



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 13th March 2026

Newsletter 08

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

Book Week Success!

Once again, **Book Week** was a fantastic success, with pupils fully immersing themselves in reading for pleasure. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate books and highlight just how important reading is for learning across the curriculum.

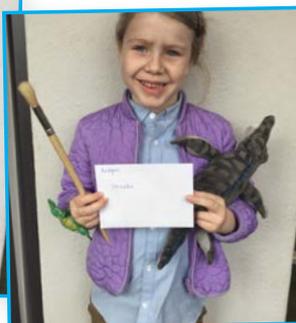
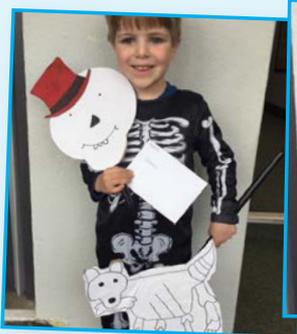
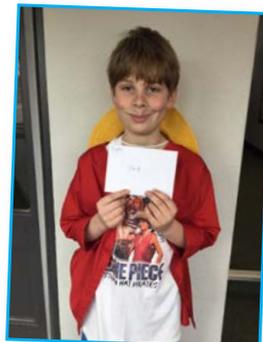
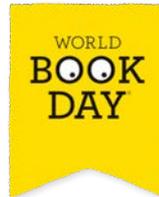
Throughout the week, the children at St Mary's took part in a range of exciting activities, including a live lesson, **Book at Bedtime**, a book front cover design competition, writing book reviews and participating in our **Readathon** Challenge, to name just a few! It has been brilliant to see such enthusiasm and engagement from everyone involved.

Congratulations to **Lions** for collecting the most points for the **Readathon** - what an achievement!

Well done to **Robin C** and **Imogen L** for winning the Book Front Cover competition with their creative designs.

Congratulations to **Sofia Y** for being crowned our Extreme Reader- an impressive entry reading whilst sitting on a horse!

It truly was a fantastic week and we are already looking forward to celebrating **Book Week** again next year.



House Points Winners



Term 4 is off to a flying start, with cheers ringing out from the hall every Friday afternoon. While **Topaz** took the lead in Week 23, **Sapphire** closed the gap in Week 24, leaving both houses in a nail-biting tie for first place!

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 23 Ducklings
Week 24 Eagles
Week 25 Rabbits

**MOMENTS MATTER,
ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

How are we doing?*

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Badgers | 96.84% |
| Eagles | 96.14% |
| Foxes | 95.32% |
| Lions | 95.03% |
| Rabbits | 94.73% |
| Ducklings | 92.64% |
| Whole School | 96.5% |

*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.



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.



Bravo to our Mid-Somerset Festival Performers!

This week, **41 talented pupils** from Years 1 to 6 traveled to central Bath to represent St. Mary's at the **Mid-Somerset Festival**. Performing their poems before a panel of professional judges and competing against schools from across the region, our pupils were a true credit to their families and our school community.



Since preparations began in January, it has been inspiring to watch these pupils embrace the challenge with courage and dedication. By refining their public speaking skills at such a young age, they are building a foundation for lifelong confidence. A huge congratulations to everyone involved -your hard work truly shone through on stage!



Headteacher's Award

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

| Class | Wk22 | Wk23 | Wk24 |
|-----------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Ducklings | Lily-Rose | Isla | Sofia |
| Rabbits | George or Oscar | Alaina | Lowen |
| Badgers | Raya | Phoebe | Theo |
| Foxes | Daisy | Bonny | Rowan |
| Lions | Luca | Rafe | - |
| Eagles | Ronnie | Joe | Arthur |



Hedgehogs



Class News:

Well done Hedgehogs, we have loved learning about Spring this term.

We enjoyed going on a walk and looked for lots of different signs of Spring time. The children were excited to find buds and flowers and have enjoyed recreating them in paint and colours.

