



St Mary's CofE Primary School

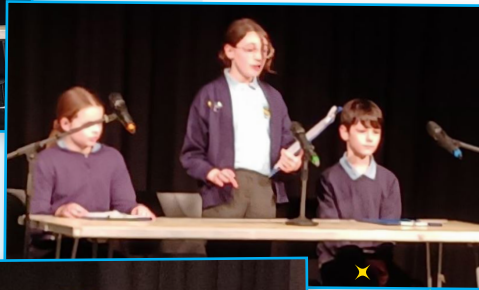
"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 9th February 2024

Newsletter 09

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



MNSP Speak Out WINNERS!

Ben, Mog and Elsie competed at the **MNSP Speak Out** competition this week. They competed against 10 local primary schools and they impressed the judges so much that they were crowned the winners! They debated whether online friendships are real (or not). They all spoke with clarity, conviction and confidence when debating in front of a large audience. They represented the school with distinction and should feel extremely proud of themselves. Well done Ben, Mog and Elsie!

Special mention must also be given to Zach, who worked with the team and was the reserve team member in the event of illness. Zach even came to watch and support the team. Thank you Zach!

Thank you!



A huge thank you to an extremely generous member of our community who very kindly purchased all of the remaining books that we needed for our reading spine. We are so grateful and the children are enjoying the new books already. This will enhance our teaching and opportunities for the children to deepen their learning.

Attendance Winners



Congratulations to both **Duckling** & **Rabbit** Class for having excellent attendance last week. This weeks champions are **Duckling** Class, with a 100% attendance - well done

Christian Values Awards



This term we have been exploring the value "Courage" and what this means to us. Well done to the following children who since September have been recognised for demonstrating this value during their school day.

Ducking Class	Joey
Rabbit Class	Juliette, Noah, & Sienna
Lions Class	Anjaleena, Aidan, James, Ronnie, Eliza, Maggie, Joe, Casper, Cooper & Charlie
Eagles Class	Ben, Elsie & Mog

Hedgehogs



Class News:

Wow, we can't believe it's half term already! We have had such a wonderful term, welcoming some new children who have all settled really nicely and enjoying our *Winter* and *Transport* themes. The children have really enjoyed sharing what transport they regularly travel on as well as special trips they have taken on aeroplanes, trains and tractors! This has led to lots of beautiful pictures being drawn, role play and some amazing junk modelling projects being created including a giant train - big enough to fit many of our Hedgehogs in.

The children have enjoyed showing their new friends around our Forest School area. Some of our adventures have included building dens with sticks and logs, playing hide and seek, making a cafe in the mud kitchen and even finding a baby frog, which caused great excitement!

Shrove Tuesday falls in half term this year, so we decided to celebrate early and some of our children enjoyed mixing, making and flipping pancakes. Of course they especially enjoyed adding lots of toppings and eating them all up-yum!

We hope you have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you back Monday 19th February.

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Netball Team

Well done to the St Mary's Netball Team who narrowly lost 7-5 to a strong opposition from Farmborough Primary School. The teams were very evenly matched and St Mary's showed real determination and courage, coming back from being 7-2 down at half time. The team played exceptionally well and displayed some great netball skills. They were very well supported by the children from After School Club which made for a super atmosphere during the match!

Well done to: Annabel, Jasmine, Noah, Phoebe, Willow, Matilda and Lily.

Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings	Lilly, Shay
Rabbits	Rowan, Mila
Badgers	Merryn, Leo
Foxes	Rafe, Dawson
Lions	Emily, Lola M
Eagles	Edith, Lily, Mog, Felix M



Ducklings

Class News:



What a wonderful Term 3 we've had. The children are really showing that they are developing independence. The children have enjoyed learning about *Space* and we've learnt exciting facts about Space adventurers, they've particularly enjoyed the historical element and watching the first moon landing.

We continue to take our influence from quality texts and these have helped inspire the children to write. 'Look up!' has been our latest book, being inspired by an amazing young child called Rocket who would like to visit the moon. The children are producing fantastic writing. We are really excited by the amount of sounds they are retaining and we look forward to sharing with you some of their writing in the new term.

Thank you to all those who could

come in and help the children create a model inspired by Space. It was so lovely to see the class so engaged and focussed. The creations were also really great to see. We have been encouraged to see lots of children working independently in the modelling area.

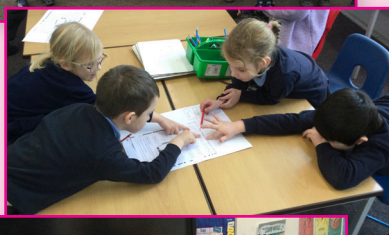
In Maths, we have been exploring length and we are beginning to become experts at sequencing different lengths and being able to talk confidently about where something fits in.

