



St Mary's C of E Primary School

"Shining Brighter and Brighter"

School Newsletter November 2025

Welcome to Autumn Term 2!
The evenings are drawing in, the leaves are turning, and we find ourselves on the exciting path toward the festive season. Over the coming weeks, we'll celebrate some of our favourite traditions, including Decs Day, Christmas lunch, and a wonderful range of performances from across the school.

We have already achieved so much this term, and it has been a joy to see our students learning, growing, and supporting one another. As we move forward, our focus remains on progress, curiosity, and a strong sense of community.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing a joyful and productive half term together.

Miss Gray
Head Teacher



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP & VALUES

This term, our school value is Joy. We have been reflecting on what joy looks like in our everyday lives: in how we learn, how we treat one another, and how we show care for our wider community.

Our previous Big Question was reviewed by our Collective Worship Group, who shared thoughtful reflections on Respect and how it shapes our words and actions. We are proud of the maturity and insight they brought to this discussion.

This term's new Big Question comes from two of our pupils, Aleeyah (Year 3) and Logan (Year 5):

"How can we show joy in our communities, and how can that joy make the world a better place?"

We look forward to exploring this together, through stories, conversation, music, and acts of kindness.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to join us for Celebration Assembly on Thursday 20th November at 9:10am. We hope to see many of you there.

REMEMBRANCE

It was wonderful to see so many of our children taking part in the Remembrance Sunday service, proudly representing Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts. It was also lovely to see so many of our families in attendance, and we offer a special thank you to the children who represented our school by singing.

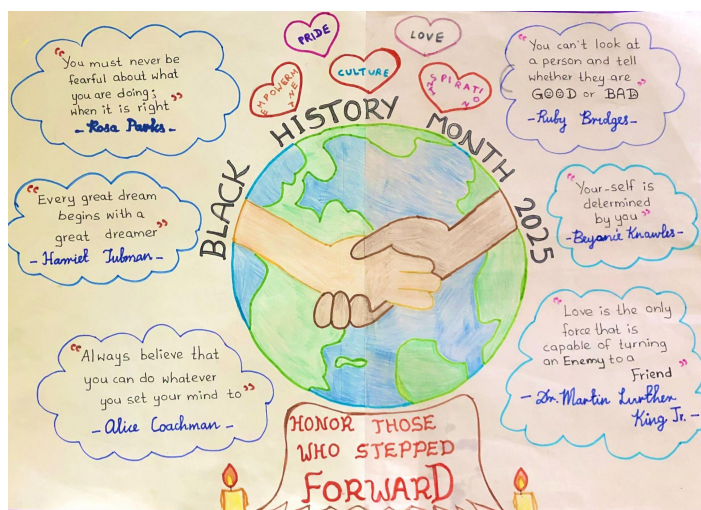
On Tuesday 11th November, each class took part in our own annual Remembrance Service in church. Every class contributed thoughtfully and joined together in observing the two minutes' silence.

A big well done to our School Council for their commitment to selling poppies in support of the Poppy Appeal. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's fundraising.



Larry, Katherine and Harry decorated our Reception area.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Thedara's winning entry!

We're proud to share that Thedara has been awarded first place in an external Black History Month Creative Showcase Competition! Her artwork was recognised for its creativity, originality, and heartfelt celebration of Black history. As part of her prize, Thedara received £30 in Love2Shop e-Gift Cards. Well done, Thedara, on this outstanding achievement and inspiring contribution!

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

We are delighted to share that our school has now subscribed to MindJurny, an app designed to help families and educators support the mental health and wellbeing of children. We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful School Association, who have generously funded this for us. Their support means that every family and every member of staff can access these tools at no cost.

We know that accessing specialist support can sometimes take time, and while children are on waiting lists, it can be difficult to know how best to help. MindJurny is designed to empower families and staff to support children right now, offering guidance, strategies and practical tools we can use every day.

We will be sharing more information soon, including how to access the app and suggestions for getting the most out of it.

Please note, MindJurny does not replace specialist or clinical help, but we hope it will provide us with more strategies to help children feel safe, understood and supported, while also helping to reduce escalation during more challenging moments.

In the meantime, you can find out more about MindJurny here: <https://www.mindjurny.com/about/>



ATTENDANCE MATTERS - EVERY DAY COUNTS

As we move further into the colder months, we know that coughs, colds and seasonal sickness bugs can become more common. We continue to encourage good hygiene habits in school, such as regular handwashing and good tissue use, to help limit the spread of illness. Please remember that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they must remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode before returning to school.

PUNCTUALITY & SITE SECURITY

We are delighted to see the effort families make to ensure children arrive on time each day. Thank you for helping create a calm, positive start to learning.