The children followed the instructions well to make their own playdough this week. This helps their counting and measuring skills and careful modelling with the dough helps build up all those muscles. Great fine motor skills Hedgehogs!

Our focus books have been 'How Many Legs' and 'We're Going On An Egg Hunt'. We retold the story during PE and developed our climbing skills on the large apparatus.

We loved tasting different fruits this week too - especially some ones we were unfamiliar with, such as mango and avocado.

Well done Hedgehogs, great teamwork!

Team Hedgehogs



Ducklings



Class News:

We've had a wonderful fortnight in Ducklings.

We loved **Book Week** at school and it was so nice to see so many of you here for bedtime stories. **World Book Day** was lots of fun and we loved dressing up as our favourite book characters. Well done to all of you that joined in with the reading challenge. Some very extreme readers! We LOVE books in Ducklings Class!

Our Maths work on shape and patterns has seen some fantastic creations within the classroom. We have used paint and mixed media to create some creative work. We enjoyed writing Mother's Day cards and hope

you like them too.

Thank you to our visitors. If anyone else would like to share their 'People who help us' role and visit the class, please do let me know. We loved asking a real doctor and a real Lollipop person lots of questions.

This week is Science week. We invited our Year 6 buddies in to help build bridges and we loved the fun and exciting experiments that we tried out.

We look forward to inviting you all next Wednesday morning at 9 am to attend our parent workshop where we will continue to create some Spring Crafts.

Mrs Gillard



Rabbits



Class News:

The Rabbits have come into Term 4 with fantastic energy! Now that we are past the halfway point of Year 1, it is wonderful to see them becoming such independent and diligent learners.

In Maths, we have been tackling addition and subtraction within 20, specifically focusing on number bonds, doubles and "near doubles." We have been using a variety of practical resources, such as Numicon and counters, to support our learning.

We also had a brilliant time celebrating 100 days of school. The children looked wonderful dressed up as 100 year olds, and we practiced our skills by counting many different objects all the way up to 100. We finished the day with a very exciting 100 day party!

Book Week was a definite highlight; the children loved the **Bedtime Story Event** with Mr Daniels and did a brilliant job writing reviews and designing new covers. Well done on the fantastic costumes, Rabbits!

Mrs Roberts & Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:



What an amazing start to Term 4! Badgers have come back ready to learn and I have been very impressed with all of their hard work. I was blown away by the effort the children put into the Readathon and our **Book Week** activities. They enjoyed designing their own book covers and creating thoughtful book reviews. During Science week, Badgers took part in a range of exciting activities, including a construction challenge to build a stable bridge and a live assembly about the layers of the ocean. We also measured our feet and created a graph to

present our results. In English, we have been exploring poetry. The children wrote their own poems titled *'Things Found in a Witch's Handbag'* and have been looking at *'Voices of Water'*, exploring the sounds water makes using onomatopoeia. In History, we have continued learning about the Great Fire of London, discussing the reasons why the fire spread so quickly. In PE, Badgers have enjoyed sessions with a rugby and a cricket coach, learning new skills and taking part in a range of sporting activities.
Miss Heath



Foxes

Class News:



It's certainly been a busy start to Term 4. **World Book Day** is always a highlight and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time sharing and talking about our favourite books. We spent time in the Book Burrow, enjoyed stories together, designed book covers, wrote book reviews to recommend our favourites to a friend and then celebrated with a wonderful costume parade with the rest of the school. It was a fantastic day!

In Geography, we have continued learning about Europe and have used atlases to find out as many facts about Europe as possible. This required focus and a good understanding of how to use an index and contents page. Did you know that the highest mountain in

Europe is Mount Elbrus? Ask the Foxes for more fun facts about Europe.

In Science, we have been learning about plants and have conducted several interesting experiments. One of our experiments was to understand how a plant absorbs water through its roots. This has required some patience to wait and see the results so our class of Scientists are enjoying making regular observations to see what is happening with their plants. We are looking forward to revealing the results! We have also taken part in Science week and have used our construction skills to build boats and then see which design would carry the largest amount of crew (marbles).

