



Learn. Grow. Achieve. Flourish.

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been an incredibly busy week. We have been learning about Ramadan and Eid, Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday as well as celebrating book week. Please see below some of our photographs and information of events that have happened throughout the week. Happy reading and we hope you enjoy the sunshine this weekend.

St Mary's Christian Values for Autumn term: *Wisdom, Honesty and Responsibility.*

Our school bible quote: 'I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths.' (Proverbs 4:11)

Absence

You must do all you can to make sure your child attends school regularly. However, on the rare occasion they must be absent please call or email the school. We ask that you clearly state your child's name, year group and class and state the reason why your child is absent. Saying your child is not well is not enough detailed information required for school and local authority records. We ask that you are specific so we can recognise trends and local outbreaks. We do not authorise holidays during term time. Thank you.

Please try to arrange appointments out of school hours, however, if this is not possible, please email the school office with confirmation of the appointment. The school normally only authorises the morning or afternoon session but will be agreed upon individual circumstances.

All absences should be reported on study bugs.

Clubs

If your child is interested in attending a club, please visit our website or click below. Did you know we offer clubs at lunchtime free to all children. Why not ask your child if they attend one or two? <https://www.stmarys.slough.sch.uk/school-clubs/>

GATES OPEN 08.20am and CLOSE 8.30am prompt. Children should be in class, registered and ready for learning at 8.30am. Please avoid lateness as this impacts on the front office and a calm start to your child's day.

Attendance Competition



We are repeating our attendance competition again this year. It is open to everyone who attends St Mary's school.

All children who achieve 100% and really flourish in their school attendance will be receiving a special certificate to celebrate and thank them for coming to school every day for a whole term.

Those who achieve 100% for the whole year will receive some prizes and automatically be entered into a draw with an opportunity to win a summer family day out for four to Legoland.

Good luck everyone!



Attendance for this week.

Nursery AM	86.9%
Nursery PM	83.8%
0Poppy	92.3%
0Bluebell	84.7%
0Daffodil	95.3%
1Damson	94.7%
1Cherry	90%
1Apple	94%
2Pear	97.3%
2Plum	92.7%
2Peach	97%
3Ash	99.3%
3Sycamore	97.7%
3Juniper	95.3%
4Larch	95%
4Beech	96%
4Oak	98%
5Hazel	95.2%
5Alder	96%
5Elm	95.5%
6Willow	96.7%
6Maple	96.7
6Rowan	98%

Whole School Total 94.7%
(below expected)

There is a pattern which shows children in the lower years are absent more regularly than the older pupils.

It is important every child attend school every day, so they do not struggle because of learning gaps.

Below 96% is considered poor attendance. Well done to those highlighted in green.

PARENT PARTNERSHIP NOTICEBOARD

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped make the book fair run smoothly and to everyone who attended. All those who took part contributed towards new books for our school and raised the profile of reading across our school and community. Well done everyone!

A huge thanks to all our parent volunteers who took year 1 pupils to Windsor Castle and worked with them as they explored this wonderful historic site.

Thank you to all the families who attended Cherry Class, Pear Class and Damson Class assembly this week. It is fantastic for the children to see their parents and family members in the audience and it lifts their spirits and makes their day!

Parent Consultations

Please book your meeting.

On Monday 3rd March you should have received a link from Primary Site to book a slot for the Parent Consultation meetings for the week commencing 24th March 2025.

Please note that bookings will end on 14th March at 5PM, you will not be able to book online after that time.

Secure your place now!

Nursery Places

We offer 3 hours per day for all children aged 3 years. We have a few places remaining in our morning and afternoon sessions. Please contact our office or refer to our website for further information. When we are full, we are full!