To support everyone's safety, please help us keep the front door secure by opening and closing it swiftly and being mindful of children nearby.

For site security, the gates are locked at 8:50am and 3:45pm to ensure children cannot leave unsupervised and no one enters without permission.

How can you help?

- Drop children off promptly in the morning.
- Leave the site by 3:45pm so gates can be secured.
- Report any gate left open outside these times to the school office.
- Ensure the front door closes fully behind you.



Thank you for helping us keep safety our top priority.

CLASS WISHLISTS & SCHOOL SUPPORT

Thank you for the generous donations we've received from our class wishlists. Your support is truly appreciated and makes a real difference in our classrooms. If anyone would like to donate at this time of year, tissues are especially welcome as we head into the colder season.

Our class wishlists offer a simple way to contribute for families who wish to help but may not be able to offer time in school.

Please remember there is no expectation to donate. Every family supports our school in the way that works for them, and we value your encouragement and partnership just as much.

WATFORD PENALTY SHOOTOUT

A huge well done to our incredible children from Years 5 and 6 who took part in the half-time penalty shoot-out at the Watford on 1st November. They were absolutely fantastic and came away as winners of the shoot-out!

To make the day even better, Watford secured a brilliant 3-0 victory, which added to the excitement. Our children ran off the pitch to massive cheers from the crowd, and we loved seeing our families waving, clapping and celebrating with them from the stands.

Thank you to Watford FC for welcoming us and giving our pupils such a memorable experience. We are so proud of them. What a day!



RESPECTING OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We would like to make families aware that there have been several recent incidents of vandalism in the KS2 boys' toilets. This has included pencils being pushed into sinks and urinals, causing blockages that required specialist repairs, as well as toilet door locks being damaged by being forced or locked from the outside. Unfortunately, the cost of repairs is now well into the hundreds of pounds.

We have spoken to the children about taking care of our school spaces and reminded them that the money spent on repairs is money that would otherwise be used for resources to support their learning. We would be grateful if families could reinforce this message at home, encouraging children to make positive choices, even when others around them may not be.

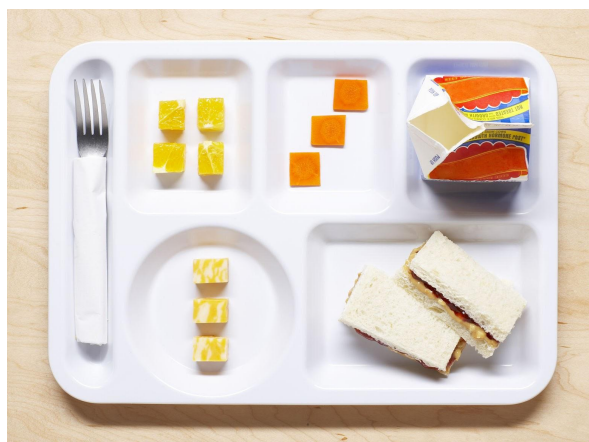
Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful school environment for everyone.

EATING LUNCH

During a recent conversation with a parent, it was suggested that it might be helpful to share how we support children at lunchtime. We want to reassure families that children's dinner trays and packed lunches are checked before they leave the dining hall. If we notice that a child is not eating enough of their lunch on a regular basis, we make sure to let parents know and work together to encourage healthy eating habits.

