



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 13th February 2026

Newsletter 07

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



Speak OUT

On Monday 2nd February, three young ladies from Eagles took part in the annual **Speak Out** debating competition. This event brings together schools from across our Trust to celebrate excellence in speaking and listening.

Pippi, Phoebe and Poppy from Year 6 were chosen to represent St Mary's and did a fantastic job debating the question: *"Is growing up too slowly a bigger issue than growing up too fast?"* The girls were determined to write the very best debate possible, practising every lunchtime, breaktime and even during assembly in the lead-up to the event. Their dedication was exceptional and, as their teacher, I was incredibly proud of them.

On the night, they had the challenging task of opening the competition by speaking first. Their stage presence, tone and delivery were outstanding, setting a high standard for the teams that followed. After listening to ten more debates and patiently awaiting the results, St Mary's was announced as the winner!

The girls truly did us proud and thoroughly deserved to take home the trophy. They were a shining example that hard work, commitment and teamwork really do pay off.

Christian Values Awards



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

Compassion	Ben P, Dawson C, Sophia B, Elizabeth B
Creativity	Amelie R, Olivia J, Merryn H, Theo H, Sibby M,
Courage	Beatrix L
Service	Max R, Sibby M, Imogen L, Olly P, Archie C

Attendance Winners



Well done to our weekly attendance champions, each week the class with the highest attendance is rewarded with an extra afternoon playtime and they get to keep the trophy in their classroom for the week!

Week 19 Badgers

Week 20 Badgers

Week 21 Eagles

Week 22 Ducklings

**MOMENTS MATTER,
ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

How are we doing?*

Badgers	97.38%
Eagles	96.15%
Foxes	95.64%
Lions	95.40%
Rabbits	94.47%
Ducklings	92.34%
Whole School	95.36%

*Class attendance percentages for this academic year so far

Headteacher's Award

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



Class	Wk18	Wk19	Wk20	Wk21
Ducklings	Lily-Rose	Roux	Clemmie	Amelie
Rabbits	Cleo	Tabby	Joshua	Mollie
Badgers	Donald	Maggie	Jacob	Theo
Foxes	Walt	Sienna	Amelie	Ben
Lions	Corey E	Molly F-D	Oliver W	Theo
Eagles	Emily R	Poppy	Joe B	Pippi



Hedgehogs



Class News:

Well done Hedgehogs, you've had a fun filled few weeks of learning.

We have loved sharing lots of great books, especially '*Trains, Trains*' and '*Daddy do my hair*'. We have enjoyed looking at different hairstyles and sharing with our friends the different things we like to wear in our hair.

Our Mathematical learning has included lots of exploration of colours and shape. The shape creations looked wonderful on display in the Nursery. We have learned some new songs and rhymes which have linked to shape and size. We loved singing '*This is big, big, big, this is small, small, small*'.

During outdoor learning we have been developing our *balance skills*. We love playing '*The floor is Lava*' and the children work well together to create an obstacle course.

With the rain comes lots of water play. The children used fantastic vocabulary during water play. They have been pouring and mixing carefully, measuring and comparing.

We are looking forward to our **Lunar New Year** celebrations and our collages show understanding of the world around us.

We wish you all a happy half term holiday

Team Hedgehogs



Ducklings



Class News:

Well done Ducklings for a fantastic few weeks.

In Maths, we have continued our investigations about shape and measure. We have baked some delicious cakes which have supported our measuring techniques. We have been exploring longer than, shorter than and the same as.

We hope you like the Valentines day cards the children have created. During Literacy, the children have written cards using some lovely letter formation and cutting skills.

I'm sure that you will agree that the children's Design Technology skills are superb. We loved inviting you to our parent workshop and the Space topic themed models that everyone created were 'out of this world'!

Over the last two weeks, we have celebrated **Internet Safety Week** and **Number Day**. We experienced lots of fun activities to celebrate each of these events like extra play and we dressed up as a number. We have talked about what it means to be safe online and the children talked about what games they like to play on tablets, computers and games consoles.

We would like to welcome Miss Slee to our teaching team. She is a student of Bath Spa University and will be joining us in Ducklings until June.

Have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming you all back next term.

Mrs Gillard



Rabbits



Class News:

The last few weeks have been full of exciting learning and events in Year 1!

In English, we became brilliant authors by creating our own 'That's Not My...' stories. After exploring the books and building new vocabulary, the children produced wonderfully creative texts and proudly shared them with Hedgehogs Nursery. They enjoyed it so much that many have continued making their own books at home and in school. We also loved welcoming parents for a workshop to create more stories thank you for joining us!

