



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 26th January 2024

Newsletter 08

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

Wraparound Club

We have all been keeping busy with a variety of activities from building Marble Runs to creating unique pieces of junk modelling, we have been using our creativity and teamwork skills a lot this week, the children have also been expanding their knowledge through quizzes and even learning to play chess.

Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Purnell and Miss Thatcher.



House Points Winners

Well done to **Sapphire** who were joint House Point Winners this week!

Attendance Winners

Congratulations to **Badger** Class - you have had the highest attendance across the school for the last two weeks. Who will knock you off the top of the table?

Parking

Please ensure that if parking around the school grounds at the beginning and end of the day that you are not obstructing spaces for specific vehicles.

All cars that use the disabled bay must display a disability badge.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Bible Presentation

This week, Reverend Blewett presented children in years 2 and 6 with their own copy of the Bible. Our thanks go to *Timsbury Churches Together* for sponsoring this. Sadly, Ruth Reeve from the charity *Bibles for Children*, was unable to attend the presentation. We would like to express our gratitude to them all for their contribution to St Mary's.

We hope the children enjoy their Bibles and get much pleasure from them for years to come.



Hedgehogs



Class News:

We have had another fun packed two weeks in Hedgehogs! We welcomed our lovely new Practitioner Miss Jones who has settled in brilliantly and the children all love her- I'm sure lots of them have told you about her already.

The children have all really enjoyed taking part in our new 'Write Dance' activity. We learn a dance routine to help strengthen the muscles of our shoulders and arms and then we do a finger dance on the table with messy play to strengthen our fingers, hands and wrists. All of this helps us prepare to be excellent writers as we get a bit older. It's also great fun!

In Science, the children have had a great time making and playing with jelly! The children measured and mixed the ingredients and then discussed what would happen to the liquid when it was put in the fridge. They were all very excited to see how it turned out and had a great time playing with the jelly discussing how it felt, what it looked like and how it smelt (like apples was the popular choice)

Some of the children have taken a particular interest in caring for animals and have enjoyed playing Vets with some of our special soft toy animals in nursery. We have been bandaging up poorly legs, listening to heartbeats and giving medicine. As always the children love sharing stories about their pets at home and animals they have visited in Zoos and Aquariums.

We are looking forward to even more fun that we have planned for the next two weeks!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Outside Achievements



Well done to **Max** in Badger Class for receiving his swimming award!



Headteacher's Award

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

Duckling
Rabbit
Badger
Fox
Lion
Eagle

George, Alex
Lucas, Ben
Joe, Oscar
Martha, Olivia
Zach, Archie
Roscoe, Elsie, Willow



Ducklings



Class News:

Wow, what a fabulous 2 weeks in Duckling Class! Our Space topic is well under way and we have really enjoyed learning about Space facts. We have seen real footage of the first moon landing and in Drawing club we have taken our own adventures into space and love creating with our special pens. We have studied animation from when Mrs Gillard was a child and loved seeing Mr Benn shoot off to visit all the different planets in our solar system (plus some we had never heard of!).

In Maths, we have been exploring *mass and capacity*. We have been human scales, predicting which bag was the heaviest and lightest and tested objects according to their mass using the scales and cubes. This week, we ordered different sized containers and tested how many cupfuls each one held. This helped us order the vessels by capacity.

In Literacy, we continued our book look by retelling the story of 'Whatever Next' and created our own settings and adventures for Baby Bear to visit.

In PE we continue to visit different environments around the world, from far away places such as Australia and The Rainforest.



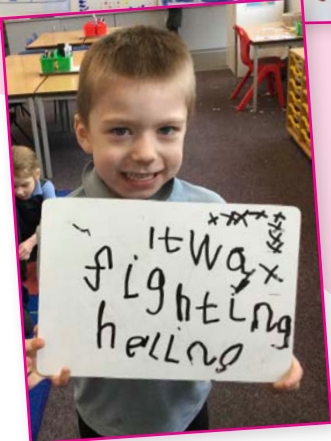
We look forward to our number day and will be sending the children home with their new NumBots log-ins for you to enjoy at home.

Well done to all those children who are regularly reading at home and who are arriving at so many places in our Around the World Reading Challenge. We would like to remind you to read your phonics scheme book at least 4 times a week at home.

Next week, we invite you in on Wednesday afternoon, 2.15pm, to take part in our Space themed, junk modelling workshop. If you have any recycled materials that would make good space rockets, moon buggies or maybe a space helmet then please do bring them along with you.

Well done Ducklings, keep up the great work!

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

Rabbit Class have had a very busy two weeks!

In English, we have finished writing our innovated stories based on the book 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies. We have been working on writing independently and I have been very impressed with how much everyone in Rabbit Class have been writing.

In Maths, we just finished our unit on addition and subtraction within 20. We had been finding the missing parts of number sentences up to 20 (for example $8 + ? = 13$). Next we will be exploring *numbers up to 50*.

This term we have also started learning all about *colour mixing* in Art. We are learning about the primary colours and how we can mix them to create secondary colours. We have been enjoying creating work by applying our knowledge of colour mixing.