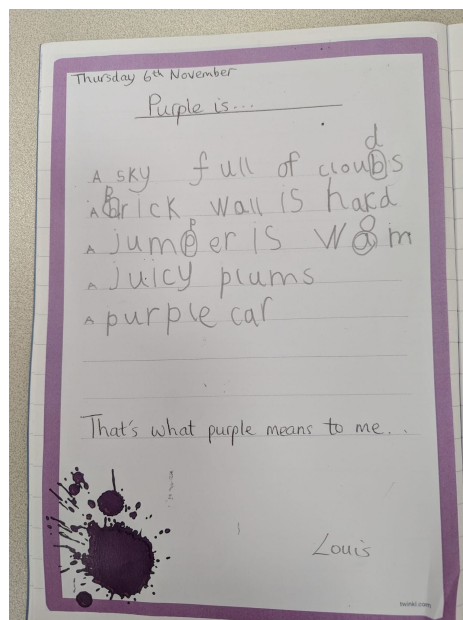
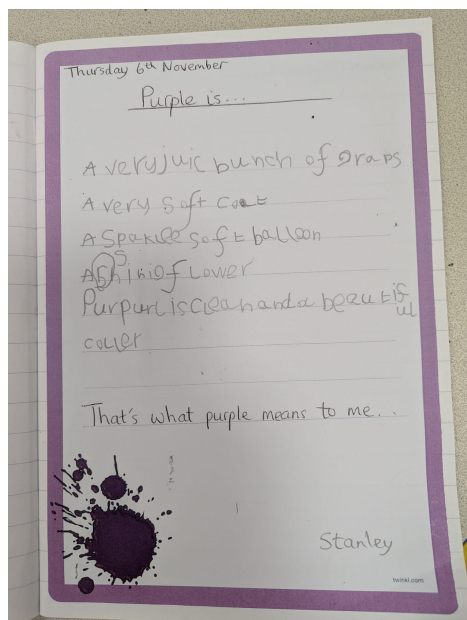
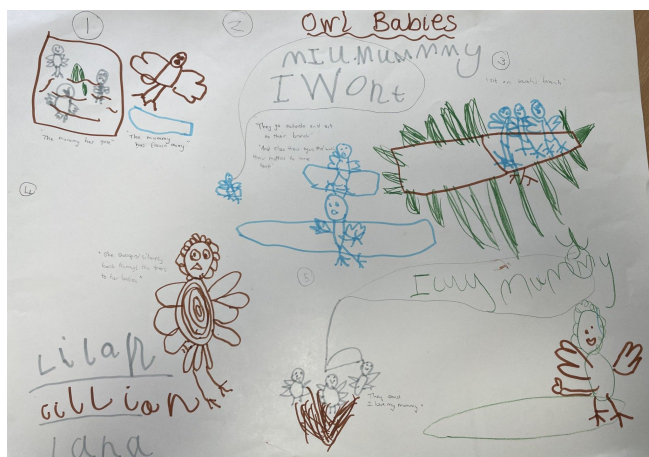
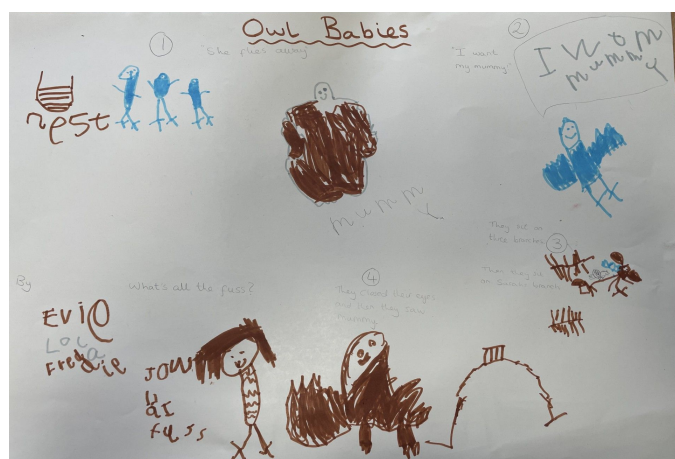
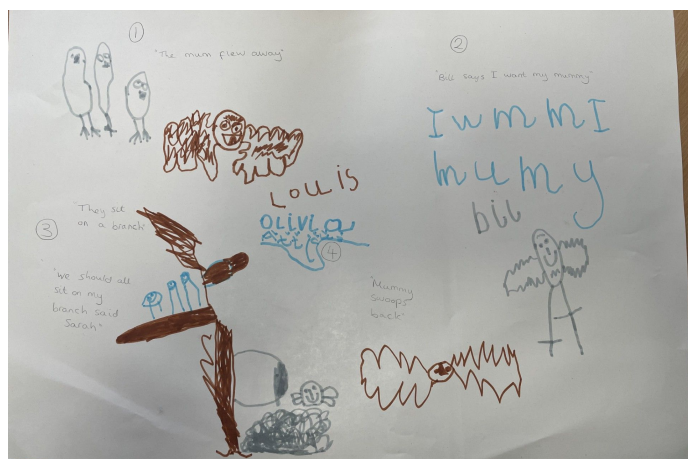
We all know that an army marches on its stomach and having enough energy makes a real difference to children's concentration, mood, and learning in the afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support in being mindful of high-risk allergy foods such as nuts and sesame products,



WRITING HALL OF FAME

This month's examples of wonderful writing come from children in Reception (Names on work), Stanley and Louis in Y1, Amelia and Ada in Y2, Annabel in Y3, Bea and Vivash in Y4, Freddie from Y5 and Ruby and Elliott in Y6.



WRITING HALL OF FAME... cont

Date: Thursday 16th October
LO: Write first draft of question poem.

Questions I have been asking lately
Why do rainbows only happen when the
rain and the sun come?
How does Sato's Sligh fly With the
raindees?
Why does the Sun look so close
to us but it isn't?
Where does the sun go when it is night
time?
Who invented Nature?