In Maths, we have been exploring *place value to 20*, focusing on recognising tens and ones and writing numerals correctly.

In Art, the children learned to mix primary colours to make secondary colours and used these skills to create beautiful pieces inspired by Clarice Cliff.

We've also celebrated **Mental Health Week**, **Internet Safety Week** and **Number Day** with lots of fun activities, including extra play, number dress-up day and the BBC Internet Safety live lesson.

We're excited to have Mrs Boyd and Miss Hawkins join our Year 1 team welcome!

Wishing you all a lovely half-term break!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree



Badgers



Class News:

I have been extremely impressed with the children's work on fractions in Maths. Many of the concepts were challenging at first; however, the children have persevered and are now solving problems with increasing confidence and accuracy. Their resilience and determination have been wonderful to see.

In English, Badgers have been writing descriptive paragraphs, carefully using expanded noun phrases and similes to add detail to their writing. They have also been practising the correct use of contractions and apostrophes for possession, applying these skills thoughtfully in their independent work.

In Geography, we have been learning about the oceans and the continents of the world, using maps and atlases to support our understanding. In History, the children have been investigating different sources of evidence and discussing what they can teach us about the Great Fire of London. They have begun to understand how we learn about the past through a range of materials.

In PSHE, Badgers have been developing their teamwork skills through collaborative activities, as well as designing their own imaginative 'dream birds', demonstrating creativity and cooperation.

Miss Heath



Foxes

Class News:



It's been a very enjoyable final few weeks of term in Foxes. In English, we have written our own diaries based on the book 'Stone Age Boy'. The class have really enjoyed this book and have really impressed us with their creativity and attention to detail.

In Science, we have been learning about how fossils are made and have conducted experiments about the durability of different types of rock.

As part of **Internet Safety Week**, we took part in a live lesson from the BBC which helped us to understand about the different uses of AI, and how it can be an incredibly useful tool yet needs to be used with caution. The children also did some activities based on designing their own AI robot and also reflected on the importance

of being safe when online.

We thoroughly enjoyed being part of **Number Day** and were pleased to welcome in parents and family members for a morning of Maths games and activities as well as dressing up as a number and creating our own number based board games. Additionally, in Maths we have been learning about factor pairs and factors of different numbers.

Finally, in Art, we have been making our own cave paintings using a range of natural materials such as moss, mud and stones to make marks and recreate an animal drawing in a similar style to the way that cave people would have done in the neolithic period. This term has flown by - can't wait for more fun in Term 4!

Mrs Brown

Lions



Class News:

Our Year 4/5 Lions class was invited to attend **Classics Day** at Downside School this week. As one of the few schools who learn Latin as our chosen language, their Classics Department likes to welcome our pupils each year to experience lessons taught by their staff.

First of all, we had a lesson where we learnt all about Ancient Greek gods and goddesses and how they were represented on Greek vases. We looked at lots of different vases and learnt what the different colours and decorations meant.

Did you know that the goddess Athena was born out of Zeus's head? We discovered that Hephaestus split open Zeus's head and out sprung Athena, fully armed. This is why Athena is known as the goddess of wisdom.

Our second session involved us practising how to write the 24 letters of the Greek alphabet. We learned how to write our own names in Greek.

Lunch was amazing in the Downside cafeteria. We all enjoyed the sausage rolls, shepherd's pie, pasta and their incredible salad bar!

After lunch, we were given a tour of Downside Abbey. It was really impressive. We enjoyed working out all of the dates that we found written in Roman numerals. Then, we went to their huge sports hall to play some fun games.

We returned to the classroom for the main activity of the day,

which was designing our own Greek vases. We added pictures of Greek gods and goddesses and wrote our names in Greek on them.

It was a brilliant day which everyone enjoyed.

Rex said, *"I liked designing the vases. I chose Athena because she had snakes on her armour."*

Molly said that she enjoyed learning lots of new things about Greek gods.

Martha added, *"I enjoyed learning how to write my name in Greek. That was fun."*

Finally, Leo reported that he thought it was really fun because we learned lots more about Ancient Greeks.

The Downside staff said how greatly impressed they were with our children's interest, engagement and behaviour. Well done, everyone!

Mr Daniels



Eagles

Class News:

Another term complete in Eagles, what a term it has been! Despite the hard work that has gone into preparing for SATs, we have taken part in some exciting learning events and experiences that have certainly made all the effort worthwhile.

