



St. Mary's News

February 23rd 2024



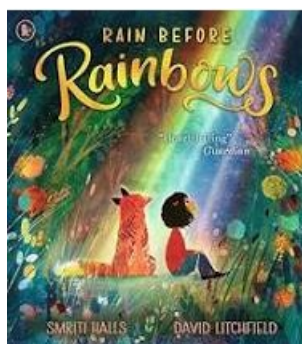
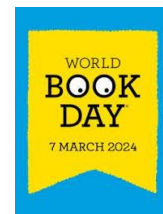
A big WELCOME BACK to everyone. We hope that you all had a lovely half-term break. The weather wasn't great but we know, that from speaking to the children, that many of you managed to get out and about with visits to the Safari Park, Alton Towers, the cinema and trampoline parks being very popular. Some of our families went further afield and visited lots of different countries from Spain and Poland to India and Kenya. It will be another very busy term so remember to check the newsletter.

Important Dates

Thursday 7th March 2024	World Book Day See newsletter for further details
Thursday 14th March 2024	Non Uniform Day in exchange for Easter Eggs to support our PTFA's Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bingo
Wednesday 20th March 2024	Parents' Evening 1 3.40pm - 6.30pm Appointment slips will be sent out next week. Parents can book appointments for either date. For children in Reception only - there will be a Stay and Play session for parents/carers to attend from 2.15pm - 3.15pm on this day. During this session, there will also be an opportunity for you to look through your child's record/work file. Parents/carers of children in Y1—Y6 will have the opportunity to look through their children's books next week.
Tuesday 26th March 2024	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bingo See PTFA page for further details
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Parents' Evening 2 3.40pm—6.30pm Appointment slips will be sent out next week. Parents can book appointments for either date. For children in Y1-Y6, school will be open this afternoon from 2.15pm - 3.15pm for parents/carers to spend time looking through their children's books and sharing their work with them. Reception class will not be open to parents/carers this week following the Stay and Play session last week.
Thursday 28th March 2024	Break up for Easter Breakfast and After School Club open as normal
Monday 15th April 2024	School re-opens
Tuesday 18th June 2024	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Tuesday 25th June 2024	Sports Day - reserve/backup day
Thursday 27th June 2024	Year 6 Stay and Pray session with parents/carers 9.00am
Tuesday 2nd July 2024	Year 5 Stay and Pray session with parents/carers 9.00am
Wednesday 3rd July 2024	Year 4 Stay and Pray session with parents/carers 9.00am
Thursday 4th July 2024	Year 3 Stay and Pray session with parents/carers 9.00am



World Book Day 2024



World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March this year. As a school, we will be sharing the book *Rain Before Rainbows*. The book explores how, as we journey through life, we will have worries and encounter challenges (rain). The story then moves on to highlight the importance of friendships and the role that friends play in helping us to overcome our worries and challenges. These friendships, together with building our resilience, self-esteem, determination and courage, will help us to deal with our worries and overcome any problems/barriers that we face. When we overcome our problems, the world is a much brighter and happier place (and we see rainbows).

The children will complete lots of different activities exploring the themes from the book, with the focus being on mental health and wellbeing. We will then display their work, and photographs, on our classroom doors for everyone to see.

To celebrate the story, we are asking the children, and staff, to come to school wearing the colours of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo or violet). If they can come as one block colour, that would be amazing e.g. all red. If not, then a mixture of the colours would be fine. Can we ask that the children do not wear football, rugby or any sporting kits on the day. Thank you.



As part of the day the children will have several opportunities to DEAR - Drop Everything and Read, so it would be really beneficial for them to bring in a favourite book from home. This can be a picture book, a fiction or non fiction book, a comic book or a poetry book.

BOOKSWAP



We also plan to launch our Class Book Swap Boxes on World Book Day. Every class will have a Book Swap Box in their room for children to bring in any books that they have read at home, and no longer want, to put in the box. Other children can then take a book, from the box, that they would like to read. Once read, they can return the book to the box and choose another book. We think that this is a great way to recycle unwanted books and to encourage our children to read more. Books can also be quite expensive, so by offering our children the opportunity to swap books, we are enabling them to widen their reading experiences, without it being an additional cost. We do hope that you can support our initiative. Children are welcome to donate more than one book.

We will finish the day with a short assembly from St Helens Library service, who will talk to the children all about the different types of books on offer from St Helens Library Services, including the eBook and eComic service. They will also talk to the children about what they need to do to join the library and tell them all about the different events on offer.



Choir

Please remember that choir starts again next Thursday.

Pick up is 4.30pm from the Infant Hall.



Guitar Awards

Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as Mrs Connolly's 'Guitar Stars of the Week'.



Week beginning 22nd January:
Year 3: Theo

Y4/5/6: Lyla (Y4)





Spring Fever Disco

The children all had a super time at our Spring Disco last night. Many thanks to the PTFA for organising the event and to our families for supporting the fundraiser.

A big shout out to the PTFA members who volunteered at the disco, helping to supervise the children and ensuring that everyone had fun.

