



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

*Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation*

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Newsletter 09

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

## Headteacher's Message

Happy New Year to all our families and welcome back to Term 3 - I hope you all had a lovely break. After all the excitement of Christmas, I am pleased to see the children have come back into school focused and ready to learn. Please remember the uniform rules and ensure children are coming in wearing the correct clothing and footwear.

This term we have welcomed Miss Chloe Woodland, an apprentice to the EYFS team. I know she is looking forward to getting to know our children and parents.

Please do keep an eye on the school calendar for events coming up so that you don't miss out - We will be hosting our next parents' coffee morning on Thursday 2nd February.

We look forward to a productive Term 3 to start the year off.

Mrs Parsons

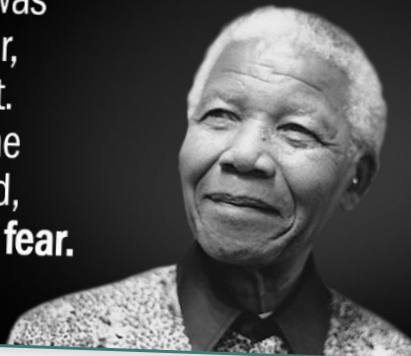
## Courage

Our Christian Value for the term is courage. This week, Reverend Martin Blewett led our Collective Worship on the theme of courage. He led the school in an action packed rendition of David and Goliath. The story showed us that even someone small and unimportant was able to be courageous when he was faced with a big, boastful bully. We suggested our own positive ways of being courageous when faced with challenges.



I learned that **courage** was not the absence of fear, but the **triumph** over it. The **brave** man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who **conquers that fear.**

- Nelson Mandela



## House Points Winners



Well done to **Topaz** and **Emerald** for being our House Point winners this week and last.

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations to **Rabbits** last week and this week **Foxes** for excellent attendance.

## Outside Achievements



Well done to our swimmers **Felix**, **Oscar** and **Corey** for receiving certificates for their hard work in swimming and **Tavie** for being a brilliant Brownie.



# Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to the children who received a Headteacher Award.

**Ducklings:** Mila, Noah  
**Rabbits:** Jayden, Lottie  
**Badgers:** Oliver, Bear  
**Foxes:** Aidan, Tavie  
**Lions:** Willow, Edith, Elsie  
**Eagles:** Esme, Alex



			
<b>Miss James</b> Room Leader Mon/Wed/Fri	<b>Mrs Harrison</b> Teaching Assistant Tues/Wed/Thurs	<b>Miss Jacobs</b> Teaching Assistant Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri	<b>Miss Woodland</b> Apprentice Mon-Fri
			
<b>Mr Thompson</b> Deputy Head / SENCO Mon - Fri	<b>Mrs Winney</b> EYFS Lead / Reception Teacher Mon/Tues/Fri	<b>Mrs Munro</b> Reception Teacher Tues/Wed	<b>Mrs Blackmore</b> Office Manager Mon-Fri

## Early Years Team

As we start a new year I'd like to welcome our new children and parents and officially introduce you to some of our new members of the Early Years Team.

Best Wishes  
Mrs Winney

## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

What a great start back to Term 3! We have started our topic this term on the book *"The train ride"*, we have created our own train and tickets, and made trains out of different materials. We joined in with a visit from local police officers talking about road safety and the job of a police officer, the children enjoyed asking questions. We've had some muddy and wet welly walks where there was teamwork, sharing, taking turns and playing football together. Our letter sound of the week has been "a" and some of the older children have been practicing to write letters and learn the letter sounds in their name.

EYFS Team



# Ducklings



## Class News:

What a hugely exciting week we have had investigating a crime in the classroom as part of our 'People Who Help Us' topic. We were shocked to discover that a very large chocolate bar had been stolen from Mrs Winney's desk at lunchtime on Tuesday. The children were very quick to get to work and started to look for clues as to who the criminal could be.

First, we gathered evidence. We found fingerprints, a chocolate wrapper and an empty coffee cup left at the scene.

Next, we thought about who the suspects were. There was a long list of adults from around the school but one person in particular was on everyone's minds.

After that we learned about how fingerprints are used by the police to solve crimes. The children were fascinated to look at their own fingerprints and we learned that everyone's were UNIQUE. We thought that was a great word!