Firstly, we enjoyed participating in a range of organised events, including **NSPCC Number Day, Mental Health Week** and **Internet Safety Day**.

Eagles celebrated the importance of Maths by tackling tricky challenges, explored what belonging truly means during Mental Health Week and reflected on the challenges surrounding online safety particularly when it comes to social media.

In Science, we had the fantastic opportunity to dissect pig hearts. Learning about the heart through diagrams and pictures is valuable; however, exploring a real heart gives the children a much deeper understanding of its different parts

and how they work together to pump blood around the body.

In PE, we learned a new sport **Handball**. This has been an incredible experience, as it was something completely new for everyone. We began by learning the key skills, including passing, understanding the rules and moving into space, before spending two weeks competing in an in-class tournament to put our skills into practice.

Alongside all the fun, there has also been plenty of hard work especially in Maths, Writing and Reading. I must applaud Eagles for their commitment to SATs homework and for attending booster groups outside of school hours. They are truly dedicated to their learning and I am extremely proud of each and every one of them.

Miss Woods



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.

A special shout out to Arthur (Badgers) who celebrated completing 100 junior parkruns last weekend. That's very impressive!



Netball Match

The St Mary's Netball team enjoyed a confident victory over Chew Stoke Primary School in the Primary Schools Cup Tournament with a 13-2 win. Some excellent shooting including three in a row from Maggie, coupled with strong defending meant that the team progressed to the next round.

The team really appreciated all of the vocal support from children in the after school club too!

Congratulations to our netballers, **Emily, Phoebe, Ronnie, Bear, Rachel, Maggie and Pippi!**



NSPCC Number Day

We were proud to take part in **NSPCC Number Day** again this year. We followed the Dress Up For Digits theme of this special day with all of our pupils wearing an item of clothing with a number on it. Our team of Maths Ambassadors organised a day of activities which involved a variety of fun Maths challenges and puzzles, included our school taking part in the NSPCC Rocks tournament on Times Tables Rock Stars and also saw our Ambassadors running an event to find which number across the whole school was the most commonly worn. Our investigation into this concluded that the most popular was actually 7, with seventeen pupils wearing clothing with this number on it - and obviously a lot of Ronaldo shirts amongst these! It was another fun day of Maths at St Mary's.

World Thinking Day 2026: Uniform Reminder!

Hi everyone! To celebrate the 100th anniversary of World Thinking Day, we'd love for all our **Rainbows, Brownies, and Guides** to wear their uniforms to school on **Monday, 23rd February**.



Thought of the Week

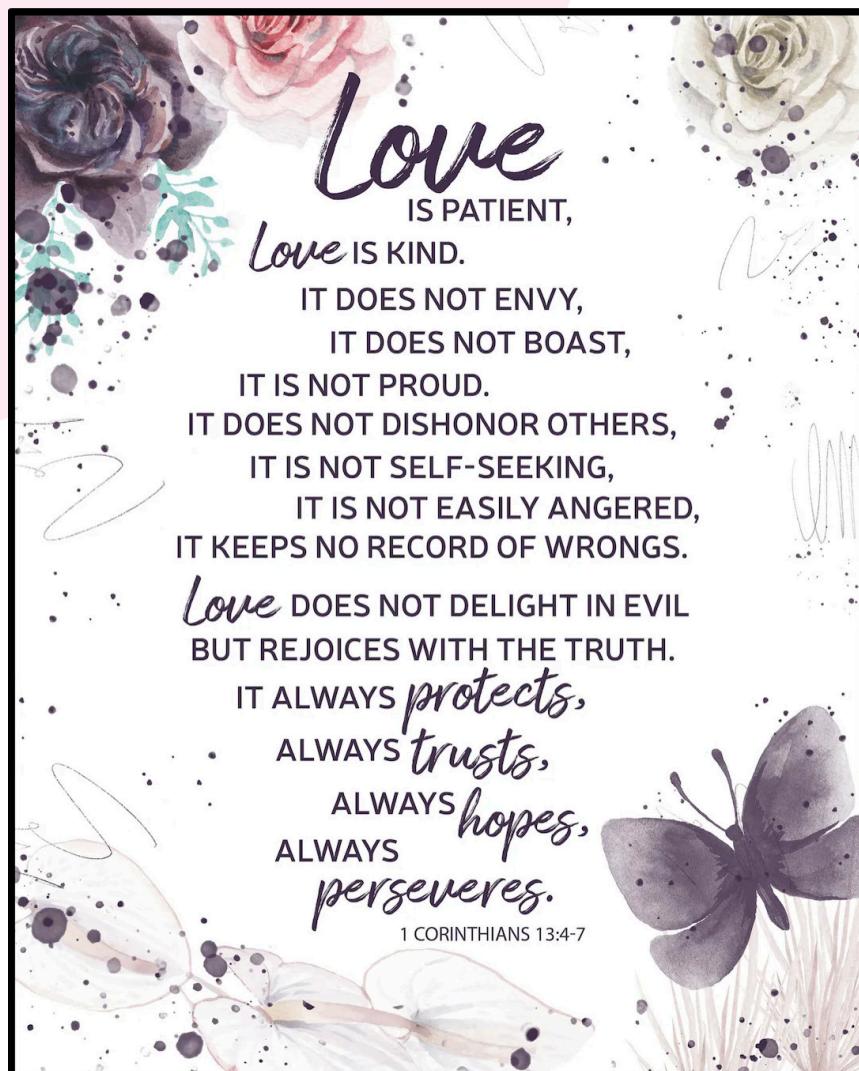
'Love is patient, love is kind...It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Recently a friend of mine was speaking to her hairdresser about faith. The hairdresser wanted to understand what made her choose to become a Christian. My friend was quite clear on this and felt that there were three things that they wanted to share that helped them to make this decision.

