



St. Mary's News

September 29th 2023



Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year



Important Dates



Monday 2nd October 2023	Whole School Photographs
Monday 2nd October 2023	Y4/5 STEM Club Starts 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd October 13th, 20th, 27th November Final session - 4th December Session run from 3.30pm - 4.30pm Collect children from front door
Tuesday 3rd October 2023 9.15am - 10.00am	Year 4 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—10.00am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Tuesday 3rd October 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm	Year 5 Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 2.30 - 3.15pm. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Wednesday 11th October 2023 2.45pm - 3.30pm	Coffee and Tea with SLT & Governors Parents/carers are invited to come along for a chat about our school. Tell us what is going well and let us know what we can do to be even better. Further details to follow.
Wednesday 18th October 2023	Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 1 See newsletter for further information
Friday 20th October 2023 9.30am	Reception and KS 1 Harvest Festival Assembly
Tuesday 24th October 2023	Y5 Anglo Saxon and Viking Workshop A separate letter has been sent out
Tuesday 24th October 2023	Diversity Workshops
Wednesday 25th October 2023	Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 2 See newsletter for further information
Wednesday 25th October 2023	School breaks up for October Half Term School re-opens TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER
Tuesday 5th December 2023	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm
Wednesday 6th December 2023	Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm
Friday 15th December 2023	Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm
Friday 22nd December 2023	Christmas Service in Church 2.00pm



Whole School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 2nd October to take our children's individual, family and our Reception class photographs.

We will organise family photographs of siblings that attend St. Mary's, as part of the session, but if you would like a photograph taken of your child/children with a younger sibling, who is not yet at St. Mary's, the photographer will be available from 8.30am in the Infant Hall for you to pop in before school starts.

Our Reception class children will also have their first whole class photograph taken.

All photographs are taken free of charge and there is no obligation to buy.



Y5/6 Girls' Football Team

A big shout out to Molly, Kate, Niamh, Ruby, Annabelle, Grace, Amelia, Sophia, Penny and Indiana, who represented the school at a St Helens Football Tournament last Friday.

The team played really well and were super sporting ambassadors for St. Mary's. Well done to you all.



Macmillan Coffee Morning



A big thank you to you all for the generous donations of cakes that were sent into school to support our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Further thanks go to the parents/carers who attended the event and those parents/carers who offered to help serve refreshments.

We managed to raise a fantastic £255.50. If you would like to make a contribution, please send in any donations on Monday. We will then send the money off to the charity.

Get Caught Reading Challenge

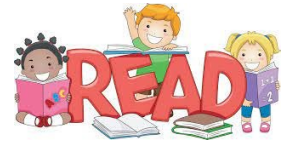
Thank you for all of the super entries that we have received—your creativity made it very difficult to judge.

Winners will be announced in Monday's assembly and their winning photographs will be displayed in next week's newsletter.



Phonic and Reading Workshops for Parents/Carers

Thank you to the Y3 and Y6 parents/carers and grandparents who attended our workshops this week. Both workshops were very well attended and we received lots of positive feedback. It was lovely to hear that you found the workshops really useful.



Our workshops continue next week, with our Y4 and Y5 parents/carers/grandparents being invited into school on Tuesday morning for Y4 and Tuesday afternoon for Y5.

DATES AND TIMES FOR ALL CLASSES INVOLVED ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEWSLETTER.

The workshops will give you a clearer understanding of how we teach phonics and reading across the school and will hopefully provide you with the 'know how' to help you to support your child as they move through their reading journey.

Workshops are being held in the year group classrooms and will be delivered by your child's class teacher.

The children will be taught elsewhere whilst the workshop is being delivered.

Once the workshop is finished, the children will be brought back into class to share a story with you before you leave - so it would be lovely if you could bring in their favourite story book to share with them.

Grandparents are welcome to attend in your place if you are unable to attend.

There will be a separate workshop for Reception parents/carers once the children have settled into school.



