



**ST MARY'S CofE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



St Mary's Friday Flyer

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin another exciting school year, online safety remains a key priority for our school. Technology offers children fantastic opportunities to learn, create and communicate, but it is important that they know how to use it safely and responsibly.



Throughout the year, pupils will continue to learn about staying safe online, making positive choices and knowing what to do if something they see or experience online causes concern. For today's children, there is often little difference between their online and offline worlds, making these skills more important than ever.

We encourage parents and carers to talk regularly with their children about their online activities, who they are communicating with and how they can stay safe. Working together, we can help children develop the confidence, knowledge and resilience needed to navigate the digital world safely.

Starting the Conversation:

Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

But it's easy to become overwhelmed with the different technology, the language that children use, the vast number of games and apps which are available and the potential risks as well as ensuring appropriate privacy and safety settings are in place can help create a safer digital environment for everyone.

The NSPCC has a vast amount of information available to parents to help support you when talking to your children about being online and keeping safe. You can access this information via the link below.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

If you're stuck, not sure what to do, or if you're worried about your child, you can also contact our trained [helpline counsellors](#) on 0808 800 5000.

Childline also has lots of information about online and mobile safety that will help you and your child.

By working together, we can equip our children with the skills, understanding and resilience they need to enjoy the many benefits of technology while staying safe in an ever-changing online world.

Warm regards,

Mrs Oakes

Collective Worship

This week in our Collective Worship, we have been exploring the themes of compassion and generosity. Through stories, discussions and moments of reflection, the children have considered what it means to show kindness, empathy and understanding towards others, as well as how we can generously share our time, talents and support with those around us.



The children reflected on how small acts of kindness can make a significant difference to someone's day and discussed practical ways they can demonstrate compassion and generosity both in school and within the wider community. We have encouraged them to think about how they can be positive role models by helping others, showing gratitude and treating everyone with respect and care

As we continue to develop these values throughout the term, we hope that our children will grow in confidence as caring, thoughtful individuals who look for opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Important Reminder-Save the Date



FoSMs will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at school on Tuesday 29th September at 3.30pm. During the meeting, they will be planning this year's fundraising events and activities to support St Mary's. The committee would be delighted to welcome any new members who would like to get involved and help make a difference to our school community.

Picture News

At St Mary's, we use Picture News to help our children develop an understanding of the world around them and become informed, thoughtful citizens. Each week, pupils explore a current news story that encourages discussion, reflection and critical thinking in an age-appropriate and engaging way.



These sessions provide valuable opportunities for children to consider different viewpoints, ask questions and discuss important issues affecting both their local community and the wider world. Through these conversations, pupils develop a deeper understanding of key values such as respect, fairness, responsibility and inclusion.

Picture News also supports our teaching of British Values and promotes awareness of diversity and equality, helping children to appreciate the experiences and perspectives of others. By linking current events to our curriculum, we encourage pupils to become confident communicators, active participants and compassionate members of society.

Please see the attached overview for 25-26 which shares the real local and world stories that were covered in Picture News last year as an example.

Harvest Celebrations



We will begin collecting donations from the week commencing **28th September until Friday 11th of October** and your generosity will be appreciated

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We warmly invite you to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 2nd October, from 9:00am to 10:30am. This event is especially close to our hearts, and we're proud to support Macmillan Cancer Support and the incredible work they do for families facing challenging times.



Throughout the morning, children from all year groups will be sharing Harvest performances bringing joy, energy, and a real sense of community to the occasion. Whether you're popping in for a quick cuppa or staying for the full event, your presence will mean a great deal to us.

