrs Munro



Ducklings



Class News:

What a fantastic start to Term 2. The children are settled and it's lovely to see how independent they are, coming into school.

Our topic of *Light and Dark* has been full of creative experiences and some beautiful firework pictures. In Literacy, the children have written firework safety posters and are loving this week's story, "Funnybones". The children are beginning to write sentences and I'm hearing that the children love writing at home too.

Thank you for continuing to read regularly with your child; it really does have a positive impact on their sound knowledge.

It was lovely to have so many parents and carers at our Maths workshop. We enjoyed sharing all of the different Maths equipment that we use and playing lots of fun games. I think you will agree that the children showed great confidence in singing all of the number rhymes and songs.

In PE, the children have been practising their

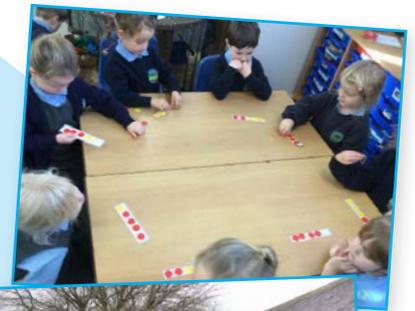
ball skills. They can roll the ball around their bodies, bounce, catch and dribble-bounce a ball.

The EYFS children held a Remembrance service around our tree. We loved drilling holes in the wooden poppies. We hung them around the tree to show our respect.

We have begun rehearsals for the Nativity. The children have taken home their lines to learn stapled to their reading record. Please practise with them. It's very exciting!

The Tuesday performance will be at 2pm & Wednesday 9.30am. I have many costumes if you need anything. We will sort animal masks for the children.

Mrs Gillard



Rabbits



Class News:

Rabbits have made a fantastic start to Term 2. In English, we've been creating our own firework-themed poems, using onomatopoeia and similes to make our writing exciting. The children have loved exploring poetry and have enjoyed listening to a new poem each day from different anthologies.

In Maths, we've been using hands-on resources to support our addition work. We've also been practising our subitising skills, quickly recognising amounts on a tens frame without counting.

This term in PE, our focus is gymnastics. The children have had great fun moving like different animals and exploring high and low levels using the floor and benches.

Our **Nativity** rehearsals are also underway! The children already know most of the songs and have just started practising their lines. They're really enjoying the acting and we can't wait to share the performance with you!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree



Badgers

Class News:



Wow! Badgers have been working incredibly hard over the last couple of weeks, and we've had a terrific start to the new term.

In Maths, we have been tackling more complex arithmetic problems, including crossing ten in both addition and subtraction. I have been so impressed with how confidently the children have taken on these challenges and the fantastic progress they have made. A special well done to those who have been logging into our Maths platforms at home to keep their learning going!

In English, we have been reading *'Traction Man'* and planning our diary entries. The children will soon be writing about a day in the life of Traction

Man himself! I can't wait to read their brilliant diary entries next week.

In Geography, we have been exploring rural and urban landscapes in the UK and learning about the different features of each. In History, we have been thinking about **Remembrance Day** and how it connects to our learning about World War I.

Nativity is now well underway! Badgers have made a superb start and have already learned the words to all of our songs—well done! Our lines are also coming along nicely, with just a few left to learn. Any extra practice at home will help make our performance truly wonderful.

Miss Heath



Foxes

Class News:



Term 2 has certainly started well in Foxes and we have hit the ground running with some great new learning. The class is enjoying our new text for English, called *"The Scarab's Secret"* and it compliments our learning on the Egyptians really well. Our Egyptian theme continued this week with a fantastic trip to **Bristol Museum** to enjoy the Ancient Egypt exhibit. We enjoyed a workshop where we got to handle a variety of artefacts, both real and replica as discovered by Amelia Edwards on her expeditions around Egypt. The children really enjoyed this trip as there were so many other interesting things to look at in the museum too. Ask the children what their highlight was!

