ST MARY'S *CofE* PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Friday Flyer

Friday 30th October 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families and staff after the half-term break. We hope you enjoyed a restful week and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together.

As we begin a new half term, we are looking forward to another exciting period of learning, enrichment and achievement across the school. The children have returned with great enthusiasm and are ready to embrace the many opportunities ahead. We have a busy and exciting few weeks planned, and we look forward to sharing our children's successes and experiences with you along the way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive, succeed and enjoy their time at school.

We look forward to a fantastic half term ahead!

Mrs Oakes and all the staff at St Mary's

Parents Evenings

It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend our first Parents' Evening of this academic year this week. Thank you for taking the time to meet with staff and discuss your child's progress and achievements. We hope you left feeling as proud of your child's accomplishments as we are. Our pupils continue to work incredibly hard, and it is always a pleasure to celebrate their successes with you.

Strong partnerships between home and school play a vital role in supporting every child to thrive, and we greatly value the opportunity to work together. We look forward to welcoming families to our second Parents' Evening on Wednesday 4th November, where we will continue these important conversations and share the next steps in your child's learning journey. We thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education.

Year 3 Parents Evening Only

A polite reminder that we have had to move the second Year 3 parents evening to Monday 2nd November. An email has been sent out to you asking you to rebook your appointments. This will close at 9am on Monday morning.

Year 1 & Year 6 SEN Reviews

Another polite reminder that we have rescheduled the SEN Review calls for 17th November due to staff absence behalf half term. These have been uploaded to Arbor to enable you to rebook. Please do so as soon as possible and note that these will close on 11th November.

Year 1 Only – Open Classroom Event

We are pleased to invite you to our rescheduled Year 1 Open Classroom Event on Monday 23rd November from 3:30pm to 4:00pm.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit your child's classroom, look at the work they have been completing this term, and celebrate their learning and achievements.

Black History Month 2026

Throughout October, we celebrated Black History Month, an important opportunity to recognise and honour the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people in Britain and around the world. This year's theme, "Honouring Our Communities", encouraged us to reflect on the individuals and organisations who make a positive difference to the lives of others every day.

Across the month, our children took part in a range of age-appropriate activities, discussions and learning experiences designed to celebrate diversity, promote inclusion and deepen their understanding of the rich contributions Black individuals have made, and continue to make, to society. We were delighted to see the children engage so thoughtfully with their learning and embrace the values of respect, equality and community that are at the heart of our school.

'Important Reminder – Applying for a place in Reception for September 2027

Everyone must apply for a school place, as there is no automatic entry for any school.

Online applications can now be made for a place in next year's Reception class for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st of August 2023. You can apply online and on time. Applying online is secure and is the quickest and easiest way to apply.

The application window for children seeking to start school for the first time from Autumn 2025 is now open until the national closing date of midnight on Monday 15th January 2027. You will find out if your child has been offered a place on 16th April 2026.

Leicestershire County Council have created a one-page checklist to help you with the admission process School admissions checklist

Apply online at: https://www.leicestershire.gov.uc/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place

Important Reminder – Secondary Places

Just a reminder that applications for Secondary school places for Autumn 2027 will **close tomorrow on the 31st of October 2026.** Please ensure that you apply through Leicestershire County Council before this deadline. Late applications may result in you not getting the school of preference.

Trick or Treating

Please can you talk to your child/ren about keeping themselves safe during Halloween. We know that this can be a very exciting time for children, but it is equally important that children know how to keep themselves safe.

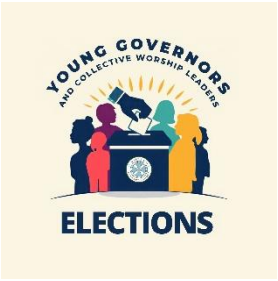
BBC Children in Need 2026

We are looking forward to supporting BBC Children in Need 2026 and once again joining schools and communities across the country in raising money for this fantastic cause.

BBC Children in Need is taking place on Friday 13th November 2026.