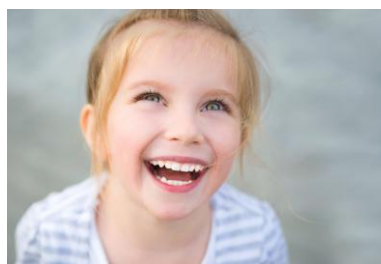
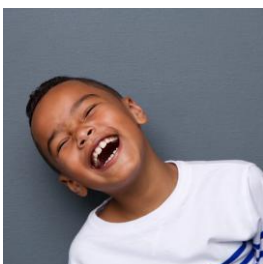
Diary

The diary below has some more events added this term. Please look and note down what you can attend and when.

Looking After your teeth

The government have announced that children in the younger years should be looking after their teeth and will be receiving lessons on this going forward.

We at St Mary's, already engage with this and the children in the early years have been learning about teeth and how to look after them. There are some posters attached to this newsletter to help your family do the right thing. Please encourage them to look after your teeth and how to clean them properly.



Reading Week at St Mary's

BOOK FAIR

Book Fair was very successful again this year, we hope children enjoy reading their new books!



VISITORS

Children were visited by many different guests this week, who spoke to the children about their job and how reading has inspired and helped them to learn, grow, achieve and flourish. Visitors included: musicians, a librarian, a writer, an author, a doctor and a martial arts specialist.

Mrs Aguilar put on a fantastic language assembly too, where Spanish ambassadors read a book in English and Spanish!



READING WEEK COMPETITION

Well done to all of the children who entered the reading week competition this week. We were blown away by the creativity and talent! School council found it very hard to pick the winners! Results will be announced next week.



NURSERY

World Book Day celebrations have been enjoyed by all in the Nursery this week. We were wowed by their amazing dance skills on Friday. The children learnt a fantastic dance routine to retell the story of Jasper's Beanstalk through movement and action and confidently performed it together. We loved seeing how excited the children were to share their creative costumes on Thursday and discussing together the books we love to read and why. Our week of celebrating ended with staff readers visit on Thursday where we enjoyed listening to Eric Carle and Martin Waddell read to us.



Mrs S. Badyal (Nursery Lead Teacher)

RECEPTION YEAR

In Reception this week we have thoroughly enjoyed all our **Book Week** activities. We especially loved pyjama / dress up day, making bookmarks and the daily masked reader videos which improved our listening skills. Another highlight was receiving our new books. If we couldn't guess what they were with the clues, we tried to work out whether they were a **fiction** or **non-fiction** book before we opened them. One pupil even made a book at home and read it to friends in the book corner.



Mrs R. Ballard (EYFS teacher)

Reception Year

Those in NELI groups have started a new topic – People Who Help Us.

You can find this week's vocabulary on our school website.

This week we had fun writing a letter putting it into an envelope and sticking a stamp on – which 'people who help us' do you think we were learning about in this session?

Please find the link below for the NELI Newsletters including the vocabulary we have learnt.



<https://st-marys-church-of-england.secure-primariesite.net/neli-nuffield-early-language-intervention/>

Year 1



On Monday, Year 1 had the wonderful experience of visiting Windsor Castle. We travelled by coach and arrived to the castle looking glorious in the Spring sunshine.

The purpose of our trip was for the pupils to see their recent learning in History and Geography up close. We looked for arrow slits, towers and battlements. Waved to the guards protecting the castle and paid our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II as we explored the chapel.

Children took part in a self-led tour and scavenger hunt where they counted guards, searched for a cat in the Dolls' House and looked for specific crests and shields in the Great Hall.

The staff at the castle were so impressed with the respectful behaviour and good manners of our St Mary's pupils that we were invited into the Moat Room to see a scale of model of Windsor castle and a photographic timeline that showed the castle and the royal family through the ages. The St Mary's staff were so proud of our Year 1 pupils. An amazing day was had by all.



Year 1

Y1 had a fantastic world book day and we loved learning about our new book 'Sulwe'. We made our own bookshelves, bookmarks and some book reviews! We also ended the day with a class assembly from cherry class which KS1 really enjoyed!