In PE, this term, we are learning gymnastics and have been perfecting our balance whilst performing point and patch poses on mats and apparatus.

In Science, we have begun to explore the theme of *light* and conducted an interesting experiment to see which materials could be seen best even in reduced amounts of light. The children are really enjoying their hands-on science experiments and are forming hypotheses and asking really interesting questions.

Well done on a great start to Term 2 Foxes!

Mrs Brown

Lions



Class News:

It's been a brilliant start to Term 2 and it was great to be able to meet up with so many parents at our recent Parent/Teacher Meetings and share all of the fantastic news regarding how well our cohort of Year 4/5 Lions are getting on.

Some of our recent highlights have included our new topic in Science, where we have been investigating the best materials to help keep our cups of tea warm! We found that covering cups in wool prevented heat loss the most which must mean that wool is a good thermal insulator.

In Music, this term we are learning about Blues music. Did you know that Blues music originated from music sung by black Africans who were taken to be slaves in South America, North America and the Caribbean islands? The

slaves sang to help them with their hard work and to keep up their spirits. We are learning the chords to play the 12-bar blues on the glockenspiels.

We have really enjoyed beginning learning a new sport in PE. We have begun to develop our hockey skills and there is some really impressive natural talent being demonstrated by our Lions, particularly with the tricky techniques required for reverse stick dribbling and receiving a pass at speed.

Finally, well done to everyone for continuing to read so regularly at home. We are having to hand out so many certificates each week as our class zooms through this year's Reading Challenge. Fantastic effort, everyone!

Mr Daniels



Eagles



Class News:

It's been a wonderful start to what is certainly a very busy term for our Eagles. The children have returned with such maturity and positivity, tackling assessments and the introduction of SATs homework with resilience. We are incredibly proud of how calmly and confidently they have settled back into routines, showing that they are more than ready for the challenges ahead.

In Writing, Eagles have been innovating the first chapter of "Goodnight Mister Tom". They have impressed us with their thoughtful character descriptions, carefully chosen speech and the increasingly confident use of hyphenated words and semi-colons to enhance their narratives. It has been a joy to see them experimenting with style and structure to make this well-loved story their own.

During Guided Reading, we have been sharpening our VIPERS skills while diving deeper into "Goodnight Mister Tom". Although it is a complex and emotionally rich text, the Eagles have thrown themselves into it with real enthusiasm. Their discussions have been thoughtful and mature and it's clear they are fully absorbed in the story.

In Science, Eagles have started their new topic on classifying living things. They have loved getting outdoors to explore the natural world, discovering plants and creatures before using classification keys to sort them into groups. Their curiosity and teamwork have made these sessions particularly enjoyable.

In PE, Eagles have been developing their netball skills, focusing on finding space and mastering footwork—something that many find quite tricky at first! Their understanding of the different passes is becoming increasingly secure and they are buzzing with excitement about putting their skills into practice in our upcoming mini class matches.

I am incredibly proud of the Eagles and everything they have achieved so far this term. Their determination, teamwork and positivity shine through every day. We still have so much more to explore and accomplish, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the term brings.

Miss Woods



PTA News

There are only 4 weeks left of school this year, but we still have plenty of things lined up for the children and families of St Mary's!

If you're having a clear out of clothing, shoes and accessories like bags, belts etc. in preparation for the festive season, please consider popping these into our clothing bank which is situated in the car park at Conygre Hall. We ensure that it is regularly emptied and it does raise a good amount of funds for the PTA each month.

Another easy way to help us raise funds is via our EasyFundraising page. All you need to do is create your account and then go through our affiliated link when doing any of your online shopping - there is a banner on the school gates with a QR code which helps you set it all up. So if you're ordering your Christmas gifts, food shop, booking a holiday or even renewing your insurance online, you could be helping the PTA without any extra effort.