Finally, Rabbit Class loved celebrating **TT Rock Stars** and **NumBots** Day. There were so many great costumes and lots of great Numbots learning going on at home.

Keep up the great work Rabbits!

Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:



We've had a busy, fun and interesting two weeks in Badger Class! We had a great time celebrating **TT Rock Stars and NumBots Day!** Times tables are a real focus in Year 2 and the progress that the children have made in a few short weeks is phenomenal.

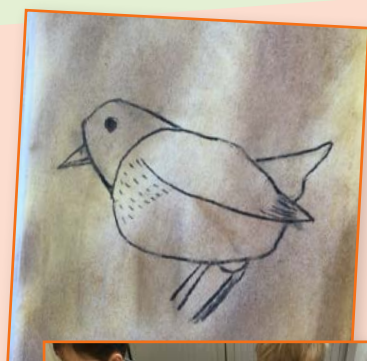
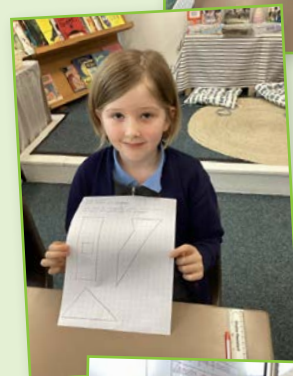
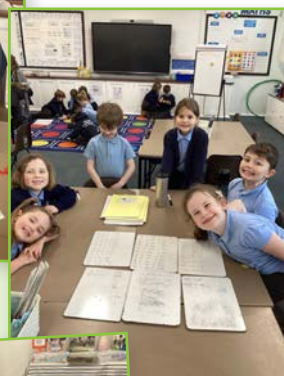
We finished writing our non-chronological reports on meerkats this week. We have been focusing on using the subordinating conjunctions *if, that, when and because*. We have also been learning about different types of suffixes and apostrophes for contraction. The children are spotting them everywhere and are so proud when they manage to use these skills independently. We have introduced a daily writing trophy which has motivated the children to produce

their best work everyday!

In Maths, we have been working on *geometry*. We have been learning about different 2D and 3D shapes and sorting them, drawing them and comparing them. We particularly enjoyed following instructions to create a picture with 2D shapes. It helped our ruler skills as well as our understanding of size, position and properties of shapes. We have been thoroughly enjoying our DT work so far this term. We have designed our own moving monster this week ready to construct next week. We have had to think about pivots and linkages and how to make our designs appealing to others.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Newman



Foxes Class

Class News:



We've had another couple of busy weeks in Fox Class.

In Maths, we have been learning the *4x and 8x tables*. We have been using the links between multiplication and division to solve mathematical problems. We have also been practising our multiplication knowledge using Times Tables Rock Stars and Emile.

During English, we have been learning how to write rhetorical questions in our persuasive writing. Inspired by the wonderful book '*Charlotte's Web*' by E.B.White, we have written letters to persuade Mr Zuckerman to change his mind about Wilbur.

In P.E. lessons, we have continued to create dance

sequences with our partner whilst pretending to be part of a machine. We are having great fun planning a garden as part of PSHE lessons, it is lovely to work as part of a team.

We have transported ourselves back in time in History and Art lessons. We used pastels to blend a cave background and used charcoal to draw animals in the style of *Stone Age* cave paintings.

During Science lessons, we have been investigating the properties of different types of rock and understanding how they are formed.

Mrs Hayward

Lions

Class News:



It's been another couple of busy and action packed weeks in Lion Class. In English, we have finished writing our character descriptions based on our class book *'The Legend of Podkin One Ear'*. The children have been amazingly creative in their writing and are using lots of techniques to build up their descriptions including using similes and alliteration.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about dreams and goals and in particular, how we can be more resilient if things don't work out as we'd hoped. The class has been working really well in groups, showing great teamwork as they listen to each other and take turns to express their opinions.

In Music, we have started to learn to play the recorder. So far we

have learnt to play the note B. We have to listen carefully to the rhythm to ensure we are all playing in time.

We are having a huge focus on Times Tables across the school and it has been great to see how enthusiastically the class have responded to this challenge. We loved being part of **TT Rock Stars and NumBots Day**, taking part in lots of Maths challenges and there were some amazing costumes on show too!

Finally, in PE we are enjoying our unit of Dance. The children have been creating and holding poses, working on balance and even choreographing short pieces.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Brown



Eagles

Class News:



The Eyrle continues to be a very productive learning environment and our Year 5 and Year 6 Eagles have all enjoyed working on some interesting projects linked to our Term 3 topics.

Last week, it was the annual trip to **Lifeskills** in Bristol for our Year 6 pupils. It was a very successful visit with the children learning lots of really important safety tips through experiencing potentially dangerous scenarios in a safely created real-life setting. Everybody had the best time!

In English, we are continuing our focus on the book *'The Viewer'*, a somewhat dark and mysterious tale of a boy who disappears after looking at images from an old Viewmaster toy. The children have written excellent stories involving a character travelling back in time to World War Two and we are currently exploring explanation texts within our non-fiction unit.