We are proposing to have a wear something spotty day on this date and are asking for a donation of £1 which we will then donate on behalf of our school.

Young Governors and Collective Worship Leaders Elections



This week, children in Years 2 to 6 had the opportunity to write and present their own speeches as part of the selection process for our Young Governors and Collective Worship Leaders roles. We were incredibly impressed by the confidence, enthusiasm, and thoughtfulness shown by all the children who took part. Each pupil demonstrated a real commitment to making a positive contribution to our school community, and they should be very proud of their efforts.

We will announce the successful candidates in next week's Friday Flyer. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward!

Good News from the Priestley Family!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Mr Priestley and his family have welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Mabel, into the world.

Whilst there may be a slight shortage of sleep in the Priestley household at the moment, everyone is settling in and enjoying this very special time together.

We are sure the whole school community will join us in congratulating Mr Priestley and his family on their exciting new arrival and wishing them lots of happiness as they begin this new chapter. **Welcome to the world, Mabel!**

Safeguarding Team Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and ensuring the highest levels of support for our pupils, Mr Galvin and Mrs Port recently completed Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) training.

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Port has now joined the school's safeguarding team as our EYFS Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Her training and experience will further strengthen our safeguarding provision and provide additional support for our youngest children and their families.

Congratulations to Mrs Port on her new role and thank you to both Mr Galvin and Mrs Port for their commitment to helping keep our children safe.

Attendance of the Week

A huge congratulations to Year 4, this week's winners! 🎉

Year 4 achieved the highest attendance in the school this week, demonstrating a fantastic commitment to their learning. Every day in school counts, and we are incredibly proud of their dedication and enthusiasm.

Well done, Year 4. Keep up the excellent work

FoSMS Funding Support – Thank you!

A huge thank you to FoSMS for their generous support this term. Their fundraising efforts have helped to fund several important resources and opportunities for our children, including:

- High-visibility vests to help keep our children safe when out on school trips and educational visits.
- A Nessy subscription, providing valuable additional support to help children develop their literacy and learning skills.
- Funding towards coach transport for our upcoming Christmas trips.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support of FoSMS and our school community. Their commitment helps us provide enhanced opportunities and resources that benefit all our children. Thank you!

FoSMS Disco – November

Letters will be sent home next week with the children. Please ensure you return the slip and make the payment on Arbor.

Year 6 Artwork – African Masks

Year 6 have truly impressed us with their wonderful African mask projects this term. Using only cardboard, the children transformed simple materials into a stunning collection of colourful and creative designs. Their imagination, perseverance and attention to detail have shone through in every piece.

The project has been a real highlight, with pupils thoroughly enjoying the creative process and taking great pride in their work. The finished masks are fantastic, and Year 6 should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. Well done, Year 6!

Year 4 Country Park Trip

Before half term, our Year 4 children enjoyed a fantastic morning visit to Melton Country Park to support their learning about rivers. Fortunately, the weather was on our side, allowing the children to make the most of this exciting outdoor learning experience.

The pupils were an absolute credit to St Mary's, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the visit. They had great fun exploring and applying their classroom learning in a real-life setting, making it a memorable and valuable morning for everyone involved. Well done, Year 4! 🌟 👏

classroom NEWS

We've had a lovely week in **EYFS**! Inspired by the story *The Little Red Hen*, the children have been exploring bread making and learning about how bread is made. We've also been busy finding different ways to represent the number 5 and discovering more about our five senses. This week, we focused on our sense of hearing and enjoyed a fun listening walk, tuning in to all the wonderful sounds around us. It's been a week full of curiosity, exploration and exciting learning!

Year 1 have had another busy and exciting week! In English, the children have been writing about our class story, *Funnybones*, using their fantastic imagination and growing writing skills. In History, they have been learning all about Walter Tull, the famous footballer and pioneering soldier, discovering why he is such an important figure. PE lessons have taken a different direction this week, with the children enjoying Wild West Yoga, where they have been practising their balance, stretching and mindfulness skills.