- On Friday 5th December, there will be a non-uniform day at school. In return, we would love the children to bring in items for the Christmas Fayre. Please consider donating Jolly Jars as well as items towards the rainbow raffle.**
- On Monday 8th December we will have the PTA Annual General Meeting at 6pm at school if anyone would like to know more about what we do as a Parent Teacher Association.**
- On Friday 12th December it's time for the Christmas Fayre. This will take place in the school hall and a couple of the classrooms from 3.15-4.30pm.**

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

School Council

We have been completely overwhelmed by the generosity of our wonderful school community. What began as a simple goal from our School Council and Global Citizens to pack seven shoeboxes, one for each year group, quickly grew into something far bigger. Thanks to your incredible donations, the children were able to fill an astounding **35 shoeboxes**, with plenty of items still left over.

Our School Council and Global Citizens gave up their Friday lunchtime to organise, sort and pack each box with care and thoughtfulness. They also delivered two assemblies to raise awareness of the appeal and inspire others to get involved. Their commitment, teamwork and compassion have been truly inspiring.

Any larger items that did not fit into the shoeboxes were donated to the Mercy in Action charity shop, which supports vulnerable children, while all remaining toiletries have been passed on to the Hygiene Bank to help children with essential personal care.

It has been wonderful to see our community come together for such an important cause and we are so grateful to everyone who contributed.



Christian Values Awards



The children recognised for demonstrating our Christian Values during term 1:

Compassion	Albie S, Hamish M, Archie C, Charlie W, Evelyn J, Willow-Grace V, Elizabeth B
Creativity	Jayden H, Bella M, Maggie M, Tilly-Faith C
Courage	Lottie G, Noah F, Olivia F, Olivia J, Alaina A, Vinnie P
Koinonia	Clemmie R, Tommy H, Aniyah HH, Harry S
Service	Mabel R, Rosalie H, Rowan B, Florence H, Merryn H, Clemmie R, Tallulah G, Theo J, Vinnie P, Aidan B, Harrison M,

Great Timsbury Bake Off - What a competition!

The Great Timsbury Bake Off Success!

What an absolutely fantastic event The Great Timsbury Bake Off was! It was lovely to see the tables laden with a spectacular spread of sweet and savoury treats, all lovingly prepared by our amazing pupils and parents.

From our youngest Hedgehogs right up to our oldest Yr 6 Eagles, the talent and effort displayed were truly phenomenal. There was certainly something for everyone, making it incredibly difficult to choose just one delicious item!

Well done to our 3 joint winners

Beatrice Ducklings, Lilly Rabbits, Indigo Lions

A massive thank you goes to the wonderful PTA for their support in making this such a smooth and successful event. Their hard work behind the scenes is invaluable.

It was a truly great community event, and we are thrilled to announce that we raised **over £300!**

Thank you, wonderful Bakers and everyone who supported us! Your contributions make a real difference.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Countdown..... It's such a busy time of the year so we thought we would share with you what's coming up over the next month.



Wk Commencing 1 December

Thursday Eco Xmas Jumper Sale after school

Friday Non uniform day in return for a donation of an item for the Rainbow Raffle or a Jolly Jar (see PTA section of the newsletter for more information)

Wk Commencing 8 December

Tuesday 2pm Badgers & Rabbits Nativity

Wednesday 9.30am Badgers & Rabbits Nativity

Friday Christmas Jumper Day - Save the Children (non uniform) & the PTA Christmas Fayre 3.15 - 4.30pm

Wk Commencing 15 December

Tuesday 2pm Ducklings & Hedgehogs Nativity

Wednesday 9.30am Ducklings & Hedgehogs Nativity. Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper!

Thursday 9.15am Christingle Service @ St Mary's Church

Eco Team Christmas Pre Loved Jumper Sale!

'Tis almost the season to be jolly, and what better way to spread holiday cheer than with a Christmas Jumper?