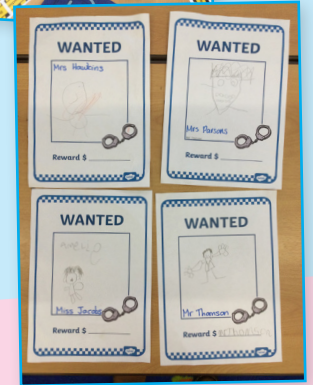
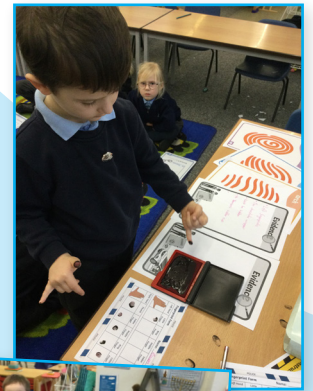
We finally decided that taking the suspects fingerprints would be a really good way to find out who our chocolate thief was. We began searching the school and questioning any adults that we bumped into - suspicions were high!

Finally, we were shocked to find the culprit when their fingerprints matched the one left on the chocolate wrapper. Can your child tell you who it was?

The crime was solved and the chocolate was returned to its rightful place (in the tummys of 16 little Ducklings).

Well done Ducklings, you have been excellent detectives this week!

Mrs Winney



# Rabbits



## Class News:

Rabbits have returned to school with a hop in their step! Their enthusiasm towards learning has been amazing.

In Maths we have been playing games to remember our number bonds to 10 and we've learned to take away. The class enjoyed solving word problems and liked writing their own to challenge each other. We've been tackling a problem a day as part of our early morning work. At first the children thought it was hard but now it's something they ask to do more of each day! Their confidence in Maths is soaring!

In English we have been doing a mini book making project, focusing on 'what makes a sentence, a sentence?'. We have learned about nouns and verbs and created some very funny short books. We have also been working really hard on our handwriting, focusing on forming the curly caterpillar letters with a lead in.

As scientists we have been dressing each other in appropriate clothing for each season and have started to create our own weather reports. Our Geography topic this term is all about weather and seasons too, we will be observing daily weather patterns and before you know it will be experts!

Finally, in Computing this term we are learning to be coders. So far we have pretended to be robots, given each other directions and have learnt what each command on a Beebot does.

Well done for a great start to Term 3 Rabbit Class!

Mrs. Roberts

# Badgers

## Class News:



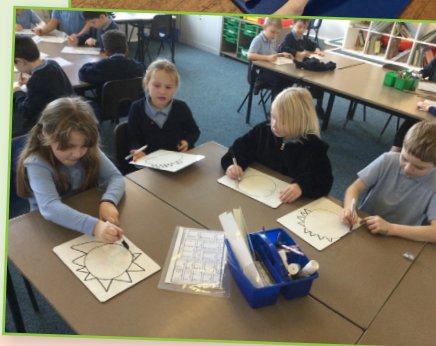
Happy New Year to you all! The Badgers have started Term 3 full of energy and enthusiasm for their learning. In English, we are learning the story of 'Meerkat Mail' and our work started with a surprise delivery from the postman. A postcard from a mysterious character was delivered to each child and with some great detective work, the children worked out that the main character in our book, Sonny the Meerkat had been writing to them!

In PE, there was some brilliant gymnastic poses and impressive strength and balance as we learned how to sequence a series of movements together including star, straddle, pike and tuck.

Finally, in Computing this term we are going to be learning about programming. We started by thinking about how we needed to give clear instructions to each other in order to communicate what we would like our partner to do. We conducted an interesting experiment by listening to the same set of instructions on how to draw a picture and then compared what we had drawn. It wasn't always the same!

Well done for a great start to Term 3 Badger Class!

Mrs. Brown



# Foxes

## Class News:



Welcome back to Term 3! We hope you all had a lovely, restful break.

Foxes have come back to school with an air of maturity about them this term. They are well settled into their routines and seemed very happy to be back with their classmates.

Our key text this term is 'Charlotte's Web' (Miss Guest's all time favourite!) We have been learning about the characters and setting this week and describing what we might find in a barn. You might be surprised to know that the children know what scythes and monkey wrenches are now! This text will also be the basis for our Guided Reading sessions.