Mrs Brown

Lions

Class News:



Term 4 always brings with it lots of fun and interesting projects for us all to take part in.

First of all, we joined the rest of the country in celebrating **World Book Day**, with our school having a week of activities linked to this special annual event. We wrote book reviews, designed our own new and alternative front covers for books and some of us took part in the **Book At Bedtime** event where Miss Tolfree read our class a story. The costumes on **World Book Day** were some of the best I have seen from a class - so imaginative and creative. Well done, everyone!

During this term, our PE sessions are also a bit different in that we are being visited each week by coaches from both Bath Cricket and Bath Rugby. It's great to be given the opportunity to receive sessions led by instructors who are experts in their particular sports. We have very

much enjoyed these extra PE lessons and being able to make use of the school field too.

Finally, this week has been **Science Week** and in Year 4/5 we decided to have a specific focus on the area of *Forensic Science*. We found out what it means to be a forensic scientist and what their job might entail. We each recorded our own fingerprints and tried to identify our unique patterns, deciding if we had whorls, arches or loops. We have also been using forensic science to see if we could identify who had dognapped Lady Felicity Feline's cocker spaniel. We had the ransom note which had been written in black ink and six pens each belonging to a different suspect. Using chromatography, we were able to investigate which pen had been used to write the ransom note. We all found it really fun trying to solve this crime.

Mr Daniels



Eagles

Class News:



We are now halfway through Term 4 and as busy as ever as we head towards SATs and all the exciting things we've got planned for the Summer term. As always, Eagles have never failed to impress me with their commitment to their learning and their keen attitude to improve on what they already know.

In Maths, we are full steam ahead with the curriculum, taking on new challenges such as *ratio*, *calculating volume* and *shape*. With daily arithmetic now part of our everyday school routine, we are feeling more than confident for the Maths SATs in May. In English, we have been basing our writing around our class Guided Reading text, '*Pig Heart Boy*'. So far, we have enjoyed exploring the themes of the text and unpicking character relationships and trust. Eagles have written some great first-person monologues and have started to plan a suspense narrative linked to this text.

In DT, Eagles have been thinking about designing on a large scale. They have been tasked with redesigning the

playground and have used their skills to make prototypes for their designs. They have thoroughly enjoyed being creative.

On Thursday last week, Eagles went on an exciting trip to the **Lifeskills Centre** in Bristol. The children set an amazing example for our school, asking insightful questions, showing off their excellent behaviour and showing a keen interest in learning skills that will help them in the future. Key highlights included practising making phone calls to the emergency services, which can be quite a daunting experience.

All in all, it has been a fantastic term so far. I have to comment on Eagles' commitment to extra learning and how eager they have been to attend extra booster sessions and to continue completing their SATs homework. I couldn't ask for a more committed bunch of children.

Keep up the hard work, Eagles - you're all superstars!
Miss Woods

Thought of the Week

‘...“Be still, and know that I am God.”...’ (Psalm 46:10)



I wonder how often during the day you are still. Not stopping work to check your messages or to look at your Instagram feed. Just being still.

It's something that many of us in society struggle with. We almost don't know how to be still. We always feel we need to check something or keep updated with our online "friends" or respond to a notification.

Having smart phones and watches that constantly inform us about what's happening or what we're missing out on stops us from being still and from resting. For a lot of us, we have grown up having 24/7 access to the internet and to a constant flood of news, information and

gossip. Because our brains change due to neuroplasticity, they are adapting to the constant internet access, which is changing how we remember, focus, read, and process information.

Rather than memorising facts, we instead remember where we can retrieve those facts (which isn't very helpful for those Year 11 students who need to memorise around 1000 facts for the combined science GCSE, for example). Rather than reading with deep understanding, we are more likely to scan and skim read. And many studies suggest that constant online environments are encouraging rapid task-switching, which leads to shorter sustained attention spans and difficulty focusing.