There has been a big emphasis on times tables across the school in Term 3 and the Eagles have jumped on board with this. The daily challenges to the accompaniment of Mr Blue Sky have continued and we have also enjoyed leading the way this week as we have attempted to qualify St Mary's for the national finals of the **Emile MTC Cup**. We are looking forward to our **TT Rock Stars and NumBots Day** event on Friday as a celebration of all of our hard work. Thank you to our real-life rock stars Zach and Jude who have been practising their performance of a Nirvana

song for a special assembly. We have heard them in rehearsals and they sound amazing!

Continuing the music theme, we have enjoyed learning some new songs on the ukulele recently, including *'Lean On Me'* and *'You Are My Sunshine'*. We are still accompanying the school with *'Happy Birthday'* at Friday assemblies and we are looking forward to learning *'Hakuna Matata'* soon too.

In Science, our Eagles have been challenged to create models to demonstrate how light travels. We used wool to represent the light. In the photo, you can see how Ben, Elsie and Mog worked out how Mog is able to see the scissors even though they are behind her, using the same technique that drivers do when they look in their rear-view mirrors.

Finally, in PE we have completed our unit on Gymnastics by developing our skills in using flight from hands to travel over apparatus. There were three progressive stages to how we vaulted over the agility tables and it was great fun attempting more daring movements completed at speed. Also, we have headed down to the school field each week for our cross country sessions with all of our Eagles demonstrating good stamina in our running for distance activities.

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath

Music Tuition at St Mary's

We can offer Music lessons with an external provider. Music lessons should be booked directly with the WEMA Service.

Please contact visit:

<https://wema.org.uk/young-people-and-families/learn-to-play-a-musical-instrument/>

You will then be sent a link to an online application form. You can also call the West of England Music and Arts Service on 01454 863147.

For more information have a look at our website:

<https://www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk/parents-zone/music-tuition.html>



Judaism

This week we had a visitor join us to deliver an inspiring collective worship about Judaism. Thank you Dr Collinson, the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mid-Somerset Festival

St.Mary's will be entering children from year 1 to year 6 into the 'Mid-Somerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition' on Tuesday 5th March 2024. The event is hosted in Bath City Centre at the Bath Citadel (Salvation Army). This event will happen during the school day (exact timings will be sent closer to the time).

The children will need to memorise and perform a short passage or poem from a children's book. The aim of this event is to promote speaking and to give pupils the opportunity to develop the skills and self-confidence associated with public speaking. It is a fantastic event and we'd love to see lots of children take this opportunity. We will be able to help with transport to and from the event.

School Nursing Webinar

Please find details below for a FREE emotional health and well-being webinar that school nurses are holding on the 8th of February from 13:00-14:00 for parents/carers. If you would like to attend the sessions, please click on the links below to sign up.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/emotional-health-and-wellbeing-webinar-for-primary-school-aged-children-tickets-773058898977?aff=oddtcreator>



Talk with your child about responsible use of their tablet

Discuss what is okay and not okay to use it for and look at the possible risks. Tell your child what they should do if something goes wrong while using it. This could be to turn off the screen and tell an adult.



Think about the location of the tablet

Will it be in a shared family space or in a bedroom? Where will the tablet charge overnight? Think about: setting time limits; reminding your child about the risks of communicating online with people that they do not know; and encouraging them to come to you with any worries.



Explore parental controls

Take a look at the controls available both on the tablet itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

Internet Safety

'Top Tips for Tablet Usage'

Extract shared from: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/tablet>

School Crossing Patrol

We have received a message from Bath&NES and they are pleased to inform us, that they have appointed a new School Crossing Patrol to replace Sharon. Holly Holland will now be the School Crossing Patrol serving St Mary's. Holly will be starting her role on 22nd January 2024 with her taking over fully at the site on North Rd the following week 29th January.

We look forward to welcoming Holly to St Mary's Community.

A note about Safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the School to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell. The safety of our young people is our top priority and the responsibility of us all.

Dates for your Calendar 2023/24 - Term 3 onwards

Date	Event	Notes
26.01.24	Times Tables Rock Stars & Roots Day	Whole School
31.01.24	Reception Duckling Class Parent Workshop	2.15 pm - 3 pm
01.02.24	Y4 Lion Class Parent Workshop	2 pm - 3 pm
02.02.24	Y2 Badger Class Parent Workshop	9 am - 10 am
02.02.24	NSPCC Number Day	
06.02.24	Y5 and Y6 Parent Workshop	1.15pm - 2.15pm
06.02.24	Internet Safety Day	
06.02.24	Speak Out Competition	
07.02.24	Y1 Rabbit Class Assembly and Parent Workshop	
07.02.24	St Mary's v Farmborough Netball Match	3.45pm
09.02.24	Y3 Fox Class Parent Workshop	
09.02.24	End of Term 3	
19.02.24	Start of Term 4	
05.03.24	Mid Somerset Festival speaking competition.	Y1-Y6
19.03.24	Dance Umbrella	Year 4