In Maths, we will be focusing on Multiplication and Division this term. To support your children with their learning, it would be great if you could encourage them to access Times Table Rockstars at home!

Mrs Downing brought in some interesting rocks and minerals to share with the class on their first Wednesday back. This really sparked the children's interest in their new Science topic.

And finally, in Music, Mrs Munro is teaching the children how to play a song on the ukulele! We can't wait to see the final performance!

Have a lovely weekend,

Miss Guest and Mrs Downing



# Lions



## Class News:

Happy New Year! Lion class have started 2023 with an eagerness to learn.

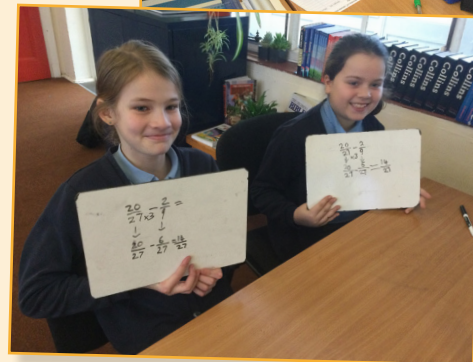
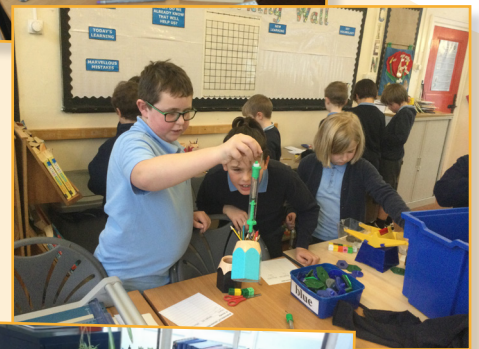
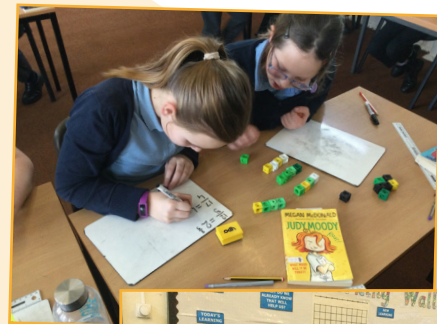
In English, we are enjoying reading *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein. We have been fascinated by the exploits of Phillippe Petit and have written lovely character descriptions about him.

In Maths, we are continuing to explore fractions. We have learned how to change improper fractions to mixed numbers. We are becoming confident adding and subtracting fractions, finding equivalent fractions so that the denominators are the same. Well done, Lions.

In Geography, we are beginning to investigate mountains. We enjoyed looking through the atlases and finding different mountain ranges around the world. In History, we have thought about who the Anglo-Saxons and where they fit into a timeline.

During Art lessons, we have started to explore self-portraits and created one by using a single line (without taking our pencil off the paper). We also created a self-portrait by writing a poem along this line.

Mrs. Hayward



# Eagles



## Class News:

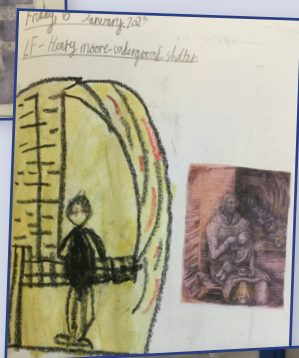
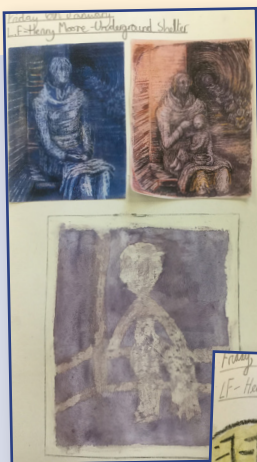
The Eagles have started 2023 with their usual enthusiasm for all of our activities in the Eyrre.

In English, our work this term is based around the brilliant *Great Adventurers* by Alastair Humphreys. We are focussing on the section of this book which combines both our Geography topic of Kenya with our History topic of World War Two. It features the real-life story of Felice Benuzzi who escaped from a prisoner of war camp in order to climb Mount Kenya.