St Mary's Eco Team would like to encourage everyone to have a Sustainable Christmas by launching a Christmas Jumper Shop.

The Eco Team would like donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers / t-shirts or outfits that have been grown out of or are no longer needed, instead of buying new this Christmas.

On **Thursday 4th December**, we will be running a "Christmas jumper shop" for families to buy a Christmas jumper for a small fee which will go directly to our school to raise money for more Eco friendly projects.

Any donations of pre-loved Christmas items can be brought to the office where there will be a box for you to put the outfit in. Donations welcome from **Friday 7th November!**

Thank you so much for your support.

Mrs Brown & The Eco Team



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.

Thought for the Week

'Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!' (Philippians 4:4)

Sometimes it can be hard to find things to be joyful about. When it's November and the days are shorter and the weather is miserable and it's started getting really cold, it can bring a lot of us down.

This time of year can be difficult for many of us. About 1 in 15 of us are affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD, but I imagine many more of us will still find the effects of winter difficult. That might be why so many of us are putting up our Christmas decorations earlier each year!

People in Denmark are well known for embracing the coziness that winter can bring, so much so that it has become part of their cultural identity. They have even named it. *Hygge* (pronounced "hoo-gah") is defined as a quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment and wellbeing. They use candles and warm lighting, eat comfort food and spend time with loved ones, to create a *hyggelig* atmosphere.

This does sound a bit like our seasonal period, but it is certainly not something that is restricted to a week or two. Maybe this is why we're so keen to start our Christmas festivities earlier each year. We want to experience *hygge*.

Whatever you choose to do, it is important to do things that you enjoy, things that you can 'rejoice' in. Paul, who wrote the letter to the Philippians made it clear to them that we should rejoice in the Lord. Many Christians around the world have found this phrase so helpful. When they are feeling weighed down by life and by all the difficulties and darkness, they can remind themselves to rejoice in what God has done for them and to remember how much he loves them. This is really something (or somebody) that they can rejoice in.

But for some of us, this won't be the case. If not, what is it in your life that gives you joy? Family? Friends? A book in your favourite chair? Early morning walks? Whatever it is, make time for it and whatever you do, remember to rejoice!

Paul Marvin (Christian Distinctiveness MAT Lead)



Dates for your Calendar 2025/2026 - Term 2

Date	Event
25.11.25	Badgers Parent Workshop 9:15am
28.11.25	Anti-Bullying Day - (<i>wear odd socks</i>)
02.12.25	Swim Gala
02.12.25	Lions Parent Workshop 9:15am
02.12.25	Flu Vaccines
03.12.25	Open Morning 9:30am
04.12.25	Foxes Parent Workshop 9:15am
05.12.25	Non Uniform Day - for <i>Christmas Fayre</i>
09.12.25	Nativity - KS1 2:00pm
10.12.25	Nativity - KS1 9:30am
12.12.25	Christmas Jumper Day - <i>Save the Children</i>
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 9:30am
17.12.25	Christmas Jumper Lunch
18.12.25	Christingle at Church
19.12.25	Last day of Term 2

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Here's what is happening in your Libraries this week

w/c November 24 2025

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

Bath Central Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Every Wednesday
(term-time only)

Board Game Saturdays
Drop in. Suitable for all ages.

Every Saturday
12.30-4.00pm

Our sensory room is available all day if you need to escape the Bath Christmas Market.

*Subject to availability

Keynsham Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

9.30 - 10.00am &
10.30 - 11.00am
Every Tuesday
(term-time only)

Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Every Thursday
(term-time only)

Midsomer Norton Library

Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Every Monday
(term-time only)

Storytime
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.

10.30 - 11.00am
Every Wednesday
(term-time only)

Board Game Saturday's

Every Saturday

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library may stop near you! Pop in for a visit, return your books, collect a reservation & choose something new to read. You can do all this & more with your B&NES or LibrariesWest library card.