The children have also begun practising the songs for their Christmas Nativity. They are already singing with great enthusiasm, so don't be surprised if you find yourselves hearing a few festive tunes throughout the weekend!

Year 2 have been doing lots of work on Explorers this week! Our new history topic is about famous explorers as well as our Writing topic. We've had to think about what important equipment we would need to take with us to explore different environments, carefully plan our back packs that we would take on our own adventures, a bar of chocolate was definitely in Mrs Lilley's back pack planning, and many of us in the class said we would definitely remember to pack our favourite teddy bear alongside our compass and binoculars! We have also been learning all about shapes and vertices in maths and we all seem to be really enjoying this maths unit!

In **Year 3**, we have taken on feedback from our legend narratives and created a new short story using a picture as our inspiration. We have just begun our topic on movement and nutrition in science. Many children are already quite knowledgeable on this due to learning about healthy eating last year. We have had double PE this week due to the pool being closed. In these lessons, the children have been creating their own dances. We have been looking at factories as our theme and the children have choreographed their dance using cogs, levers and pistons as inspiration. Overall, a very fun and busy week in year 3!

In **Year 4**, we have dived straight into our new topics this week and made a fantastic start to the new term! In maths, we have been learning how to calculate the area of different shapes, while in history, we have begun exploring the fascinating world of the Tudors. In English, we are busy writing another diary entry, this time filled with cheeky pranks and mischief! We have also started learning the names of different animals in French. It has been a brilliant start to the term, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning still to

Year 5 have picked up from where they left off before half-term. In maths we are exploring fractions and, in particular, equivalent fractions. In our writing we have been thinking how to use ellipsis (...) effectively in narrative. We are also coming to the end of 'Kick', which has been gripping! We are looking at renewable energy in our geography unit, especially ways we can slow down climate change. We have also started our handball unit in PE.

In **Year 6** we have jumped straight into the new term and have been busy from the very start. The class have thoroughly enjoyed developing their creative writing skills, broadening both their imagination and the vocabulary they use in their work. In Maths, we have continued working on fractions and applying them in a range of operations. Year 6 have also showcased their creativity through their striking African mask projects. Using only cardboard, they have produced some truly impressive designs, and the process has been both enjoyable and rewarding for everyone involved.

Dates to Remember 2026-2027

Below are dates for this academic year. We will continue to add new dates, and these will be added in green.

Monday 2nd November	Year 3 Only – Parents Evening
Wednesday 4th November	Parents Evening (Yrs R, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 only)
Monday 9th November	Prospective New Starters 2027 Event
Thursday 12th November	FoSMS Monthly Meeting at 3.30pm
Friday 13th November	Children in Need (details to follow)
Monday 16th November	Anti Bullying Week
	Odd Sock Day (details to follow)
Wednesday 18th November	Extra date added! Prospective New Starters 2027 Tour
Thursday 19th November	Rev'd Mary Barr Collective Worship
Monday 23rd November	Extra date added! Prospective New Starters 2027 Tour
Friday 27th November	FoSMS Disco – All year groups (details to follow)
	Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church opens
Tuesday 1st December	Christmas Tree Festival closes at 12noon
Friday 4th December	Rise Santa Fun Run (details to follow)
Monday 7th December	KS1 Nativity (details to follow)
Tuesday 8th December	KS1 Nativity (details to follow)
Wednesday 9th December	EYFS Nativity (details to follow)
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day (details to follow)
Friday 11th December	EYFS/KS1 Cinema Trip (details to follow)
Tuesday 15th December	KS2 Theatre Trip (details to follow)
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School Christmas Church Service at St Mary's Church
Thursday 17th December	FoSMS Carols, Coffee & Mince Pie Morning
	Relish Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 18th December	Last Day of Autumn term
21st December 2026 – 1st January 2027	**Christmas Holidays**
Monday 4th January 2027	School Open – Spring Term starts
Thursday 21st January	School Census Day
Thursday 28th January	Rev'd Mary Barr Collective Worship
Friday 12th February	**School Closed – Inset Day**
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	**Half Term**