



St. Mary's News

January 12th 2024



As this is our first newsletter of 2024, we would like to say, 'Happy New Year' to you all and, 'Welcome Back' to a new school term. We hope that you all managed to have a lovely Christmas with your families.

As usual, there are lots of activities and events planned for the Spring Term so please keep up to date by reading the newsletter each week and making a note of the upcoming events published in the weekly calendar. The calendar will be updated every Friday.

Important Dates

Tuesday 23rd January 2024	Y4/5/6 Sewing Club The club will run every Tuesday for 8 weeks from Tuesday 23rd January until Tuesday 19th March
Thursday 25th January 2024	Key Stage 2 Choir restarts.
Friday 9th February 2024	Break up for half-term. Breakfast and After School Club open as normal
Monday 19th February 2024	School re-opens
Thursday 22nd February 2024	PTFA—Spring Disco Further information to follow
Thursday 7th March 2024	World Book Day Further details to follow
Thursday 14th March 2024	Non Uniform Day in exchange for Easter Eggs to support our PTFAs Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bingo
Wednesday 20th March 2024	Parents' Evening 1 3.40pm - 6.30pm Appointment slips will be sent out after February half-term. 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.
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Parents' Evening 2 3.40pm—6.30pm Appointment slips will be sent out after February half-term. 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

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.

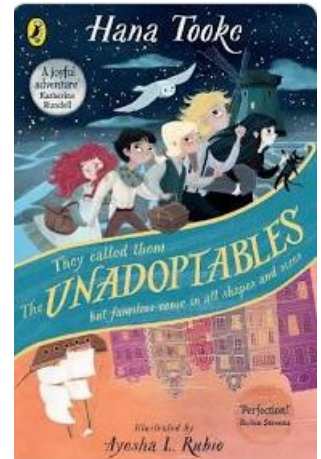


Every week, one of our Influencers will recommend a book for others to read, so look out for their recommendations in our weekly newsletter.

This week, Heidi from Y6 has recommended *The Unadoptables* by Hana Tooke. It is a story about 5 orphans who try to escape The Little Tulip Orphanage in Amsterdam to try to find their long lost parents.

Heidi says that the book is suitable for children aged 9+ and would score the book 10/10.

Thank you Heidi for your recommendations. Look out for a new book next week.



Christmas Gift Donations



Thinking about what you can do with any duplicate, or unwanted Christmas gifts or toiletries, then think no further!

The PTFA are asking if you would like to donate them to school, so that they can be stored and used at other fundraising events throughout the year. If you would like to donate your gifts, school will be holding a donation week from Monday 22nd January - Friday 26th January. Simply send in your donations with your children and we will arrange storage.

Thank you.

Unwanted Toys, Jigsaws, Board Games

Following a visit from Father Christmas, if you have any unwanted toys, jigsaws or board games that you would like to recycle, please pass them our way to use, in our classrooms, during wet breaks and lunchtimes.

Please only send in toys that are in good condition or jigsaws and games that contain all of the necessary pieces. Please do not send in any soft, or cuddly toys. Thank you.



Non - Uniform Day Advanced Notice

School will be holding a non uniform day on Thursday 14th March in exchange for donations of Easter Eggs to support our Easter Egg Hunt and Bingo.

Children can come to school in whatever they choose on this day.

All donations will be really appreciated.



Guitar Awards



Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as

Mrs Connolly's 'Guitar Stars of the Week'.

Week beginning 8th January:
Year 3: TJ

Y4/5/6: James B (Y5)





Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Olivia
Year 4	Anna
Year 5	Georgia
Year 6	Luca

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	Will for always treating others with kindness
Year 1	Ava for always showing respect and kindness to others
Year 2	James for using his lovely manners
Year 3	Theo for working well and trying hard in maths
Year 4	Heidi for cleaning rubbish off the playground
Year 5	Stanley for helping others during Bikeability and being a super role model
Year 6	Taylor for doing extra research at home about the new Y6 topic



Good Work Stars



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

Rec	Lillia - making a brilliant bird feeder
Year 1	Hettie - much improved stamina for writing
Year 2	Sofia - excellent instructions
Year 3	Rosie - super poetry work
Year 4	Delilah - excellent IT skills in Art
Year 5	Penny - super Science work on life cycles
Year 6	Brooke - creating a fantastic timeline about the sinking of the Titanic

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT to Ally from Y4 who has been chosen this week for being a superstar in club. Well done Ally.



Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Emily S	Esme	Harry K	James T	Emily S
Year 1	Lorcan	Reuben	Harley	Ryder	Reuben
Year 2	Sebi	Henry	Charlie R	Charlie H	Charlie H
Year 3	Ellis	Emily	Mika	Sam	Mika
Year 4	Leo	Jennifer	Evie	Ralph F	Ralph F
Year 5	Bobby	Indiana	Stanley	Emmie	Emmie
Year 6	Caitlin	Lucas	Molly	James D	Caitlin



Christmas Fundraisers Update

Thanks to your generosity, we are delighted to report that our Christmas fundraising events have been hugely successful raising a fabulous total of £2622.89!

Thanks to this, the PTFA have been able to help fund the cost of the Christmas Pantomime, which really helps make the school's Christmas Day of Fun one to remember. The PTFA have also been able to purchase a new, portable sound system for school.

From a starting balance of just over £200 in September, and following the above donations to school, the PTFA now has a balance of £2034. This is an amazing start!

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped to make the fundraising events so successful.

The PTFA have organised 3 more events for the Spring Term. Please see the details below.



Break the Uniform Rules Day!

On Thursday 8th February, school will be holding a Break the Uniform Rules Day!

Children and staff are being challenged to come to school on this day, wearing their uniform/work clothes in a different way.

Children, and staff will be charged 50p for every rule they break—up to a maximum of 4 rules (£2) with all money raised being added to the PTFA funds.

There are some ideas on the poster and other possible ideas could be:

- * Wearing your hoodie back to front
- * Wearing a football/rugby top instead of your school polo top
- * Wearing one trainer and one shoe

Let's see how creative you can be BUT REMEMBER - YOU CAN ONLY CHANGE 4 THINGS AND THAT EACH CHANGE WILL COST YOU 50p !!!!!

Fines should be sent into school in an envelope on the day. Thank you.



Spring Fever Disco

Following the very popular Autumn Disco, the PTFA are hosting a Spring Fever Disco on Thursday 22nd February.

There will be 2 separate discos:

Reception, Y1 and Y2 from 4.15pm - 5.30pm

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 from 6.00pm - 7.30pm

Both discos will be held in the Infant Hall and will be hosted by our fantastic DJ.

Children can wear whatever they chose to attend the disco and we look forward to seeing their 'outfits'.

Tickets cost £5 per child and will include light refreshments for the children. Children attending the later disco (Y3-Y6) can bring an extra £2 with them, if they choose, to buy further refreshments and snacks.

Tickets go on sale at 9.00am on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February. Children in ABC can send in ticket requests and money in a named envelope on the dates above.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A CHILD ONLY EVENT.



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.