



Friday 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Collective Worship

This week we have continued focusing on perseverance. This is one of our school values. We have been talking about how perseverance isn't easy. It means that even when things get hard for us, we don't give up. A well-known saying is: When the going gets tough, the tough get going!

We used the example of athlete of Derek Redmond. The story of Derek Redmond has been called one of the purest examples of determination and perseverance in Olympic history.

The British runner was favoured to medal in the 400m race at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but a hamstring injury forced him to pull up during the semi-final. Redmond decided to limp on before his father Jim made his way onto the track to help him continue. Just before the finish, Jim let go of his son and Derek completed the course on his own, prompting the crowd of 65,000 to give him a standing ovation. "Someone once asked me, 'how do you become successful?'" he tells us. "And the easiest, and most relevant answer, is to get up just one more time than you've been knocked down."



Our school email address is changing

Important Notice

From now on, please contact us at **office@stmarys.risemat.co.uk**. The previous email address will still work for a short period, but it will be gradually phased out. We kindly ask all parents to update their contact information and begin using the new address for all communication going forward.

Chicken Pox

We would like to make families aware that we have had several confirmed chickenpox cases in school recently. Please keep an eye out for common symptoms, such as an itchy rash, fever, or tiredness.

NHS guidance can be found here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

If you suspect your child has chicken pox, please contact the school office to inform us of their absence. If chicken pox is confirmed, your child will need to remain absent from school until the last blister has scabbed over.

School Uniform



We have started to collect a huge amount of unnamed uniform and other belongings. Some of these appear to be new. It is proving extremely difficult to reunite them with their owners as many of them are unnamed. Please can you double check that all your child's uniform, coats, gloves, hats and scarves are all named over the weekend. This will help us out enormously. If you believe your child is missing some of their belongings then remind them to look in lost property next week to see if they are in there.

Many thanks for your support.

Bikes and Scooters

We are still getting reports that children are not riding their bikes or scooters safely to and from school. We have spoken to children in assembly about how to stay safe whilst riding on the roads or pavements and children have been reminded not to ride them when on school grounds. Any child riding a bike or scooter to school must have a helmet.



FoSMS News

The next Cake Raffle will be held on **Friday 6th February**.



We are always looking for new parents/ grandparents who would like to join FoSMS.



FoSMS stands for Friends of St Mary's School and is an organisation that was set up by parents many years ago to raise funds for the school through events such as discos, tuck shops and fairs.

Over many years FoSMS's have contributed or purchased a wide range of resources that have benefited all pupils and covered or subsidised many trips and the cost of coach hire.

We are looking for volunteers who could help with events, cake baking and much more. We meet once a term after school to plan upcoming events. Please speak to Mrs Sanders in the school office if you are interested in joining. **Our next meeting will be held at school at 3.30pm on Tuesday 27th January-all welcome!**

Red Nose Day

It feels like we could all do with a bit of a laugh right now, doesn't it? Well, luckily, Red Nose Day is on the way with a mission to give you the best day ever! In 2026, Red Nose Day will be returning on Friday the 20th of March. This year, the event will focus on supporting those in



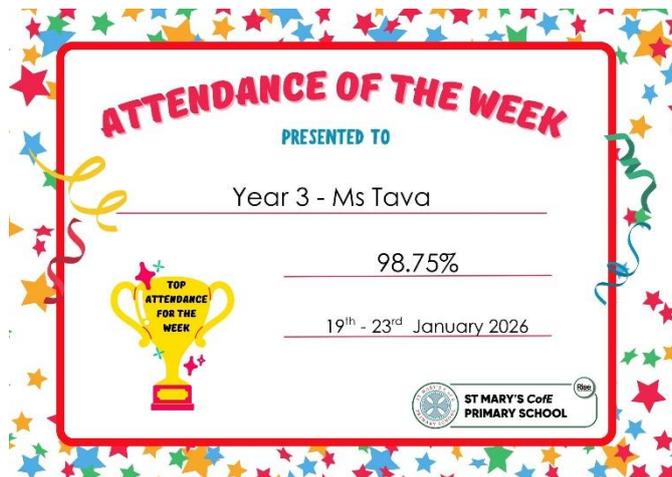
need during the current living crisis, particularly addressing issues like food insecurity and homelessness.

At St Mary's we will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 20th March to raise money for this worthwhile charity. Please keep this date in your diary and we will send further details nearer the time.