A special shout out to Darcy's daddy for being a fabulous DJ.



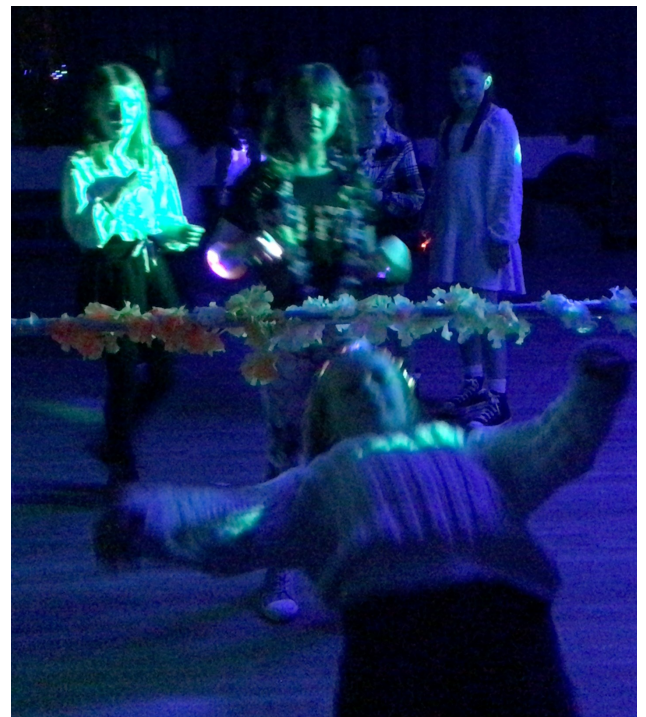
We raised a whopping £575 which is absolutely AMAZING!!!!











We even had time for a bit of Spring Disco Limbo—How Low Can You Go !
 We were amazed by how great the children were !
 Congratulations to Michael from Y6 who was crowned Spring Disco Limbo Champion for 2024





Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Isla
Year 4	Joycelin
Year 5	Bobby
Year 6	Thomas

Bucket Fillers

Bucket fillers are children who fill other people's buckets (lives) with kind words and deeds. They are shining examples to others around them.

This week's
Bucket Fillers are



Rec	Emily T for being a wonderful class role model
Year 1	Hunter for bringing happiness to the classroom every morning
Year 2	Theo for having a kind and caring nature
Year 3	Jax for showing kindness and helping his friend
Year 4	Ally for always giving 100% to her learning
Year 5	Emmie for being helpful and having lovely manners
Year 6	Jessica for coming to lessons with a positive attitude



Good Work Stars



A huge well done to the following children who have all been recognised for their super work week.

Rec	Brooke - trying hard in maths
Year 1	Isabella - great maths work
Year 2	Edith - marvellous maths
Year 3	Mika - super playscript writing
Year 4	Wilson - great graph work in Geography
Year 5	Scarlett - super science
Year 6	Ethan - fantastic paired maths work

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT to Skylar from Y2 who has been chosen for being kind and caring and always sharing.



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Finn	George	Jaxson	Will	Jaxson
Year 1	Jack	Lola	Harley	Henry S	Lola
Year 2	George	James	Ava	Sofia	George
Year 3	Wallis	Thomas FP	Robyn	T.J	Thomas FP
Year 4	Harry	Edison K	Heidi	Grace	Edison K
Year 5	Maddison	Sam	Oliver	James	Oliver
Year 6	Annabelle	Jonathan	Luca	Ewan	Ewan



Bag2School Reminder



Bag2School is a fundraising initiative by the PTFA. It is a free eco-friendly way to fundraise. Simply fill your collection bag with any of the following items:

Handbags

Hats

Bags

Scarves and ties

Underwear

Jewellery

Socks

Belts

Towels

Curtains

Bedding

Clothes



Return your bag/s to school on
Friday 1st March.

Have a good clear out and help
us to raise funds at the same
time.



Easter Bingo and Egg Hunt

Why not join us for an egg-cellent Easter Egg Hunt and some Bingo fun on Tuesday 26th March.

In order to minimise disappointment, as we know that these events are very popular, we will be holding 2 separate sessions:

Session 1 3.45pm - 4.45pm

Session 2 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Both sessions will contain an Easter Egg Hunt around the school grounds for the children, followed by Easter Egg Bingo.

Tickets will cost £3 to include entry to the Easter Hunt and a book of Bingo tickets.

Tickets go on sale at 9.00am on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th March. If your child is in breakfast club, send in your ticket request and money in a named envelope on the dates above.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT TO THIS EVENT.

Everyone is welcome to attend PTFA meetings. The more volunteers we have - the more events we can hold - the more funds we can raise - the more our children benefit. If you are unable to attend meetings, but can help out at events - please let school know.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 24th April at 6pm in the Infant Hall**. The focus of this meeting is the reintroduction of a Summer Fayre. In order to run a Summer Fayre, lots of volunteers will be needed so if you are able to attend this meeting it would be really appreciated. The provisional date of the Summer Fayre is Friday 12th July. Further information will follow.