For the Route Timetable, please visit:
<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/mobile-library-service>

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

Winter Events:

Thursday 27 November:
At Midsomer Norton Library
join in for some festive craft fun. Late night opening till 7.00pm.

Saturday 29 November:
Keynsham Winter Wonderland
Featuring a community market, food vendors, local bands, a free Santa's Grotto, In Keynsham Library there will be Punch & Judy and more stalls.

TIMSBURY FESTIVE VILLAGE MARKET

COME AND JOIN US FOR OVER TWENTY FIVE STALLS OF FABULOUS LOCAL FOOD, BEAUTIFUL CRAFTS & GORGEOUS GIFTS.

Jewellery, prints & cards, woodcrafts, flowers, textiles, craft beers, wine, coffees, cheese, meat, veg, jams & preserves, bread, cakes, orchids, chilli sauces, oils, natural beauty products & wellbeing massages, furniture & lighting, dog products, handmade children's clothes, vintage wares and more.

CAFE
LIVE MUSIC
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
TALKS BOOKABLE CRAFT WORKSHOPS

Saturday 29th November 10am-2pm
Conygre Hall - free entry

the Festive Village Market is organised by Grow Timsbury CIC no. 10709916
more info at www.growtimsbury.org.uk @growtimsbury

Christmas Holiday Camps



We are proud to offer activities for Happy Healthy Holidays Winter 2025



Booking goes live at 10am on Monday 24th November



Happy Healthy Holiday funded spaces available for eligible children across all of our venues this winter

INSPIRED SCHOOLS

Venues

Northgate, Bridgwater
Woolavington Primary
North Petherton Primary
Stoberry Park Primary, Wells
BASC Ground Burnham on Sea
St Benedict's, Midsomer Norton
Creech St Michael Primary
Orchard Grove Primary
Wellesley Park Primary
Castle Cary Primary



Inspired Schools
hello@inspiredschools.co.uk
07494175299



Calling All Parents And Guardians



We Need Your Voice!

Welcome to our supervised toothbrushing programme!

We've launched a fun and healthy supervised toothbrushing programme within our setting to help children build great brushing habits and keep their smiles sparkling.



Please complete the parent and guardian survey online, it only takes 2 minutes and makes a BIG difference

Your answers are confidential; we will use them only to support your child's participation.

Why your survey matters?

- Helps us understand your child's needs
- Supports better oral health for all children
- NHS requires this to be done as a part of the programme
- To answer any oral health questions, you may have around your child



More resources can be found on our website
www.bigbrushclub.co.uk

HOW TO MAKE A JOLLY JAR

COLLECT SMALL TOYS, CRAFT ITEMS, STICKERS, SWEETS AND OTHER ITEMS THAT WILL BE A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE

FILL YOUR JAR WITH THE TREATS AND POP THE LID ON THE JAR

WRAP THE JAR IN WRAPPING PAPER/NEWSPAPER

BRING INTO SCHOOL FROM FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



ST MARY'S SCHOOL PTA

RAINBOW RAFFLE

It will be taking place at the School Christmas Fayre on Friday 12th December from 3.15-4.30pm. Please could you bring coloured donations for this year's Christmas Rainbow Raffle into school from Friday 5th December - class colours are:

- Hedgehogs ~ Any colour
- Ducklings ~ Red
- Rabbits ~ Orange
- Badgers ~ Yellow
- Foxes ~ Green
- Lions ~ Blue
- Eagles ~ Purple



Christmas Holiday Camp

St Benedicts Primary- Midsomer Norton

22nd, 23rd & 29th December

9.00am-3.00pm

Multisports and Football Champions League camps



£20 Per day

10% Whole week discount

15% Sibling discount

Inspired Schools

07494175299

hello@inspiredschools.co.uk

<https://inspiredschools.ipalbookings.com>



For paid places

Limited free places available for children on benefit related free school meals

Happy Healthy Holidays FREE Places

Bookable at 10am on Monday, 24th November