Y4/5 STEM Club

Miss Gradwell's very popular STEM Club is running again this term for our Y4/5 children. Letters were sent out last week and should have now been returned if your child would like to attend the club. We are asking for a £3 donation to help towards the cost of resources for the club and this can be paid via School Money.

The sessions will run on a Monday from 3.30 - 4.30pm on the following dates:

2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd October

13th, 20th, 27th November

Final session - 4th December



Harvest Collection



As part of our Harvest celebration we will be collecting in donations of dried and tinned food to

send to the local foodbanks which we know are really struggling at this time - they are especially short of the following:

Coffee
Sugar
UHT Milk
Long-life Juice
Pasta Sauces
Instant Mash
Tinned Potatoes
Packet Pasta in Sauce
Noodles
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Tomatoes
Custard
Jam
Toiletries
Chocolate and Crisps



Reception, Y1 and Y2 Harvest Assembly

Our Reception and Key Stage 1 children would like to invite parents/carers to their Harvest Assembly on Friday 20th October at 9.30am. Places are limited to a maximum of 2 per family as we are restricted by the size of the Infant Hall. If you would like to attend, simply sign in at the office from 9.20am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Donations can be sent in, in carrier bags or boxes, the week commencing Monday 16th October. We will then arrange for the donations to be collected or taken the following week.

Full of Beans Half Term Multi Skills & Football Holiday Camps

We will be holding our popular half-term camp again in October—but this time it will be slightly different. Instead of 1 camp—there will be 2 different camps running. One camp will be our usual multi activity camp—the second camp will be a football academy camp. The camps are flexible and can be mixed - whole days can be booked on each camp e.g your child can attend Football Camp for 2 days and Multi Activity Camp for 3 days. The pricing and times of each camp remain the same as in the summer. Sibling discount codes will be automatically applied so no code is needed and if booked before **MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER** an **EARLYBIRD** discount code of 10% will be automatically applied.



Camp places can be booked using the link below.

<https://app.joinin.online/#/app/joinin/organisation/shop/4a3b31f8-f811-4c6d-a826-53b48dd51e02>

If you have any problems, give Rebecca a ring on 07789 743893 She will be happy to help.



children communication committee ideas
fundraising PTA school rewarding events organisation teachers
pupils staff parents

The PTFA now have their own tab on our school website and this will be populated over the coming weeks with dates of upcoming events and PTFA news.

Advanced Warning—First Events

Autumn/Halloween Party Tuesday 24th October



Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight check

As part of the National Screening Check our Y6 and Reception children will have their heights and weights measured on Wednesday 4th October.

All information collected during the check is confidential and results will only be shared with parents.



Build a Scarecrow and Take Part in a Scarecrow Hunt
October half-term

SEE POSTERS AT END OF NEWSLETTER





Parents' Evenings/Open Afternoons



We will be holding two open afternoons on Wednesday 18th October and Wednesday 25th October from 2.15pm–3.15pm. If you would like to attend, simply sign in at the school office and you will be taken to your child's class, where you will have the opportunity to look through your child's books with them. You can move between classrooms if you have more than one child.

For safeguarding purposes, we do ask that you leave the site promptly at 3.15pm and make your way round to the school gates for normal pick up procedures. Our staff will then use the last 15mins to set up ready for Parents' Evening and to get the children packed up. No child will be released at 3.15pm to go home with their adult.

Parents' Evening appointment slips will be sent out on Monday. Staff will only see parents who have appointments, so it is essential that slips are returned.



Meet our Reading Influencers

Year One	Isaac	Chloe
Year Two	Alfie	Grace
Year Three	TJ	Wallis
Year Four	Ralph F	Erin
Year Five	Harry S	Eliza
Year Six	Jonathan	Heidi

We love to read at St. Mary's. Books transport us to different worlds and help us to experience new adventures. In order to share our love of reading and to promote different authors and stories throughout our school community, the following children have been chosen as Reading Influencers to shine a light on all of the wonderful books and authors out there, for their class mates to read and try out for themselves.



Every week, one of our Influencers will recommend a book for others to read, so look out for their recommendations in our weekly newsletter.

