



St Mary's C of E Primary School

"Shining Brighter and Brighter"

School Newsletter January 2026

Happy New Year and welcome back to St Mary's. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It has been lovely to see the children return to school so positively and ready for the new term.

As we move through the winter weeks, please keep an eye on any weather-related updates we may need to share. A quick reminder, too, to name all hats, gloves, and scarves, as these are easily misplaced at this time of year.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to the term ahead.

Miss Gray
Head Teacher



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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP & VALUES

Our value for this half term is **LOVE**.

The children shared some thoughtful and passionate ideas when discussing the theme for our new Big Question, with a strong focus on the environment and animal welfare. With so many excellent suggestions, choosing just one was no easy task.

Following careful discussion with the Collective Worship Team, we combined ideas from Summer (Year 3) and Oliver (Year 5) to create our Big Question for this half term:

How could a small spark of love help to heal our world and protect animals for the future?

It was lovely to welcome parents and carers to our recent celebration assembly, and we warmly invite you to join us again on **Thursday 12th February**.

We have also scheduled class sharing assemblies for Years 2-6. Please check the date list at the end of the newsletter for further details.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

As a reminder from last term, we continue to work with the children to raise awareness and understanding of allergies. While most pupils show great care and consideration, there have been a small number of incidents where a lack of understanding has caused distress to children with allergies and concern for their families.

We kindly ask parents to continue talking with their children about the importance of kindness, respect, and keeping everyone safe. Please note that allergy-related bullying is treated very seriously and is addressed in line with other forms of discriminatory behaviour, in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

Children can help support friends with allergies by:

- Being kind and never teasing
- Not sharing food unless an adult says it is safe
- Washing hands after eating
- Following school rules and listening to adults
- Telling an adult if something feels unsafe
- Including everyone in games and activities

PUNCTUALITY REMINDER

Thank you to the many parents and carers who consistently support us by arriving on time and ensuring the site is clear by 8:50am. This allows us to lock the gates promptly and secure the school site for the safety of all children.

There are, however, a small number of families who continue to arrive after this time, which delays gate closure. Going forward, the gates will be locked promptly at 8:50am. Late arrival may mean having to walk around to the front office, which we appreciate may be inconvenient.

Please understand that safety and safeguarding must remain our top priority, and we thank you for your cooperation and continued support.



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Thursday 15th January is School Census Day, and the information collected plays an important role in determining the funding St Mary's receives. One key factor is the number of children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 having a school meal on the day.

We will be offering a special lunch menu and warmly encourage families to choose a school meal, even if your child usually brings a packed lunch, as this can make a real difference to school funding.

Menu:

- Beef Burger or Vegetarian Plant Grill Burger served with wedges, sweetcorn and baked beans
- Jacket potato with a choice of toppings
- Ham roll
- Dessert: Golden Krispie Cake



This menu will replace the usual spring menu on the day.

Meals are free for Reception–Year 2 and cost £3.55 for Years 3–6 (unless eligible for Free School Meals).



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In Case You Missed It

St Mary's has access to Mindjurny, an emotional wellbeing tool created by CHUMS, available for parents and carers to use anytime, day or night. It offers helpful guidance to support both your own wellbeing and that of your child.

We currently have a year-long subscription, kindly funded by our School Association, and we hope families find this resource valuable.

Please note: Mindjurny is for parent use only and should not be accessed directly by primary-aged children.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are always grateful for the support of our school community and would love to hear from any parents or carers who may be interested in volunteering at St Mary's.

This year is our “Year of Reading”, so we are particularly keen to welcome volunteers who could help with listening to children read. Even a small, regular commitment can make a big difference to children's confidence and progress.

We are also very happy to hear from anyone with a skillset or professional expertise that could enrich our wider curriculum. Recently, we have been fortunate to have a parent with architecture experience support STEM learning and another with textiles expertise offer help in Design & Technology. These contributions are incredibly valuable.

One of the great pleasures of primary education is teaching the full curriculum, and enhancing this with specialist knowledge helps make learning even more engaging and meaningful for our pupils.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact the school office for further information. Thank you for supporting our children and our school community.