



St Mary's C of E Primary School

"Shining Brighter and Brighter"

School Newsletter March 2026

What a whirlwind of a half term it has been! Although short, it has been filled with a wonderful mix of learning, fun and even a little sunshine. It has been lovely to see the daffodils in bloom as we begin to welcome the signs of spring.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for their fantastic support this half term. From the joy of World Book Day, to attending sharing assemblies, supporting School Association events, and working so positively alongside our staff to support the children – your involvement truly makes a difference.

I would like to wish all of our families a very happy Easter. I hope you have lots of fun, as well as a restful and well-deserved break.

Miss Gray
Head Teacher



Collective Worship & Values

This half term, our school value has been forgiveness. In the lead up to Easter, we have reflected on the sacrifices Jesus made, showing selflessness, strength and compassion.

In collective worship, we explored what forgiveness means in our own lives. We compared holding on to negative feelings to carrying a heavy rucksack. The children shared thoughtful ideas, recognising it can make us feel tired, unhappy and even affect us physically.

Ezra offered a wonderful reflection, explaining that although you might grow stronger carrying the weight, it would still feel uncomfortable—and taking it off would bring relief. This helped us think about the importance of letting go.

We also discussed how forgiveness can look different: sometimes it means repairing a friendship, and sometimes it means recognising it's time to move on.

It was a joy to celebrate our Mother's Day service and to welcome so many families into the church to share this special occasion.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

As we approach the Easter celebrations, we would like to gently remind families about the importance of being allergy aware. Following our recent assembly, the children showed such empathy and understanding in recognising how allergies can affect both the safety and wellbeing of their friends.

Being inclusive sometimes means making small changes or accepting minor inconveniences, but these can make a huge difference to children and families living with allergies. Whether it's checking ingredients or adapting what we bring into school, these thoughtful actions help ensure everyone feels safe and included.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping us care for one another as a school community.



DAFFODILS

We have loved being greeted by the daffodils each day. Sadly, their season is coming to an end and they are beginning to fade.

Did you know that once daffodils have finished blooming, we leave the foliage to die back naturally for 6-8 weeks? This helps feed the bulbs ready for next year's display. While it may look a little untidy, it's an important part of the life cycle — and the bees love it too!

ROCK IT FOR RED NOSE DAY

Thank you to everyone for making such a fantastic effort for Rock It for Red Nose Day. Together, we raised an amazing £165!

A special thank you to Ben Champniss, who truly tore up the fretboard in a legendary jam session with Miss Gray to kick-start the day.

We always knew it...

St Mary's really does rock! 🎸



ROCK 'N' ROLL MATHS

While we're on the subject of rock, we are thrilled to offer Times Tables Rock Stars to our KS2 pupils and Numbots for children in EYFS and KS1.

Developing strong foundations in maths — particularly quick recall of number facts and times tables — is essential. Without this, it becomes much harder for children to confidently tackle areas such as fractions, percentages and ratio. Our aim is for every child to leave St Mary's as a confident and capable mathematician.

We are mindful of screen time, and are proud to provide safe, purposeful opportunities for children to practise and develop their skills in a way they genuinely enjoy.

A big thank you to our School Association for generously funding this opportunity!

Extra points to parents who decided to brush up on their skills too...

A SPECIAL VISIT

We were delighted to welcome local legend, Harry the Hornet, to school on Monday!

As part of our ongoing work with the WFC Trust, we have been taking part in the Premier League Primary Stars programme, helping to further develop our PE provision and support our teachers' professional development.

It was wonderful to share our progress with Harry — and the children enjoyed telling him how much we've been loving the programme!



GREEN TEAM NEWS

Our Green Team continue their fantastic work and recently led a whole school assembly focused on saving energy. They have been championing our “Switch Off Fortnight”, reminding everyone to turn off lights and devices when they are not in use.

While these actions may seem small, lots of little efforts really do add up to make a big difference.

It has also been wonderful to see their influence spreading across the school, with some of our Year 1 and 6 children taking the initiative to do their own litter picks. That's true leadership in action!





FEELING GOOD WEEK

We had a fantastic Feeling Good Week, focusing on the importance of wellbeing.

