



ST MARY'S
CofE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St Mary's Friday Flyer

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

At our school, we believe that education is more than learning facts—it's about shaping character and nurturing hearts. Our vision and values guide us every day, helping us create a community where every child feels loved, respected, and empowered to reach their full potential.



Our Vision

"Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." -1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Our Values

At the heart of our school community are values that guide everything we do:

- Love – We serve others with care and compassion.
- Respect – We treat everyone with dignity and understanding.
- Thankfulness – We appreciate the blessings and opportunities we have.
- Kindness – We show empathy and generosity in our actions.
- Honesty – We speak the truth and act with integrity.
- Perseverance – We keep going, even when things are challenging.

Together, these values help us create a nurturing environment where every child can flourish.

Welcome Back & Happy New Year!



Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyful festive break with your families. As we step into this new term, we are excited to welcome our children back to school and continue our journey of learning, growth, and nurturing hearts.

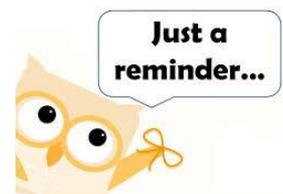
This term brings fresh opportunities for our pupils to shine, and we are committed to supporting every child to reach their full potential. Thank you for your continued partnership – together, we make our school a place where every child feels valued and inspired.

Please keep an eye on upcoming dates and events in this newsletter – there is a printout and keep sheet at the end of this newsletter with key dates for your diaries.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead.

A Reminder About Email Communication

If you need to contact me by email, please use the school office address: office@st-maryscofe.leics.sch.uk rather than my personal work email. This helps us manage communication effectively.



I aim to respond within two school days, though at busy times it may take a little longer – thank you for your understanding.

If your email relates to safeguarding, please make this clear in the subject line or body of the message so it can be forwarded promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) in school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Oakes

A Big Thank You!



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and children who kindly brought in Christmas gifts for our teachers and office staff. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and brought plenty of festive cheer!

After all those delicious treats, it looks like our New Year's resolutions for healthy eating and exercise will be more important than ever!

St Mary's Christmas Tree

Here's a picture to cheer you up for the end of the first week back...the Alpaca's found our school Christmas tree truly scrumptious...just look at those happy faces!



Polite Reminder – Outside School Equipment

Can we remind all parents that children should not be using any school equipment outside at the start and end of the school day.

We have had reports that younger siblings have been allowed to play and jump on the school goal posts on the field whilst waiting to collect older siblings. This has resulted in the goal post being broken. This will now have to be replaced.



Reminder

If you have a child born between 1st September 2021 and the 31st of August 2022 you must complete an online application for a place in next year's Reception class for your child to start in September 2025.



Apply online <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

The deadline for applications is the 15th of January 2026.

Curriculum Map



Your child's curriculum map will be available to view either by paper, class dojo or on the class pages of the school website by the end of next week.

Our apologies for this, we have a new website, and it is talking a little longer than we expected to get to grips with it!

TESCO Stronger Starts

We are thrilled to announce that we are once again taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme from mid-January until the end of March.

This time we have applied for funding to further develop our sensory room and resources.

Please keep an eye out in the Tesco stores in town and don't forget to drop those blue tokens in. Last time we received £1000 of funding towards books in our school library.



We are developing our Sensory Room, that is accessible to all students at St Mary's, for when they need that little extra support

You will be able to vote for our project by using the blue tokens when you have shopped at either

- Tesco Express, Nottingham Road
- Tesco Superstore, Thorpe Road



Thank you for your support



Term Time Holidays



Government guidelines prevent Head teachers from granting leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. A family holiday during term time does not fall into the category of 'exceptional circumstance.' An example of an exceptional circumstance could be a family with a parent in HM forces, who is restricted to taking leave at a given time.

We recognise that there will be times when a child requires short periods of exceptional leave during term-time. In these circumstances' parents/carers are asked to complete the 'Exceptional Leave Form' to request the absence. These requests will be considered by the Head Teacher on an individual basis. In the case of family emergency or bereavement, this can be done verbally. Forms are available from the school office.

If the request does not fall under the category of exceptional circumstances, then the leave will be coded as unauthorised, and parents will be informed that this refusal places the parent/s at risk of being issued with Penalty Notice/s. Penalty notices are issued per parent for each child as per Leicestershire County Council's policy/code of Conduct: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/6/6/Guidance-notes-unauthorised-leave-of-absence-and-penalty-notices-May2017.pdf> .

No exceptional leave requests will be granted when the end of key stage tests and assessments or the phonics screen is taking place.

Staff will not be required to set work for children who are absent by parental request.

Absence due to illness



Please can you inform the school office before 8.30am if your child is not going to be in school. You must inform the school daily if the absence continues. Please leave an answerphone message, an email or in app Arbor message.

If your child is absent due to illness, then we will presume that they are not well enough to complete any learning at home and therefore school will not provide work.

Uniform

All children must attend school in full school uniform. They must be always wearing black school shoes and bring appropriate footwear in for PE on the days when they have PE timetabled. We encourage children with long hair to have it tied back, and children should not be wearing makeup or nail polish. Earrings must be removed or covered over with tape for PE.



We thank you in advance for your support.

Dates to Remember 2025-2026

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



Thursday 15 th January	Census Day – Watch
Thursday 22 nd January	Height & Weight Checks for EYFS and Year 6
Monday 26 th January	Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala – details to follow
Thursday 29 th January	Mary Barr to lead Collective Worship
Thursday 5 th February	Year 4 & 5 Handball festival – details to follow
	Rise CEO Dave Ellison-Lee to visit St Mary's
Thursday 12 th February	Rise Gymnastics Competition
Friday 13th February	Inset Day for Pupils
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	HALF TERM
Monday 23 rd February	School re opens
Friday 27 th February	Chinese New Year Celebrations & Assembly
	FoSMS Disco - TBC
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Rise Plus+ Review
Tuesday 17 th March	Parents Evening – details to follow
	Year 4 Rise Voices filming in School
Thursday 19 th March	Mary Barr to lead Collective Worship
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 23 rd March	Parents Evening – details to follow
Tuesday 24 March	Year 2 Art exhibition – details to follow
Friday 27 th March	School closes for easter at 3.20pm
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13 th April	School opens 8.40am
Thursday 23 rd April	Year 4 Rise Voices
Tuesday 28 th April	Class Photos
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Thursday 14 th May	Mary Barr to lead Collective Worship
Wednesday 20 th – Friday 22 nd May	Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip
Monday 25th – Friday 29th	Half Term
Monday 1 st June	School re opens 8.40am