Maybe it's time to switch our phones and/or watches off or leave them in a drawer. For a few moments at first or maybe even an hour. Maybe we need to practice just being still and spending time away from the constant distractions. For many of us this might mean going outside and spending some time in nature - in a park or woodland, somewhere away from the noise. As we enter the season of spring, it's a perfect opportunity to go out and do this. Take some time to notice what we can see, what we can smell, what we can hear. Rather than just hearing the birdsong, take some time to listen!

For Christians, this is a call from God - to be still, and know that he is God.

"Whatever is worrying you or bothering you, you can put it aside and know that I am in control. I will sort it, you only need to be still in my presence and leave it with me."



This can be so life giving and life affirming. It really is worth taking the time to experience it. So if necessary, grab your phone and add it to your calendar!

Dates for your Calendar - Spring Term 4

| Date | Event |
|----------|---|
| 17.03.26 | Foxes Parent Workshop 9:00am |
| 18.03.26 | Ducklings Parent Workshop 9:00am |
| 20.03.26 | Comic Relief & World Down's Syndrome Day (WDSD) |
| 23.03.26 | Parent / Teacher Meetings - In person |
| 24.03.26 | Parent / Teacher Meetings - In person |
| 24.03.26 | <i>Badgers Assembly and Parent Workshop 9:00am</i> |
| 25.03.26 | Rabbits Parent Workshop 2:15pm |
| 31.03.26 | <i>Dance Umbrella - Foxes</i> |
| 01.04.26 | Parent Helpers Forest School & Tree Planting 2:00pm |
| 01.04.26 | Lions Parent Workshop 9:00am |
| 01.04.26 | Eagles Parent Workshop 2:00pm |
| 02.04.26 | <i>Easter Service @ St Mary's Church- Year 4/5</i> |
| 02.04.26 | <i>Last Day Of Term 4</i> |
| 03.04.26 | <i>School Closed - Good Friday</i> |

Dates for your Calendar - Summer Term 5 & 6

| Date | Event |
|----------|---|
| 24.04.26 | Wear Blue for Autism |
| 01.05.26 | PTA Colour Run |
| 04.05.26 | Bank Holiday School Closed |
| 08.05.26 | Non-Uniform: Bring Something For The NEST Project |
| 08.05.26 | Volunteer Afternoon - Forest School |
| 11.05.26 | <i>KS2 SATS Week Commences</i> |
| 20.05.26 | Sex Education Meeting With Parents 3:30pm |
| 21.05.26 | <i>PTA Bake Sale - World Bee Day</i> |
| 22.05.26 | Last Day Of Term 5 |
| 01.06.26 | Start Of Term 6 |
| 05.06.26 | NSPCC Childhood Day - Move A Mile |
| 05.06.26 | <i>Volunteer Afternoon - Forest School</i> |
| 09.06.26 | <i>New Reception Parent Meeting 5:30pm</i> |
| 17.06.26 | <i>Sports Day</i> |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 26.06.26 | Volunteer Afternoon - Forest School |
| 01.07.26 | Year 6 Performance 6:00pm - Parents and Carers |
| 02.07.26 | Year 6 Performance 2:00pm - Parents and Carers |
| 03.07.26 | Non-Uniform: Bring Something For Summer Fayre |
| 09.07.26 | Trip To Noah's Ark - Ducklings & Rabbits |
| 10.07.26 | Non-Uniform: Rainbow Day |
| 14.07.26 | Nursery Leavers event - Hedgehogs |
| 15.07.26 | Volunteers Brunch |
| 16.07.26 | Leaver Service In Church |
| 17.07.26 | Last Day Of Term 6 |
| 20.07.26 | School Closed - Inset Day |
| 21.07.26 | School Closed - Inset Day |

Next Thing

EASTER 2026

The WOW Camp

Activities shown: LASER TAG, VIRTUAL REALITY, ANIMAL WORKSHOPS, SCIENCE, ROBOTS, STREET DANCE, MINECRAFT, COOL CIRCUITS, CRAZY CODING, MOVIE MAKING, MINECRAFT REDSTONE, VIRTUAL REALITY.