Miss J. Brindley (Year 1 Lead)

Year 2

This week, Miss Hunter and Mrs Hill created some fantastic activities for the whole of Year 2 for world book day. These activities were planned with reading at the heart of them to show the children how powerful reading is in everyday learning. Each Year 2 Class were asked to create some beautiful acrostic poems and design some gorgeous pictures inspired by the day and night story from our story Sulwe. We also enjoy listening to the masked readers each day, singing songs from different story books and reading new books that Mrs Galloway brought to each class every day. We had a fantastic week and all the thanks should go to Mrs Hill, Miss Hunter and Mrs Galloway!



On Thursday children and teachers alike dressed up as their favourite book characters, or pyjamas, bringing stories to life in the classroom. The children participated in various activities that encouraged a love for reading, including sharing their favourite books and discussing the characters that inspired them.

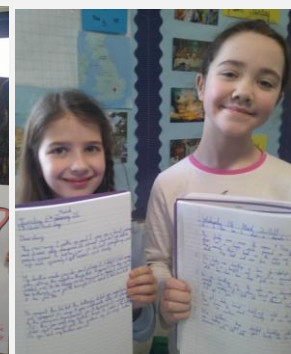
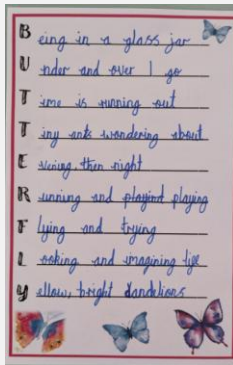
The special World Book Day assemblies were a highlight of the week, with engaging presentations that showcased the importance of reading and storytelling. The children learned about different genres and authors, sparking their imaginations and inspiring them to explore new books. Additionally, Pear class held a delightful assembly focused on World Book Day, It was a wonderful opportunity for Year 2 to celebrate their love of reading and share it with the school community.

Mr N Reilly (Year 2 Lead)



Year 3

On World Book Day Year 3 read and explored the book 'Saving the Butterfly' written by Helen Cooper. Two siblings begin a new life as refugees in this poetic picture book. One child thrives in the new environment but the other struggles. We have discussed the character's emotions and understood that we can all thrive - in our own time. We wrote detailed diary entries from the perspective of the main character and some imaginative acrostic poems inspired by the book.



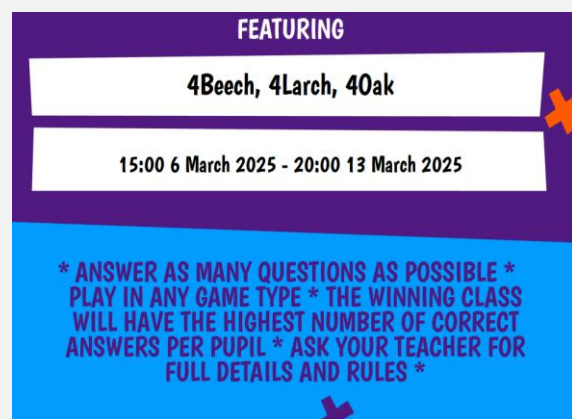
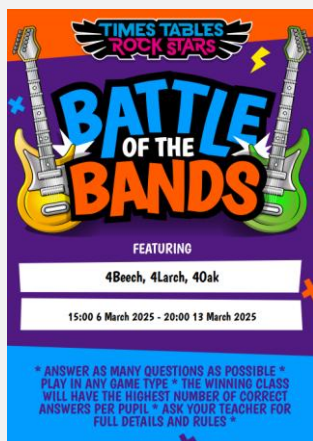
Then we combined our marvellous Maths brains with our artistic, creative side to design some vivid symmetrical butterflies!

Miss M. Cresto (Year 3 teacher)

Year 4

Timetables Rockstars Battle

All three year 4 classes are in competition with each other to answer the highest number of correct answers per pupil. So far, Beech class is taking the lead with 238 points, can Oak and Larch class close the gap with the lead class? To make the game fair, a time limit of 10 minutes per day has been set so it is essential that you do practise each day.