Performance times are as follows:

Yr 6: 9.10 am	EYFS: 9.20 am	Yr 1: 9.30 am	Yr 2: 9.40 am
Yr 3: 9.50 am	Yr 4: 10.00 am	Yr 5: 10.10 am	

If you're able to support the event with donations of cakes or biscuits, they would be *extremely welcomed* by Mrs Fendell, who is kindly organising the morning. Donations can be brought in before school on the day. Please do remember we are a No Nut School

Attendance



At St Mary's, we encourage all pupils to aim for at least 96% or above attendance across the school year. This means missing no more than 7 or 8 days in total. Attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence, which can have a significant impact on a child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Being punctual is equally important as arriving late not only disrupts your child's start to the day but also affects the learning of others. Every minute of the school day matters, and we appreciate your support in helping children arrive on time and ready to learn.

Safeguarding

At St Mary's, the wellbeing and safety of our children remain our highest priority. We strive to create a nurturing environment where every pupil feels valued, secure and confident that there is always a trusted adult available to support them.



Safeguarding underpins all aspects of school life, and we are committed to maintaining a culture where children are encouraged to speak up, share worries and seek help whenever they need it. Through our curriculum, assemblies and daily interactions, we equip pupils with the knowledge and confidence to keep themselves safe and make positive choices.

Our safeguarding procedures are guided by national statutory requirements, ensuring that all staff receive regular training and understand their responsibility to recognise, respond to and report any concerns. Across the school, children are regularly reminded about the trusted adults they can turn to and the support systems available to them.

By working closely with families, staff and external agencies, we aim to ensure that every child is able to learn, grow and thrive in a safe, caring and supportive school community.

Our dedicated safeguarding team includes:

- Laura Oakes – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Paul Galvin – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Fiona Rolls-Drew – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Cara Lilley- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

If you ever have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our safeguarding team. Together, we can ensure that every child at St Mary's has the best possible start in life.

You can also email the school safeguarding email address during school holidays when the school is closed. The email address is safeguarding@stmarys.risemat.co.uk.

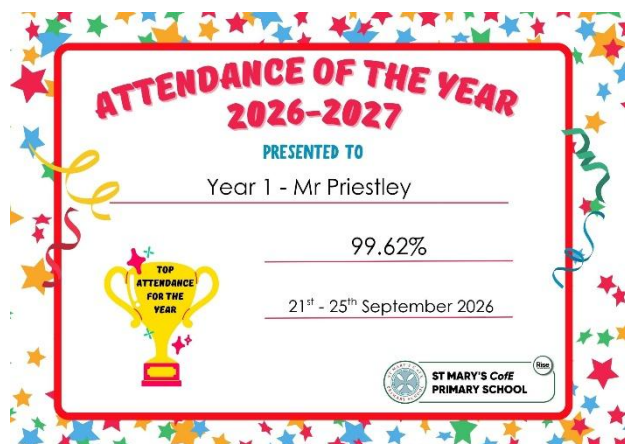
This email address will be checked by the DSL and DDSL's during holiday periods.

Attendance of the Week

A huge congratulations to Year 1, who are our winners this week! Their fantastic attendance and commitment to coming to school every day has earned them the top spot. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm for learning and the excellent example they are setting for the rest of the school. Keep up the fantastic work, Year 1!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

– Dr. Seuss 📖 ✨



Year 3 Rise Charter Sports Festival

Today, our Year 3 pupils enjoyed a fantastic day at the Rise Sports Festival held at St Luke's C of E Primary School, Thurnby, alongside other Year 3 pupils from schools across the Trust.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of exciting sporting activities that encouraged teamwork, determination and active participation. It was wonderful to see them working collaboratively with pupils from different schools, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship, supporting one another and embracing every challenge with enthusiasm.

The children were a credit to St Mary's, representing our school with pride, respect and positivity throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of their behaviour, effort and willingness to get involved, and we hope they returned home with many happy memories of a fun-filled and successful day.



classroom



EYFS have had a super week! ☀️ We created a huge story map of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, retelling the story together and adding lots of detail. We also painted colourful self-portraits inspired by the work of Joan Miró. Outside, we made the most of the lovely weather by exploring nature, talking about what we could see and hear, collecting natural objects and enjoying lots of opportunities for imaginative play and physical development. It has been a busy, creative and happy week!