In Art, we looked at the project carried out by Henry Moore in 1940 in which he documented life in the London Underground as people sheltered from air raids during the Blitz. Moore's underground sketches captured the raw emotions of the people sheltering there, their fear and anxiety but also their defiance. We discussed the use of Henry Moore's art as a propaganda message and a symbol of the enduring resistance of the British people in the face of war. Then, we had a go at creating our own versions using a different media. Our underground shelter pictures were drawn in wax crayon and then covered with a watercolour wash. You can see Digby's and Lily's Henry Moore-inspired artwork in the photos.

Our cross country unit of work in PE concluded with another beep test to see whether our fitness and stamina levels had increased since we began our focus on distance running. It was brilliant to see so many of our class being able to improve on their earlier performance and yet again Alex wowed us all with his Mo Farah-like ability to run and run and run whilst making it look effortless!

Mr Daniels



# Home Reading

The Reading Rainbow Challenge that was introduced in September is having a positive impact on reading at home. The children really enjoy receiving their certificates in our weekly celebration assembly.

We are nearly halfway through the school year now and a few children have reached the halfway mark on the Reading Rainbow Challenge. As a reminder, here are the milestones below:



Once they have read 200 times in a school year they will achieve *Rainbow Status* and receive a very special reward!!

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but they also develop a broader vocabulary, increase general knowledge and have a better understanding of other countries and cultures. In fact, whether a child does read for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

The famous quote by Dr Seuss really is true: *'The more you read, the more you know, the more you know, the more places you will go!'*

Lots of research shows that reading helps to develop vocabulary: the less books and words you are exposed to, the less words you will know. This is called the million word gap.

The **great news** is, you can **close this gap at any time**. It is never too late! All you need to do is **read!**

If you are reading regularly at home, thank you and please keep up this fantastic routine. We really want every child at St Mary's to have a true love of reading so if your child has not received their first certificate, please help us to start them on their reading journey with regular reading at home.

**THE MILLION WORD GAP**

New research shows the different numbers of words kids will have heard by age 5 based on how often parents read to them.

- Never read to: 4,662
- 1-2 times per week: 63,570
- 3-5 times per week: 169,520
- Daily: 296,660
- 5 times a day: 1,483,300



## Dates for your Calendar 2022/23 - Term 3

Date	Event	Notes
18.01.23	Netball Match - St. Mary's vs St. Benedicts	
20.01.23	Year 6 Lifeskills	
21.01.23	Duckling Parent Workshop 9am - 10am	
02.02.23	SEND Coffee Morning- Speech and Language	
03.02.23	Reading Event with the National Literacy Trust	
06.02.23	Children's Mental Health Week	
07.02.23	Internet Safety Day	
08.02.23	SPEAK OUT event @ Writhlington	
09.02.23	Multi-Sports Event with Trinity @ Writhlington	

# Reading Event

On Friday 3rd February, Y2-5 will be having a special reading event!

We are working with the National Literacy Trust on the Young Readers Programme which has been running for over 20 years and is completely free.

During the event, the children will have the opportunity to choose a free book to take home with them.

More information will be sent to the parents and carers of children in Badgers, Foxes and Lions class.

We are really excited about this wonderful opportunity that will take place 3 times this academic year (that's 3 free books each!!)

## SEND Coffee Morning



We will be hosting our next parents' coffee morning on Thursday 2nd February. Our speech and language therapist (Lizzie Fox) will be joining us to give an overview of the importance of speech and language and provide us with some top tips about things we can do at home to help. All parents are welcome to join us to ask any questions about speech and language, SEND in general or talk to the SEND team. As always, this will be an informal event around a cup of coffee and some cake with time to chat. It would be great to see lots of you at this event.

## Whatsapp

WhatsApp says the minimum age of use is 16, however many younger children still use this app.

There are various safety risks associated with WhatsApp, such as:

- Bullying, particularly in group chats.
- Risk of exposure to age-inappropriate material
- Threat to safety due to location sharing settings
- Spam and hoax messages
- Group chats with unknown people.

We do not recommend the use of WhatsApp for any Primary School child (due to the age restrictions and outlined risks).

There is a full parent guide from National Online Safety attached to this Newsletter. This guide fully outlines the risks associated with WhatsApp and offers further advice for parents.



## PE Kits

Please ensure children have a PE kit in school at all times. We encourage these to be left on their pegs in case children need a change of clothes for any reason.