6th March - 13 March 2025

4Beech	238	4Larch	156	4Oak	101
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Finishes in 6 days

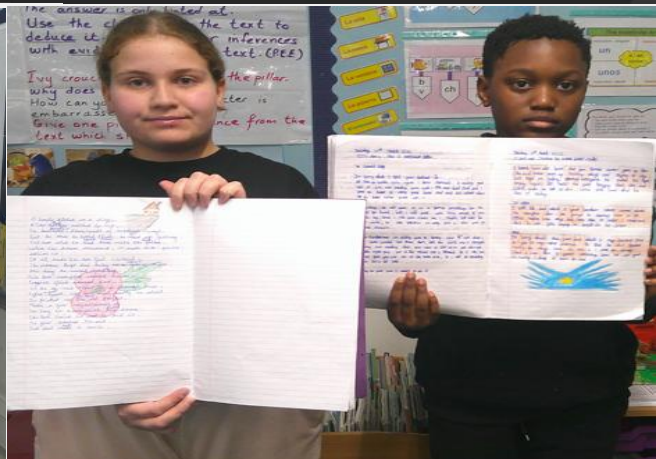
Year 5

'Year 5 thoroughly enjoy World Book Day. We spent the day talking about and recommending books as well as looking more in depth at the book: *Wisp A Story Of Hope*. Children have been writing their letters to the USA government to persuade them to sign the Convention of Children's Rights.'



Year 6

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed book week. On book day, children dressed up in their pyjamas. They were read the story of *Farther* by Grahame Baker-Smith which inspired them to design and make a set of wings. The children also wrote diary entries and poems about the book. As the book was set during World War II, the children spent some time drawing poppies and other symbols of World War II.



Ms J Rockett (Year 6 lead).

Spanish Corner!

EL DÍA INTERNACIONAL DEL LIBRO – INTERNATIONAL BOOK DAY

To celebrate this special occasion, we read/performed a different story in each of the Year groups.

KS1 took part in the reading of a well-known story, but this time in Spanish. The children took part in the reading and they did an excellent job. Our **Ambassadors in Year 5** assisted with their clear and accurate reading in this assembly. This stories in Upper KS2 all carried a powerful message or 'moralaja', which served as a point of reflection and debate. Here are the stories and some photographs...

KS1 – Oso Marrón - Brown Bear



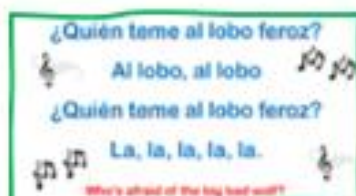
Year 3:

We read a book called 'Querido Zoo' (Dear Zoo) by Rod Campbell.



Year 4:

We read the much-loved story of 'The Three little pigs' (...and the fierce and very silly wolf!)



Year 5:

To link with our current topic 'The Weather', we read the fable of 'The Wind and The Sun'.



Year 6:

The children read and performed a traditional Spanish story called 'La Ratita Presumida', 'The boastful little rat'. Excellent performances and very fun session, which included several marriage proposals, loud animal noises and a 'run for your life' ending. Yes, lots of excitement and lots of Spanish! 🐭



Señora Aguilar
Teacher of Spanish

Sports Corner

On the 28th of February our girl's netball team attended their first league fixture, the opponents were Marish.