This week in **Year 1** our story of the week has been a wonderful story called 'Oh No, George!' by Chris Haughton, and in phonics we have been learning about different ways to make the sound 'ee' (ee, ea, y). We've finished our Geography topic, and we're now on to Science, learning all about the seasons and the weather. We've had lots of fun working on our throwing and catching skills in P.E, and we've also sung a lot of 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'! the process!)

This week in **Year 3**, we have continued with our maths unit on addition and subtraction. The children have been working really hard to add and subtract ones, tens and hundreds, figuring out what changes and what stays the same. We have begun our exciting new topic on the Stone Age. So far, we have learned about some of the tools people used when they were hunter-gatherers. The children are also loving their swimming lessons. It's great to see many of them growing in confidence and becoming competent swimmers. Well done Year 3!

In **Year 5** this week, we have worked on a scaffolded write on a persuasive speech, getting ready to plan and write our own individual pieces. We have moved onto addition and subtraction in maths (addition is the topic of the maths homework this week). We are busy exploring the universe, Milky Way and solar system in our Science unit. In PE we are continuing building our skills in communication and teamwork and in football.

In **Year 2** this week we have been learning about adverbs in our writing lessons. We have moved onto a new maths topic looking at addition and subtraction and of course we have been practicing for our harvest song! We were also very lucky to attend an assembly from Severn Trent and learnt about job roles in Severn Trent and what we should not be pouring down the sink or flushing down the toilets! Some really interesting facts learnt!

Another busy and exciting week in **Year 4**! We have started our new Maths unit, focusing on addition and subtraction. In English, we have been using thesauruses to broaden our vocabulary and make our writing even more interesting. Most excitingly, we have begun our new Geography topic all about rivers! We were very lucky to welcome a visitor from Severn Trent Water, who led a fantastic water workshop. The children learned lots about our local water systems, where our water comes from, and how we can reduce our usage. And finally, a huge well Done to the Blue Team For winning our in-class football tournament, next up... gymnastics!



In **Year 6**, our writing skills have continued to develop well this week as we worked through a scaffolded write, helping us to build confidence and improve our writing techniques step by step. Ask your child if they can explain what a scaffolded write involves! In maths, we will continue to build on our understanding of fractions. PE lessons have been great fun, with the children developing their teamwork and communication skills through a range of team-building activities. In science, we have started a fascinating new topic on the circulatory system, where we will be discovering how the heart, blood and blood vessels work together to keep our bodies functioning effectively.

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.

Tuesday 29 th September	FoSMS AGM and Meeting
Thursday 1 st October	Census Day
Friday 2 nd October	Harvest Festival
	Macmillian Coffee Morning
Monday 5 th October	Parents Open Classroom Event (details to follow)
Friday 9 th October	SEN Profiles to Parents
Monday 12 th October	Prospective New Starters 2027 Event
Tuesday 13 th October	SEN Calls to Parents (details to follow)
Wednesday 14 th October	Prospective New Starters 2027 Event
	SEN Calls to Parents (details to follow)
Friday 16th October	School Closed – Inset Day
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October	Half Term
Monday 26 th October	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Tuesday 27 th October	Individual Pupil School Photos
Wednesday 4 th November	Parents Evening (details to follow)
Monday 9 th November	Prospective New Starters 2027 Event
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need (details to follow)
Monday 16 th November	Anti Bullying Week
	Odd Sock Day (details to follow)
Thursday 19 th November	Rev'd Mary Barr Collective Worship
Friday 27 th November	FoSMS Disco – All year groups (details to follow)
Monday 7 th December	KS1 Nativity (details to follow)
Tuesday 8 th December	KS1 Nativity (details to follow)
Wednesday 9 th December	EYFS Nativity (details to follow)
Friday 18 th December	Last Day of Autumn term
21st December 2026 – 1st January 2027	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 th January 2027	School Open – Spring Term starts
Friday 12th February	School Closed – Inset Day
Monday 15th – Friday 19th February	Half Term