There were lots of opportunities to get outside and enjoy nature, including visits to Sunnyside, the woods and Forest School. Years 2 and 3 had great fun at their glow disco, and our STEM Day, with an environmental theme, was a real highlight.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged, active and enjoying learning in different ways.



EASTER BONNET PARADE

What a fantastic bunch you all are! We loved seeing all of the lovely bonnets. We can tell that a lots of hard work and effort went into the marvelous creations. Thank you our fabulous school council and Mr Worth for organising.

EYFS:

3rd - Lola

2nd - Lana

1st - Lara

KS1:

3rd - Henry

2nd - Vivian

1st - Poppy

KS2:

3rd - Frankie

2nd - Livia

1st - Noah



WORLD BOOK DAY

This is always a highlight of the year — dressing up, sharing stories, reading together... what's not to love?

We were absolutely delighted by how many families joined us to read with their children — we think it may have been our best turnout ever! Thank you for your support.

Our theme of “dressing as a word” was a huge success and kept us guessing all day — such creativity!

While World Book Day is a wonderful celebration, it's the everyday moments that make the real difference. Reading, storytelling and listening to stories help to expand vocabulary, imagination and understanding of the world. What a gift reading truly is.

If you would like to read more with your child but aren't sure where to start, please do get in touch. We would be very happy to offer practical and accessible ideas to support you.



PARENT VOICE

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Parent Voice questionnaire on Collective Worship and Values. We are pleased to share a snapshot of the feedback:

42 parents and carers responded

64% feel that Collective Worship supports children's social, moral and/or spiritual development

Parents particularly value children coming together as a community, learning about our school values, exploring different faiths and cultures, and having a safe space to share and respectfully discuss ideas.

We also received some very helpful suggestions in the comments — thank you for your thoughtful contributions.

Our next Parent Voice survey will focus on Attendance & Behaviour, and we would greatly appreciate your input.

[PARENT VOICE SURVEY HERE](#)



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Did you know that attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence? This is because missing school can have a significant impact on children's learning over time. We have a duty to let parents know if their child's attendance is below 90% and this is usually done via a letter or email.

We completely understand that absence is sometimes unavoidable due to illness. However, we kindly ask that families make every effort to ensure children attend school regularly.

We also recognise that there can be challenges that affect attendance. Please do reach out to your child's class teacher if you need support — we are here to help and can offer a range of support. You are not on your own!

GOVERNOR NEWS

Governors have very much enjoyed being part of school life this half term and seeing first-hand the wide range of activities and opportunities on offer for the children. We were delighted to welcome many families to the recent Nursery tours and, as always, were struck by the warmth and care shown by the Early Years team. The indoor and outdoor spaces provide a wonderful environment for children to learn, explore and thrive.

During our visits to lessons, including a particular focus on mathematics, we saw inspiring teaching, enthusiastic learners and clear progress across the school. It is always a pleasure to see such positive attitudes to learning in the classroom. We have also enjoyed visiting the school during STEM and Climate Day, and observing some lovely sessions in Forest School, where pupils were highly engaged and clearly benefiting from hands-on, outdoor learning experiences

We have also enjoyed joining in with some of the special events this term. The Mother's Day service was a particularly heart-warming occasion and a lovely reflection of the school's strong sense of community. Thank you to the SA for the beautiful daffodils, which added to the celebration. World Book Day was another highlight, with the imaginative "dress as a word" theme bringing great creativity and fun across the school. It was wonderful to see both pupils and staff embracing the occasion, and to welcome so many parents and carers into school to share in reading together.

Governors have attended several sharing assemblies and have been impressed by the children's confidence and pride in presenting their learning. We have also visited School Council meetings, where pupils from Years 2-6 demonstrated thoughtful discussion, collaboration and a real sense of responsibility when representing their peers.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Associate Governor, Tristan Gielen, who brings valuable experience and insight to the governing board.

Finally, we would like to thank all staff for their continued hard work and dedication. This is evident in the rich experiences provided for the children and the positive, vibrant atmosphere across the school — from creative events like World Book Day and even a live rock concert on a Friday morning!