PE has a regular slot in each class's timetable. If you are unsure when your child's class has PE, please speak to the class teacher at the end of the day or feel free to send them a message on Seesaw.

As a reminder, our school PE kit is:

- Plain white T-shirt (no logos), navy blue shorts and plain black daps or trainers
- Blue joggers
- White/black/grey/blue socks

We want all children to take part in PE lessons as part of a broad and balanced curriculum and to develop a love of healthy habits. For health and safety purposes, children must change into a PE kit in order to take part in PE. We have some spare kits available at school but please do send us any outgrown PE kits to add to our supply.





# St Mary's C of E Primary School

Lansdown View, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 0JR

Executive Headteacher: Mrs M Parsons NPQH. M.A. B.Ed (Hons)  
01761 470245 office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk www.stmarystimsbury.co.uk

4th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

## School Clubs Term 3

We are continuing our enhanced club offer this term. Places are offered on a first come, first served basis and will be available on Parentpay from 6pm today. Clubs run from 3.15-4.00pm (unless stated) starting next week. Please note that many of the clubs are lunchtime clubs, to enable a broad and rich offer for all children. In order to give as many options as possible, every teacher is running a club again. This is very much 'above and beyond' the call of duty.

For those considering 'Public Speaking and Debating', there will be an opportunity to participate in the Mid Somerset Festival 'Free Verse' speaking event in Bath in March. This is an exciting annual event, which gives children the opportunity to challenge themselves and perform in front of others. I have been to this event many times at a previous school and I cannot recommend it highly enough. Whether they are a 'natural' performer or not, every child I have taken to this event previously has benefited significantly from being a part of it.

As part of a continued effort to widen opportunities for children, some clubs are run by external providers. Continuing from last academic year, **the school is subsidising the cost of the external provider clubs, which means we are asking for a blanket £1 per week for every club (50p for lunchtime clubs)**. This will hopefully allow for more children to attend after school clubs and hopefully, it will allow the cost of the external providers to be covered. No refunds will be allocated after the clubs have begun.

Please check closely whether the club is an afterschool or a lunchtime club. Clubs will end with last sessions during the week of the 20th March (i.e. no clubs in the last week of the term). Please look specifically at the club timetable and keep a copy of the dates for reference should you book your child on a club.

Kind regards,

Registered Address: Norton Hill School, Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, BA3 4AD  
Company No: 7365778

Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership



www.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com



Mr Thomson  
Deputy Headteacher

**School Clubs Term 3**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Year Groups</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Football	PH sports	3:15-4.15pm	Monday	1, 2 & 3	£1 x 10 weeks = £10
Football	PH sports	3.15-4.15pm	Tuesday	4, 5 & 6	£1 x 10 weeks = £10
Basketball	PH sports	3.15-4.15pm	Wednesday	3, 4, 5 & 6	£1 x 10 weeks = £10
Netball	Mrs Brown	3.15 - 4pm	Wednesday	3,4,5 & 6	£1 x 10 weeks = £10
Craft	Mrs Hawkins	3:15-4pm	Wednesday	1 & 2	£1 x 10 weeks =£10
Quilling	Mrs Munro	3.15-4pm	Thursday	KS2	£1 x 10 weeks = £10
KS1 Play	Mrs Winney	12.30-1pm	Monday LUNCH	1 & 2	50p x 10 weeks = £5
LEGO	Mrs Roberts	12.30-1pm	Monday LUNCH	1 & 2	50p x 10 weeks = £5
Junior Choir	Mrs Thomson	12.30-1pm	Monday LUNCH	3,4,5 & 6	50p x 10 weeks = £5
Sign Language	Mrs Hayward	12.30-1pm	Tuesday LUNCH	3, 4, 5 & 6	50p x 10 weeks = £5
Board Games	Miss Guest	12:30 - 1pm	Wednesday LUNCH	3, 4, 5 & 6	50p x 10 weeks = £5
Public Speaking and Debating	Mr Thomson	12.30-1pm	Thursday LUNCH	2, 3,4,5 & 6	50p x 10 weeks = £5
Journalism	Mr Daniels	12.30-1pm	Friday LUNCH	3, 4, 5 & 6	50p x 10 weeks = £5