This week, Heidi, from Y6, has recommended Fireborn - Twelve and the Frozen Forest by Aisling Fowler.

Heidi says, 'The book is suitable for children aged 8 and over. It is about a teenage girl's mission to save her country. It is a really exciting story and I would score it 10/10.'



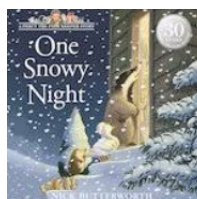
Thank you Heidi for this recommendation. Look out for a new book next week.

Introducing Miss Berks as a reader:



Reading is something Miss Berks loves! She especially likes the smell of a new book. Miss Berks likes reading non-fiction books about history, particularly those that focus on World War 2.

Nick Butterworth, the author of the collection 'Percy Parkkeeper', is Miss Berks' all-time favourite author because those were the stories, she loved reading as a little girl. Miss Berks enjoys reading "One Snowy Night" to the children in Reception during the winter.



One of Miss Berks' favourite hobbies is reading by the fire with a big mug of hot chocolate topped with marshmallows. Yummy!

Miss Berks' favourite quote is, 'Reading can take you places you have never been before'.

Class Attendances for the Week

Reception	98.08%
Year 1	96.76%
Year 2	99.07%
Year 3	95.63%
Year 4	97.22%
Year 5	97.57%
Year 6	98.52%



Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Charles
Year 4	Aiden
Year 5	George
Year 6	Niamh

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	Lyla for always helping and for being a lovely friend
Year 1	Amelia for always putting the chairs neatly under the tables in class
Year 2	Bobby for being a positive role model
Year 3	Olivia for trying really hard in maths
Year 4	Jude for helping to keep the classroom tidy
Year 5	Theo for being a super friend
Year 6	Annabelle for having lovely manners and holding doors open for adults

Good Work Stars

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

Rec	Harry - super phonics
Year 1	Henry W - joining in on the carpet
Year 2	William - amazing maths work
Year 3	Robyn - marvellous maths work
Year 4	Arthur - a detailed setting description
Year 5	Freddie - amazing maths
Year 6	Caitlin - a brilliant opening to her autobiography

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT for Darcy from Reception who has been chosen this week for being so helpful and smiley in club. Well done Darcy.



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Emily S	George	Mychailo	Aayushi	Aayushi
Year 1	Jack	Lola	Alannah	Henry S	Henry S
Year 2	Luke	Henry D	Charlie R	Charlie H	Henry D
Year 3	Ellis	Eva	Mika	Isla	Isla
Year 4	Leo	Maddison-Lucy	Lucy	Wilson	Maddison-Lucy
Year 5	Ewan	Jessica	Ruby	Robert	Robert
Year 6	Alex	Mia	Freddi P	Jessica	Jessica

St Mary's PTFA

PRESENTS



AUTUMN SCHOOL DISCO

Rec'
& KS1

KS 2

Tickets on sale - Thursday 5th October - 9am

24th October 2023 | 6:00pm-7:30pm

TICKETS £5

Children can come in either Halloween costumes or just their disco clothes. Faces can be painted and hair coloured but please NO FACE MASKS. Ticket price includes a spooky snack bag.

Birchley St Mary's PTFA
Presents

DO YOU WANNA BUILD A SCARECROW? AND WE'RE GOING ON A SCARECROW HUNT

Join our scarecrow building crew and send your pictures to Birchley Bear on Facebook to show off your super building skills.

If you just want to hunt, keep an eye out for scarecrows in your friends' front gardens and find the codeword attached to them; collect as many words as you can on your entry form for the chance to win a prize, and don't forget to vote for your favourite scarecrow!

- Be part of the build crew for £2
- Take part in the hunt for £2
- Entry forms will be sent out to all children and should be returned to school by Wednesday 11th October to make sure you don't miss out on the fun!
- Scarecrows should be built by Friday 27th October
- Hunt entries need to be returned to school by Friday 10th November



Made with PosterMyWall.com

Entry forms for both the hunt and 'build a scarecrow' can be picked up from the school office.