✓ Well done Amelia
Excellent question poem
😊

Date: Wednesday 15th October
LO: Write first draft of a list poem in the form of actions

Things I have been doing lately

Things I have been doing lately:

Splashing in fresh puddles,
Kicking the golden leaves,
Laughing with my cats,
Running on a bouncy ball,
Collecting conkers,

Saving the best till last.

Great poem 😊

Monday 21st October 2020
LO: To create, write and publish my own story based on Mini Rabbit Not Lost.

Mini Owl Not Lost

Mini Owl and Mother Owl are
making a yummy Strawberry cake. Cake,
Cake, Cake! Mini Owl likes warm, fresh
Cake. Caaaaake! Oh dear! It looks like we have
run out of juicy, red Strawberries. Hang on
on Mini Owl! There are some juicy, red...
Too late! Mini Owl was off. Must have
Cake! Cake, cake, cake! I can find juicy,
Red, yummy Strawberries! She glum over
Windy, green trees and she had to
Climb over a really, cold, Windy
mountain but she slipped and fell
down the cold, Windy mountain. Then she saw

6.11.25
LO: Discuss and record ideas.
Have you ever wished you could
fly in the sky like a bird?
Imagine if you could soar
over a rainbow, touch a star or
fly around the moon.
Soon everyone will be flying
in the sky thanks to my
amazing machine.

Dear glorious glue sticks,

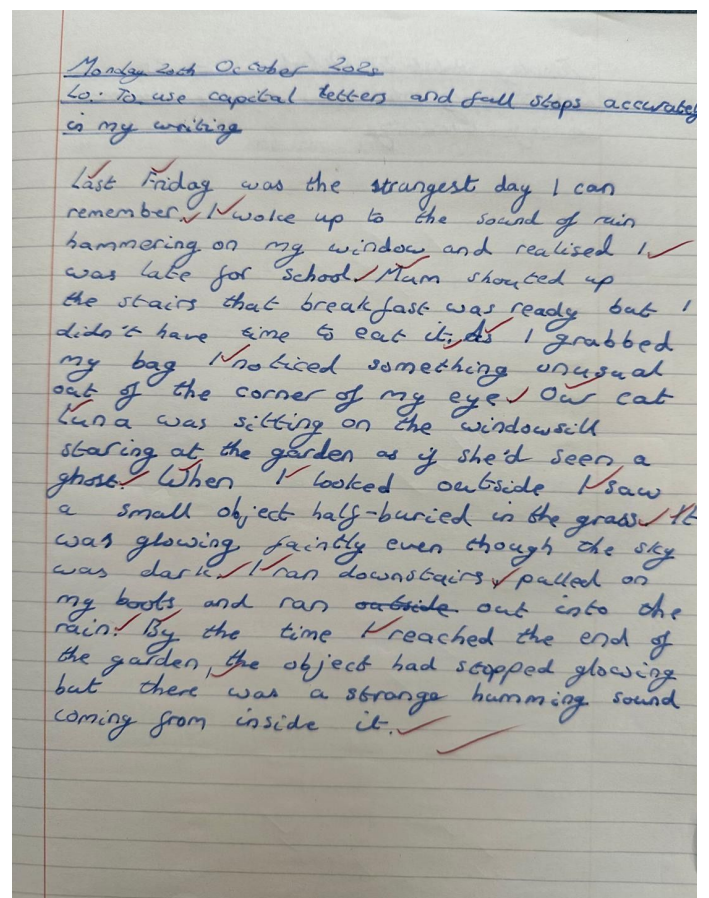
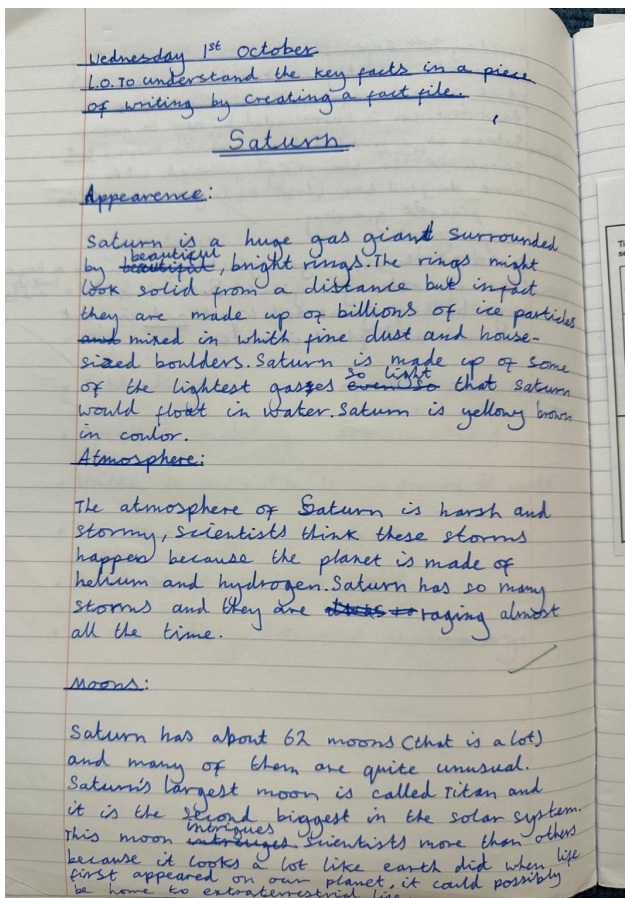
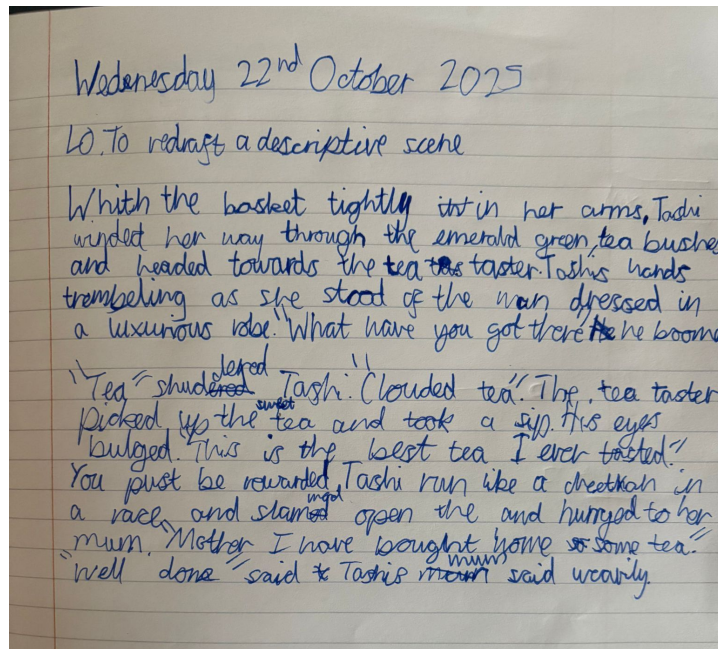
Do you think it is important that
the class have the right equipment
for school? If yes, I ask you to consider
returning from your strike and come back
to our classroom. Year 4 have reflected
on our actions and we have realised how
important you are.