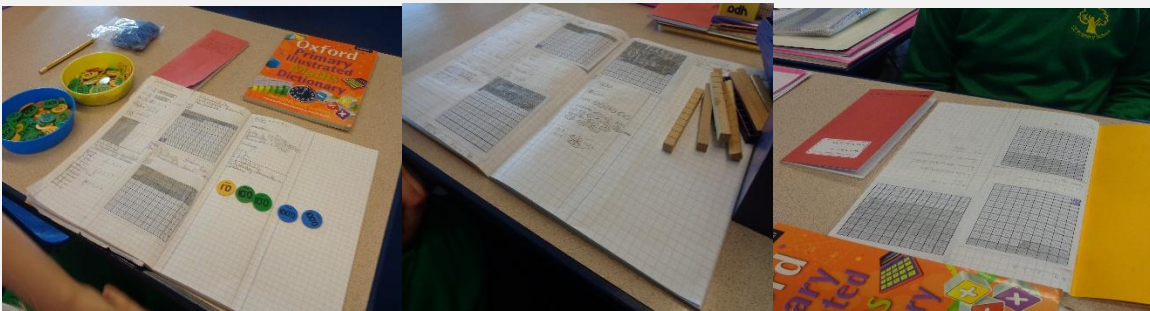
Over the course of the 40-minute fixture the girls showcased all the skills and tactics they have been developing since September. The first half was very fast paced as St Mary's took a convincing 7-1 lead. During the second half the girls scored one more point putting the game to bed. The final score was 8-4 to St Mary's. Well done girls! On to the next one.



Mr Bignell (PE and Sport Lead)

Maths Corner

Year 5:



In Year 5, children have been using different ways to show decimals. By using different representation children build a flexible understanding of decimals and how they relate to the whole numbers and fractions.

Year 6:



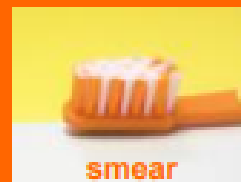
Year 6 are learning how to divide decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. We used place value sliders, Gattegno charts and place value charts to check our answers.



12 Top tips for teeth

Brushing

1. Brush before bedtime and one other time during the day
2. Use a fluoride toothpaste containing at least 1000 ppm (parts per million)
3. Just a smear on the brush for under 3s
4. Pea sized amount for over 3s
5. Spit – don't rinse when finished
6. Supervise under 8s when brushing
7. Children should be taken to the dentist for regular visits



If you need help finding a NHS dentist please telephone:

NHS Helpline: 111

or visit their website: www.nhs.uk


Between meal snacks

8. Avoid sugary and acidic food / drinks between meals and an hour before bedtime
9. Honey, smoothies, fruit juice and dried fruit are *not* tooth-friendly snacks
10. Milk is a tooth friendly drink during the day, water is tooth friendly at any time
11. From 6 months onwards encourage the use of open top cups - discourage bottle use after the age of one year
12. Remember to ask for sugar-free medicines whenever possible

ORAL HEALTH SESSION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Community
Dental
Services

Your child's early years setting is participating in a Healthy Smiles Accreditation with Community Dental Services CIC. This initiative aims to create a tooth-friendly environment by promoting healthy habits, nutritious diets, and the importance of dental visits. It is crucial that this learning continues at home as well. To support this effort, we are offering parents the opportunity to attend a free online oral health session.

-  Why brushing is important, what your child's brushing routine should look like, and how to support a reluctant brusher.
-  Why the food and drink your child eats has a big impact on their teeth, how to minimise damage and advice on packing a healthy lunch box.
-  Why regular dental appointments are important, how to prepare for dental visits, and how to access dentistry.

Thursday 20th March
@ 7:30pm - 8:30pm via Teams



Sign up here...
click or scan:



Toothbrushing guide

for parents and guardians

Community
Dental
Services



For children that can not spit out, use a smear of toothpaste, for those able to spit out, use a pea sized amount of toothpaste, on a soft bristled, small headed toothbrush.

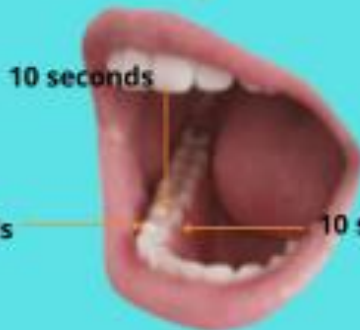
0-6 years- at least 1000ppm (parts per million) of fluoride.