Our PE topic this term has taken us all around the world, from the polar regions, to Australia and this week to India and the Far East.

Enjoy the half term break!

Many thanks

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

The last two weeks in Rabbit Class has been filled with lots of exciting learning and events.

In English, we have been writing *non-chronological reports* about *blue whales*. We have been including all the features of a non-chronological report such as titles, subheadings, pictures and a fact box. We have really enjoyed writing a non-fiction text.

In Maths, we have been learning about *place value to 50*. We have been counting groups of tens and one, partitioning numbers into tens and one and exploring the number line to 50.

This term, we have also been learning about musical vocabulary in music. We have been exploring what the word *pulse*, *tempo*,

rhythm, *pitch*, *timbre*, *dynamics*, *structure* and *texture* mean. We really enjoyed sharing some of our learning from music with everyone in our assembly.

Finally, Rabbit Class have been working really hard this term to prepare for their assembly. We practised our lines, came up with dances, created music and painted signs. Rabbit Class really enjoyed sharing their learning with the school and their parents. They also loved building weather dials in our Class Parent Workshop. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along.

It has been another great term for Rabbits!

Miss Tolfree

Badgers

Class News:



WOW! How are we halfway through the year? We've had another fabulous term in Year 2.

This week, we finished our DT project on creating a moving monster. They turned out really well and the children have a good understanding of pivots and linkages can be used to create an interactive toy.

We have done some fantastic writing this term and the children have loved learning about *meerkats* and *the Kalahari desert*. Their vocabulary choices have been excellent and it is great to have so many enthusiastic writers.

In Maths, we have finished our unit on *money*. Lots of children completed the challenge of making

£5 last term until the end of term. They enjoyed paying for different items around the classroom and working out their change.

Next term, we will continue to learn about the effects of *The Great Fire of London* in History and our geography work on *Oceans and Continents*.

Finally, we say goodbye to Miss Birchall this week. I know that all of Badger Class will join me in saying a huge thank you for all of her hard work and dedication to the school. We wish her the best of luck at her new placement school and hope to see her again in the future.

Have a great break!

Mrs Newman



Foxes Class

Class News:



The final couple of weeks of this term have been busy in Fox Class.

During English lessons, we have been researching *spider facts* and have learned lots about these intriguing arachnids. We were fascinated to discover how many different types of spider webs can be made. We organised our information into paragraphs and created wonderful fact files.

We created a large artwork in the style of cave paintings from the *Stone Age* period of time by using charcoal to draw the outline of animals onto a pastel coloured background. We also painted our handprints on a textured background, which we made from modroc, as a collaborative piece of prehistoric art. As part of our learning about the Stone Age, we discovered that there are three stone circles in Stanton Drew, Somerset. These stones are from the neolithic period and we listened to the local legend about how

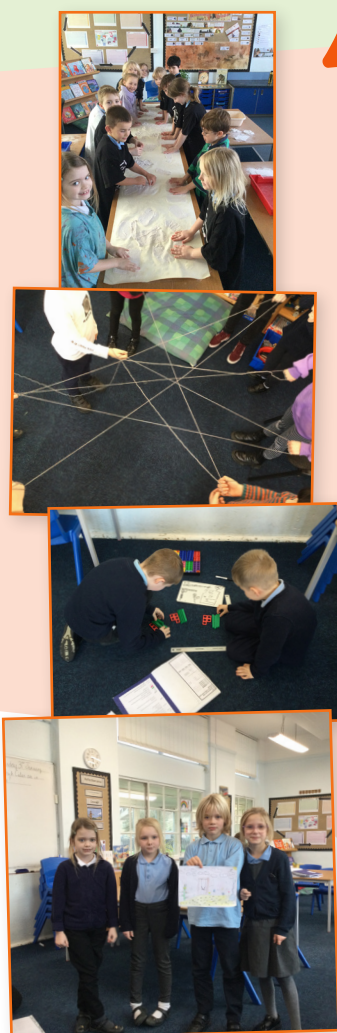
the stone circles appeared, some of our Foxes expressed a desire to visit them!

In PSHE, we spent the last few weeks working in small groups to plan a garden for a person who has a challenge. We listened to each other, shared ideas and worked together to create a final version of the garden and present it to the class, explaining how we stayed within budget. We learned lots about ourselves and how to work with others in a positive way.

In Maths, we have been working hard to embed our understanding of the *three times tables*. The children have been making amazing progress with their daily times tables challenges. We have also been learning to multiply and divide a two-digit number by a single digit. We enjoyed playing Times Tables Rock Stars and we are proud of how our accuracy is improving.

Have a great half term!