Tesco Stronger Starts – Blue Token Scheme

Just a reminder that we are currently taking part in the *Tesco Stronger* across both Tesco stores in Melton.

If you are shopping in Tesco, please do pop your blue token into our slot, every token makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support!



★ Headteacher's Star of the Week ★

Each week, our Headteacher's Star of the Week Award celebrates pupils who have gone above and beyond in their learning, behaviour, or kindness. Teachers nominate children who have shown exceptional effort, demonstrated our school values, or made a positive contribution to their class or the wider school community.



This week, our Stars have shown **fantastic hard work in both Maths and English**, impressing Mr Galvin and Mrs Maxxfield with their focus, determination and enthusiasm.

Mrs Oakes is always delighted to congratulate the winners during our Celebration Assembly on a Friday afternoon, where they receive a special certificate and a well-earned round of applause. We're incredibly proud of all our Stars of the Week, keep shining brightly!



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



classroom



This week, **Reception Class** have been very busy learning all about explorers! The children have been making use of their super role-play area which Mrs Pole has turned into a Polar Land. The children have started to learn about number bonds to 5 in maths and have been introduced to ff and ll in phonics. In addition to this, we were visited by Kat who led balance bike groups, and on Thursday the children had another Little Springers session! Phew – What a busy, but fabulous, week in EYFS!

The **Year 1** children haven't quite been bouncing off the walls this week, but they've certainly been doing lots of jumping – that is, in our gymnastics lessons (star jumps and straight jumps). In English lessons, the children have *worked* on adding –ed to write sentences in the past tense, while their teacher *grumbled* and *moaned* about how horrible the English language is with all the irregular verbs that you can't add –ed to (like run/ran, draw/drew, etc.). This week Miss Chowdhury has also taught her first lessons with Year 1 (science) – the children have been learning about naming different materials and identifying some of their properties.

Year 3 have had a busy and exciting week of hands-on learning! In maths, they began a new unit on length and perimeter and enjoyed measuring objects around the classroom. In writing, the children impressed us with fantastic descriptive sentences. P.E. has been full of energy as they developed their basketball skills and took part in gymnastics with Mr Percival. In science, they planned and carried out a fun magnet investigation, exploring whether using more magnets creates a stronger magnetic force.

Year 5 have had a great week! In maths, we began a new fractions unit, including multiplying mixed numbers by an integer. In writing, we introduced relative clauses to add extra detail—great work, Year 5!

The class have been wonderfully inquisitive in our history lessons on the Benin Kingdom, always asking thoughtful questions. P.E. has also been great fun as we develop our gymnastics skills (with big thanks to our talented gymnasts!).

We're also completely gripped by our class book and love trying to predict what will happen next.

This week, **Year 2** have been looking at famous portraits, trying to draw their own face with the correct proportions. They have also been looking at the book *The Day the Crayons Quit* and have begun writing a letter from the view of a crayon! Also, the children have been learning about how computers follow a set of instructions. They have tried to follow each other's instructions in a similar way, acting as a robot. Finally, on Thursday, the children had another Little Springers session. What a fun week!

This week, **Year 4** have worked incredibly hard towards their MTC. They completed their second practice mock (the OUMTC), and their efforts to recall times tables in under six seconds are really paying off. The improvement since October has been amazing, and the children were thrilled to see how much they've progressed!

A big thank you to all Year 4 parents for encouraging practice—on the way to school, at the table, in the car, on holiday, and of course on TT Rockstars

Year 6 have had a busy week of great learning. We are currently reading *Clockwork* by Philip Pullman, an intriguing story set in a small German alpine town.

In writing, we've been exploring the features of newspaper reports, including semi-colons, colons and the subjunctive form. In maths, we are working on algebra—writing expressions and substituting numbers into formulae.

In science, we are finishing our unit on evolution and inheritance and are now looking at how plants adapt to their environment. In PE, the children are developing their fitness and dodgeball skills, and in computing we are learning about creating media.

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.

Print me and keep me handy!

Monday 26 th January	Year 5 & 6 Swimming Gala
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
Thursday 26 th February	Sky Dance Challenge Competition
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
Monday 16 th March	Year 2 Beaumanor Trip – details to follow
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
Wednesday 3 rd June	Year 5 Debate Competition – details to follow
Thursday 4 th June	Year 3 & 4 Cricket & Countryside Day – details to follow