The acronym was HAL, which for any sci-fi fans out there will know is the name of the artificial intelligent character and main antagonist in the Space Odyssey films. Apart from the same letters being used, there is no other connection here, but it might help you remember the acronym after reading this page.

So the H stands for Hope. Everyone needs hope. We need to believe that things are going to either stay good or get better. As Friedrich Nietzsche said, *"He who has a why to live can bear almost any how."* If there is no purpose, no meaning in life, we ultimately struggle. My friend was clear that for her, having a belief and relationship with God gives her life meaning and purpose and ultimately hope.

The A stands for Acceptance. Brené Brown said, *"True belonging doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are."* Knowing we are accepted for who we are makes all the difference. It means we don't have to conform to other people's expectations of us. It also means we don't have to try and be someone else. We can enjoy being ourselves. If God made us then surely he made us well. Psalm 139:14 says that we are *'fearfully and wonderfully made'* and that God's *'works are wonderful'*. Again, hope, purpose and the knowledge that you are accepted.



Finally the L stands for Love. There are so many different understandings of the word love, but the one that is usually associated with God's love is agape - selfless, unconditional love. This is the kind of love that doesn't depend on your actions, looks, or status. It's caring for someone simply because they're a person, not because of what they do. That's the sort of love that my friend was referring to.

She ended the conversation by saying surely everyone wants these three things in their lives and the hairdresser had to agree.

What about you? Do you agree?



Childrens Mental Health Week

We were pleased to take part in what is a very important week in our school calendar - **Children's Mental Health Week**. Across the school, children were given the opportunity to spend time discussing what mental health is and how we can look after our own wellbeing and doing mindful activities. The week culminated in a chance to be outside in the fresh air and play with friends with everyone across the school joining in with some free play on Friday afternoon.

Merryn & Florence (Year 4) said they enjoyed the design your own island activity as it was nice to be able to draw about their own personalities and it was also fun to spend time with friends. Phoebe and Maggie (Year 6) said they enjoyed play time as time outside is important and it was nice to be able to spend time with friends.

Dates for your Calendar 2025/2026 - Spring

Date	Event
13.02.26	Last Day of Term 3
23.02.26	Start of Term 4
05.03.26	World Book Day
05.03.26	Lifeskills Trip - Eagles PM
10.03.26	Mid-Somerset Speaking Festival
11.03.26	<i>Duckling</i> Parent Workshop 9:00am
11.03.26	International Women's Day
17.03.26	<i>Foxes</i> Parent Workshop 9:00am
20.03.26	Comic Relief & World Down's Syndrome Day (WDSD)
23.04.26	Parent / Teacher Meetings - In person
24.04.26	Parent / Teacher Meetings - In person
24.03.26	<i>Badgers</i> Assembly and Parent Workshop 9:00am
25.03.26	<i>Rabbits</i> Parent Workshop 2:15pm
26.03.26	<i>Ducklings</i> Parent Workshop 9:00am
31.03.26	Dance Umbrella - <i>Foxes</i>
01.04.26	Parent Helpers Forest School & Tree Planting TBC
01.04.26	<i>Lions</i> Parent Workshop 9:00am
01.04.26	<i>Eagles</i> Parent Workshop 2:00pm
02.04.26	Easter Service @ St Mary's Church- Year 5
02.04.26	Last Day of Term 4
03.04.26	School Closed - <i>Good Friday</i>

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, Safeguarding Leads Miss Woods, Mrs Purnell & Mrs Parsons.