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

www.nextthing.education

EASTER CAMPS 2026

Tech-powered camps, packed with WOW experiences!

Example camp activities
Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ROBOT LAB | LEGO ENGINEERING | ELECTRIC INVENTIONS | 3D CREATIONS | ANIMATION |
| COOL CIRCUITS | CRAZY CODING | MOVIE MAKING | MINECRAFT REDSTONE | VIRTUAL REALITY |

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|
| ANIMALS | STREET DANCE | SCIENCE | LASER TAG |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|

Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

AGES 5-11, £45 PER DAY OR £162 FOR 4 DAYS

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

BINGO NIGHT!

Raising money for the Foxes class school trip

Friday 27th March

7:00pm (Eyes Down 7:30pm)

Timsbury Legion

£10 a book

Foxes class school trip

Open to the General Public | All Proceeds for the Foxes Class Trip!

Eyes down... it's Bingo time!

HOLIDAY ADVENTURE CLUB

5-11 year olds

7th-10th April & 16th-17th April
10am - 3pm

Greyfield Wood, High Littleton
£35 p/child p/day £25 p/sibling p/day

Nature Walks | Fire Pit | Skills | Games | Friends | Crafts | Fun

www.ecowild.org.uk/book-now

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c March 16 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026

Bath Central Library
Zine & Comic Fair
Meet local zine and comic book creators. Hosted by Bath Mini Con
Saturday 21 March 10.30 - 3.00pm

BookTrust Storytime
Free drop-in sessions for 0-5years. Vote for your favourite story. Each session includes craft and play activities.
10.30 - 11.00am Tuesday (term-time only)

Keynsham Library
Baby Bounce & Rhyme
Drop in suitable for parents & carers with children aged 0 - 5 years.
9.30 - 10.00 & 10.30 - 11.00am Tuesday (term-time only)

BookTrust Storytime
Free drop-in sessions for 0-5years. Vote for your favourite story. Each session includes craft and play activities.
10.30 - 11.00am 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 Monday (term-time only)

BookTrust Storytime
Free drop-in sessions for 0-5years. Vote for your favourite story. Each session includes craft and play activities.
10.30 - 11.00am Wednesday (term-time only)

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>

National Year of Reading

2026 Lets Go All In with the National Year of Reading.

If you're into it, read it:
Just like me - Louise Gooding
Tintin in America - Herge
Adia Kelbara and the High Queen's curse - Isi Hendrix
All these books can be borrowed from your local libraries and many more.

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

09:00 - 15:30

ignite sport

Years R-6

EASTER HOLIDAY SPORT CAMPS

St John's C of E Primary School
Redfield Rd, BA3 2JN

Week 2

Mon 13th April **Football**
Tue 14th April **Nerf, Dodgeball & Archery**
Wed 15th April **Musical Theatre**
Thurs 16th April **Commonwealth Games**
Fri 17th April **Gymnastics**

Week 1

Tue 7th April **Football**
Thurs 9th April **Nerf, Dodgeball & Archery**
Fri 10th April **Gymnastics**

BOOK NOW!

Bath & North East Somerset Council

HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

www.ignite-sport.co.uk

EASTER WREATH WORKSHOP

30th March, 2026
7pm - 9pm

Conygre Hall, Timsbury
£20 per person

INCLUDES A GLASS OF FIZZ, A WILLOW WREATH
AND ALL WREATH MAKING MATERIALS

To book tickets:

pay via Bank Transfer:

Name: St Mary's School PTA

Account Number: 26204029

Sort Code: 60-19-12

or scan the QR code:



Please also email:

stmarysschooltimsburypta@gmail.com

to confirm the names for tickets
purchased

RSVP by 20th March



**A JOINT FUNDRAISER WITH PROCEEDS
GOING TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL PTA &
ST MARY'S CHURCH - CELEBRATING 200 YEARS
OF OUR CHURCH IN TIMSBURY**