Mrs Hayward



Lions

Class News:



Well this term has certainly flown by and the last two weeks have been filled with the usual enthusiasm for learning in Lion Class! In English, we have written wonderful newspaper reports about the evil Gorm Army (from our class book, *'The Adventures of Podkin One Ear'*), attacking Timsbury. The children had to work hard to report on the incident and include quotes from eyewitnesses. They did such a good job - I think we may have some future journalists in the class!

In Science, we have planted cress seeds in mini greenhouses which has helped us to understand *how the water cycle works*. The children were able to observe the process in action as well as growing a tasty snack! We have had a real focus on using the correct scientific vocabulary to describe what was happening.

We were really pleased to be able to welcome parents and family members into

class last week for our Class Parent Workshop which had an Art theme. Our Art this term has been taking inspiration from *William Morris prints*. Using botanical pictures and rainforest prints, the children worked carefully to make their own repeating patterns and then used these to make a Batik print on fabric.

In Music, we are learning the recorder and have so far learnt the notes B and A. We are also listening to the pulse and the rhythm, ensuring we stay in time.

Finally, we have been working really hard on our Times Tables, getting quicker and more accurate. I am so impressed with the hard work of the Lions this term.

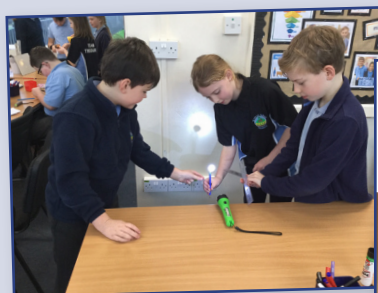
Have a great half term!

Mrs Brown



Eagles

Class News:



This week, we are working on finishing our DT project of making our own waistcoats. Eagles have worked really hard so far designing and cutting out their fabric for their project. We have been really impressed by how well they have all worked as a team when the cutting of their fabric got a little tricky.

We have done some fantastic writing this term, inspired by *'The Viewer'*. This week the Eagles have been writing and editing their explanation pieces demonstrating just how their Viewer works. We have had some really imaginative responses to this, and the Eagles have worked fantastically in their groups to edit their writing.

Our Science topic on Light finished with us investigating shadows and in particular why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them and how the position of a light source affects the size of a shadow.

Year 5 have also been working really hard on the KS2 library this term. Over their lunch times for the past few

weeks most of the Year 5 Eagles have been giving up their own time to come in and reorganise our library, including taking *every single* book off the shelves, coming up with a new system of organisation, and then putting each book back. The Library is certainly looking better for their efforts!

Finally, we enjoyed welcoming members from our parent community into the Eyrie this week to join us for a Parent Workshop which focussed on staying safe online. This coincided with the national event of **Safer Internet Day** and the Eagles had fun creating raps to give their audience useful advice on what we should or should not be doing to protect ourselves. This event ended with us performing to our visitors on our ukuleles. We have put together a medley of songs including *'Hakuna Matata'*, *'Lean On Me'*, *'Don't Look Back In Anger'*, *'Let It Be'* and *'You Are My Sunshine'*. Well done, Eagles! You are sounding so brilliant!

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath

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.

Or you can contact the NSPCC if you have any concerns about a child, trust your instincts and contact the NSPCC Helpline. Their specialist team will listen, advise and take any action needed.

You can contact the NSPCC Helpline by calling 0800 800 5000, emailing help@NSPCC.org.uk or completing our [report abuse online form](#).

The NSPCC voice Helpline is currently available 10am–8pm Monday to Friday.

If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 straight away.

Journalist Club



Learning Our Times Tables at St Mary's

At St Mary's we do loads of times tables activities. We need to learn our times tables. They are important because they help with other Maths like Fractions.

Every morning, each class except for Year 1 and Reception, do some sort of times tables practice.

What do the classes do?

In Year 6, they have 5 minutes to complete a times table sheet with 60 to 90 questions to the song Mr Blue Sky. Year 5 have 2 minutes to complete 30 questions. They have a fun timer to count down their time! Then they chant the answers when the timer runs out. The Year 4s have 5 minutes after lunch to do 40 questions. Year 3s also have 5 minutes daily to complete 40 multiplication and division questions and Year 2 have 5 minutes to complete 22 times tables questions.

What happens on Rock Stars and Robots Day?

At St Mary's, we have a day to celebrate our work on Times Tables Rock Stars and Numbots where the pupils come into school dressed as robots or rockstars. We have an assembly with a special visit from Freddie Mercury! The classes all went around the hall doing a costume parade with some rock music played by our school band (Zach and Jude). There are lots of times tables based activities throughout the day.

How do people find times tables?

Martha: I'm good at the eleven times table, I find them easy to do. My weakest times table is probably my fours. I quite enjoy doing times tables.