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
 - School nurse
 - Social worker
 - 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](#)



St John's C of E Primary School

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CAMPS

ignite sport

Monday - Friday
09:00 - 15:30

One epic week of action-packed holiday fun. Being active, boosting confidence, building friendships, and creating memories!

YEARS R - 6

£24.00 per day

Football Camp

Dodgeball & Archery Camp

Nerf Combat Camp

Musical Theatre & Dance Camp

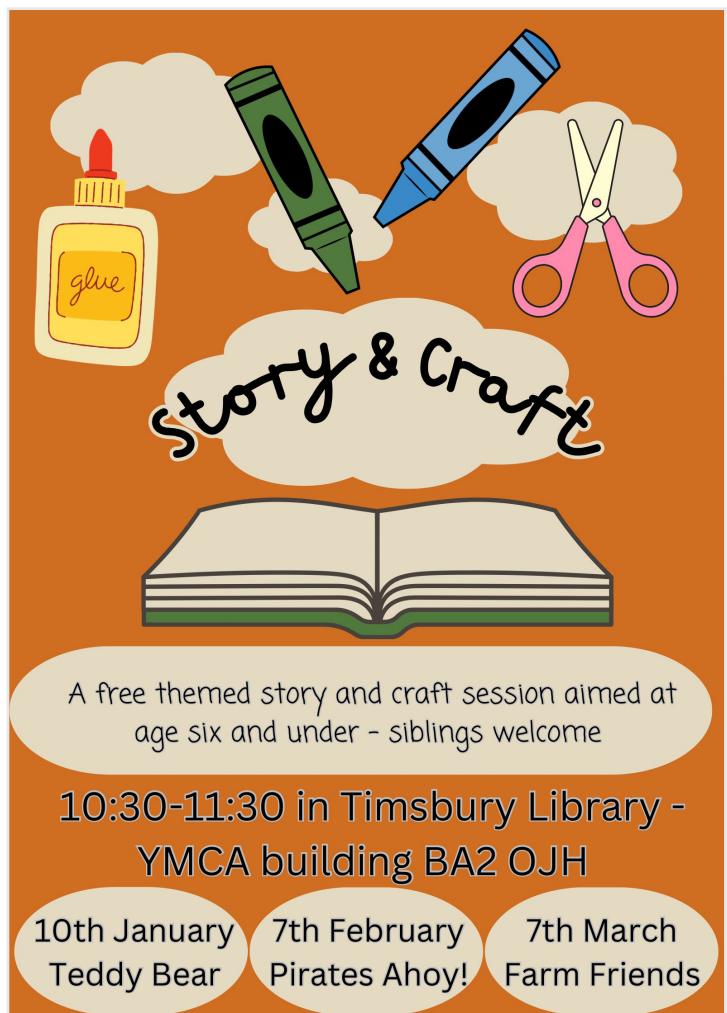
Friday Play-Day

tom@ignite-sport.co.uk

www.ignite-sport.co.uk

SCAN HERE

Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn icons



Story & Craft

A free themed story and craft session aimed at age six and under - siblings welcome

10:30-11:30 in Timsbury Library - YMCA building BA2 0JH

10th January
7th February
7th March

Teddy Bear
Pirates Ahoy!
Farm Friends



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership
Norton Hill Primary School,
Silver Street,
Midsomer Norton,
Somerset BA3 2UD
headoffice@msnpartnership.com
www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

Term Dates
Academic Year 2025/2026

Term 1

Monday 1st September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025

Term 2

Monday 3rd November 2025
Friday 19th December 2025

Term 3

Monday 5th January 2026
Friday 13th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026
Thursday 2nd April 2026

Term 5

Monday 20th April 2026
Friday 22nd May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1st June 2026
Tuesday 21st July 2026
(Friday 18th July last day for students)

INSET DAYS

Inset day 1

Monday 1st September 2025

Inset day 2

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Inset day 3

Friday 24th October 2025

Inset day 4

Monday 5th January 2026

Inset day 5

Monday 20th July 2026

Inset day 6

Tuesday 21st July 2026

National Bank Holidays:

*Thursday 25th December 2025
Friday 26th December 2025
Thursday 1st January 2026
Friday 3rd April 2026
Monday 6th April 2026
Monday 4th May 2026
Monday 25th May 2026
Monday 31st August 2026*