Firstly, have you noticed how much
better we've become at putting the lids
on our editing pens? 80% of the class
can now remember to put our editing pen
lids on and we aim to do this with you
too.

Secondly, the fact is, when glue sticks
aren't looked after the glue sticks
might last two times faster than they
normally do.

Lastly, did you know how gentle we
are with our stationery we wish on

WRITING HALL OF FAME... cont



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Find us on Facebook and Insta

@stmarys916.

Information available on our

[website.](#)

DIARY DATES

A detailed list of dates will be shared with parents via email alongside the newsletter. For safety and security reasons, these dates will not appear on the website version.

Date	Time	Event
10.11.25	All week	Anti-bullying Week
14.11.25	All day	World Diabetes Day
20.11.25	am	Year 6 Health Checks
26.11.25	9.10am	Drama Assembly
28.11.25	am	Flu Vaccinations
1.12.25	All day	Occasional Day
2.12.25	All day	Decs Day
4.12.25	9:10 am	EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal
5.12.25	9:10 am	EYFS Nativity (families welcome)
6.12.25	10am-2pm	Christmas Fair
8.11.25	All Week	Y5 & Y6 Bikeability
8.12.25	9:45 am	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
9.12.25	5:00 pm	KS1 Nativity (families welcome)
10.12.25	All day	Christmas Jumper Day
10.12.25	12:00 pm	Christmas Dinners
11.12.25	All day	Christmas Trail
12.12.25	14:30	Rocksteady Concert
15.12.25	9.10 am	Piano Assembly
16.12.25	9.30 am	Christmas Panto (Peter Pan)
16.12.25	7:00 pm	KS2 Christmas Service (St Mary's Church - families welcome)
18.12.25	1:45 pm	KS2 Music Concert (families welcome)
18.12.25	2:45 pm	Cold Carols (families welcome)
19.12.25	11:00 am	Christingle (oranges needed)
19.12.25		End of Term - 1:30pm Close
6.1.25	8:40 am	Spring Term Begins