Mid-Somerset Festival

We have had a super response for the 'Mid-Somerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition'

St.Mary's will be entering 25 children from year 1 to year 6 into the event on Tuesday 5th March 2024.

The children taking part 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 are excited to see so many children stepping outside their comfort zones to take part!

Bobbi: I find times tables quite fun and enjoyable. My best times tables are probably my elevens, tens, fives and twos. I'm not so good at my seven and eight times tables. Since I am not too good at my eights, I remember the rhyme, "I ate and I ate and was sick on the floor, eight times eight is sixty-four," to remember that eight times eight is sixty-four.

Bear: I find them quite easy, my best ones are probably the eights, the fours and the tens. I'm not so good at my seven and six times table. I like times tables, I'm always looking forward to playing Times Tables Rock Stars.

At St Mary's, we have done the NSPCC Rocks competition, where classes Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 play Times Tables Rock Stars, each child had an hour, that didn't have to be all at once, to earn points for their class. Our school went head to head with other schools in the area. The total points are divided by how many children there are in each class to get their average score. St Mary's finished in 1117th place out of 3793 schools so we were in the top half of the leaderboard. The Year 3 Foxes were our highest scoring class and Ben in Year 5 was our top-scoring pupil.

Also, as an extra challenge, in year 5 and 6 their teacher sets them thirty soundchecks, sound checks are 25 questions and you have 6 seconds to do each question, to do (on Times Tables Rock Stars) throughout the month. They can complete them any day of the month.

Overall, times tables at our school are very important to us and that's why we should celebrate them as much as we can!

By Pippi (Y4), Ben (Y6), Mog (Y6) and Teddy (Y3)

Internet Safety Day

This week classes have been taking part in additional internet safety activities. This year's theme of '**Inspiring Change**' has sparked lots of conversations about being safe online. Our Digital Leader team led a whole school assembly on staying SMART with online safety.

Each class has been thinking about who they can talk to if they have a problem online, both at school and at home. Activities have included, live lessons with the BBC, role play, story creating, and ranking issues. With your help, **Safer Internet Day 2024** can be a springboard for conversations that shape how we talk about and respond to online issues, not just for one day, but throughout the whole year. So when you're at home or out and about, try making space for conversations about life online.

If you would like more information about keeping your child safe online click on this link:

[Safer Internet Day 2024](#)

Equalities Team Update

At St Mary's we celebrate diversity and challenge stereotypes. The Equalities team have been working hard to bring these themes to the forefront of our thoughts. This week, the Equalities Team presented an assembly to the school to introduce **LGBT+ History Month** which takes place every February. This year's national theme is #UnderTheScope, celebrating LGBT+ people's contribution to medicine and healthcare – with a focus on LGBTQ+ health inequalities and the amazing work of LGBTQ+ healthcare professionals. We look forward to our **Rainbow Day** next term, Friday 23rd February. We invite the children to dress up in different colours, to create a whole school rainbow. The rainbow represents growth, change and hope within communities and is a symbol that all are equal and valued in our society.



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.

We currently have an excellent guitar teacher on site with 2 additional slots available.

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.htm>

Children's Mental Health Week

It's been Children's Mental Health Week and we have spent time in each class thinking about how we can look after our own Mental Health. This culminated with Dress to Express day on Friday where the children were able to come into school wearing non-uniform, expressing themselves through their own choice of clothing.

We discussed the importance of taking time to be yourself, celebrating moments when you feel proud as well as understanding that it's ok not to feel ok all the time and remembering who you can talk to if you need to.

Spare clothes

We are in need of spare uniform and Forest School clothes, we would love donations for KS1 children 4 - 8 years old please. (joggers, jumpers, socks, pants, any school uniform in those sizes) Please bring it to the office to donate. Thank you.



Dates for your Calendar 2023/24 - Term 4 onwards

Date	Event	Notes
19.02.24	Start of Term 4	
23.02.24	Rainbow Day for LGBTQ month	Whole School
05.03.24	Mid Somerset Festival speaking competition.	Y1-Y6
06.03.24	Ducklings Parent Workshop	Reception
07.03.24	World Book Day	Whole School
12.03.24	Year 3 Parent Workshop	Year 3
15.03.24	Comic Relief	Whole School
19.03.24	Dance Umbrella	Year 4
20.03.24	Year 1 Parent Workshop	Year 1
21.03.24	Down Syndrome Day	Whole School
22.03.24	Year 2 Class Worship/Parent Workshop	Year 2
25.03.24	Parent / Teacher Meetings	Whole School
26.03.24	Parent / Teacher Meetings	Whole School
27.03.24	Year 5/6 Parent Workshop	Year 5/6
27.03.24	Year 4 Parent Workshop	Year 4
28.03.24	Easter Service at St.Mary's Church	Year 3