7+ 1350ppm or fluoride or more.

30 seconds



30 seconds



10 seconds

10 seconds

10 seconds

When all your children's teeth are present, brushing your teeth will take 2 minutes. In order to effectively brush in two minutes, split the mouth into quarters. Spend 30 seconds on each quarter.

Spend ten seconds on the different surfaces of the teeth. The inner surface's, outer surface's and biting surface's.



Tilt the bristles at a 45 degree angle towards the gum line, use a gentle, circular scrubbing motion, tickling the teeth and gums. If you are using an electric toothbrush, simply move the toothbrush from surface to surface, the oscillating head will provide the technique.



For the back of the front top and bottom teeth, turn the brush at a 90 degree angle and gently brush in an up and down motion.



Following toothbrushing, children should spit out the excess toothpaste.

NOT rinse!

Assist children with toothbrushing until the age of 7, then closely supervise and monitor.

Diary Dates

- 10.03.2025 Living Eggs arrive in Reception year!
- 11.03.2025 Reception year: Learning about the dentist workshop
- 11.03.2025 New to Nursery Tour @ 10am for prospective parents
- 13.03.2025 Year 6: Imperial War Museum Trip
- 13.03.2025 Year 4: Beech Class swimming
- 13.03.2025 Year 5: Alder Class Assembly @ 3pm start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 14.03.2025 Year 3: Sycamore Class Assembly @ 08.50am start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 14.03.2025 Holi Day
- 14.03.2025 Football fixture away
- 18.03.2025 Year 6: Mental health and SATs workshop
- 19.03.2025 New to Nursery Tour @ 10am for prospective parents
- 19.03.2025 KS2 visitor Railway safety talk
- 19.03.2025 Year 6: Easter cracked workshop
- 20.03.2025 Year 4: Beech Class swimming
- 20.03.2025 KS1 visitor Railway safety talk
- 20.03.2025 Year 2: Peach Class Assembly @ 3pm start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 21.03.2025 Year 4: Beech Class Assembly @ 08.50am start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 21.03.2025 Double Football fixture away
- 24.03.2025 Parent consultation evening (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
- 25.03.2025 Parent consultation evening (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- 26.03.2025 Parent consultation evening (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
- 27.03.2025 Parent consultation evening (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)
- 27.03.2025 Year 4: Beech Class swimming
- 28.03.2025 Year 1: Apple Class Assembly @ 08.50am start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 03.04.2025 Netball round robin x5 mini matches away
- 04.04.2025 New to Nursery Tour @10am for prospective parents
- 29.04.2025 New to Nursery Tour @10am for prospective parents
- 29.04.2025 Bags to School
- 01.05.2025 Year 5: Hazel Class Assembly @ 3pm start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 02.05.2025 Reception: Bluebell Class Assembly @ 08.50am start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 13.06.2025 Reception: Poppy Class Assembly @ 1pm start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 26.06.2025 Reception: Daffodil Class Assembly @ 3 pm start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)
- 27.06.2025 Year 3: Juniper Class Assembly @ 8.50am start, Yew Hall (Parents welcome)

Safeguarding

St Mary's school staff is committed to providing for the safety and wellbeing of all children. We promote the welfare of all children and expect all our school community to engage. If someone is collecting your child on your behalf, you must notify the school to receive a password for you to share with the collector. When the correct password is given, we will be happy to release your child to them. Failure to provide a password will mean we will need to hold onto your child until permission is granted.

If you witness any of the following, please report it to the school.

- *a child (4-9 years) walking home alone.*
- *a child handling potential drugs or other substance.*
- *a child being bullied.*

Hurting or abusing a child is not acceptable and must be reported. Please ask for Mrs Whatley, our safeguarding lead for child protection. Our safeguarding policy is on the school website and the email address is safeguarding@stmarys.slough.sch.uk this address is also on the school website under contacts.