



ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER

Week beginning Monday 19th January

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been another inspiring one at St Mary's, filled with opportunities that have broadened our pupils' horizons and strengthened our sense of community.

Our Year 6 pupils have taken part in the Into University workshops throughout the week, culminating in a visit to a university on Friday. This has been a fantastic opportunity to raise aspirations, encourage ambition and help our children to begin imagining the many exciting pathways open to them in the future. We are incredibly proud of their engagement and curiosity during this programme.

It was also wonderful to see so many smiling faces at our Movie Night, which was a great success. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and events like this play such an important role in building our school community. We are already looking forward to our next event – the Valentine's Disco on Thursday 12th February – which promises to be another fun and memorable occasion.

We were also delighted to welcome Fr Richard, who visited Year 5 to support their Religious Education unit Galilee to Jerusalem. His visit brought learning to life and helped deepen pupils' understanding of Jesus' ministry in a meaningful and engaging way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working in partnership with us to provide such rich experiences for our children.

With every blessing,

Miss Black

Parking Reminder

We kindly remind all parents and carers to park considerately and safely when dropping off and collecting children. Please avoid parking on zig-zag lines, blocking driveways, or stopping in areas that cause obstruction or danger to pedestrians and other road users. These measures are in place to keep our children, families, neighbours and staff safe.

Where possible, we encourage walking, scooting or parking a short distance away from the school and walking the remainder of the journey. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for our whole community.



Father Richard visiting Year 5

Year 5 were delighted to welcome Father Richard from our local parish, Holy Trinity, for his half-termly visit. He spoke with the children about their RE learning, focusing on Jesus' teachings in the Bible, including the Beatitudes, the New Law, and parables such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Father Richard was very impressed by the pupils' knowledge and thoughtful responses.



“I enjoyed how he spoke to us more about the Beatitudes. He was teaching us more about Jesus. I like it when Fr Richard comes in.”
— Soraiya

“I enjoyed it when he was speaking to us about the Ten Commandments, and I also liked how he was teaching us more about the Beatitudes.” — Perla

Prayer Bags



Malik



Jax



Theodore



George



Anastasia

We were so impressed by the beautiful prayer areas they have created at home and the thoughtful way they have used our St Mary's Prayer Bags. Their photos showed such care, creativity and reverence, and it was lovely to see prayer and reflection continuing beyond the classroom. Thank you for sharing your faith so wonderfully with our school community. 🙏✨

Year 5 & Year 6 SATs Boosters

Our Year 5 and Year 6 SATs booster sessions began this week.

Well done to all the children who attended – we were very pleased with their positive attitude and commitment. All Year 5 and Year 6 children are welcome to attend the sessions.

Booster timetable (8:00–8:40am):

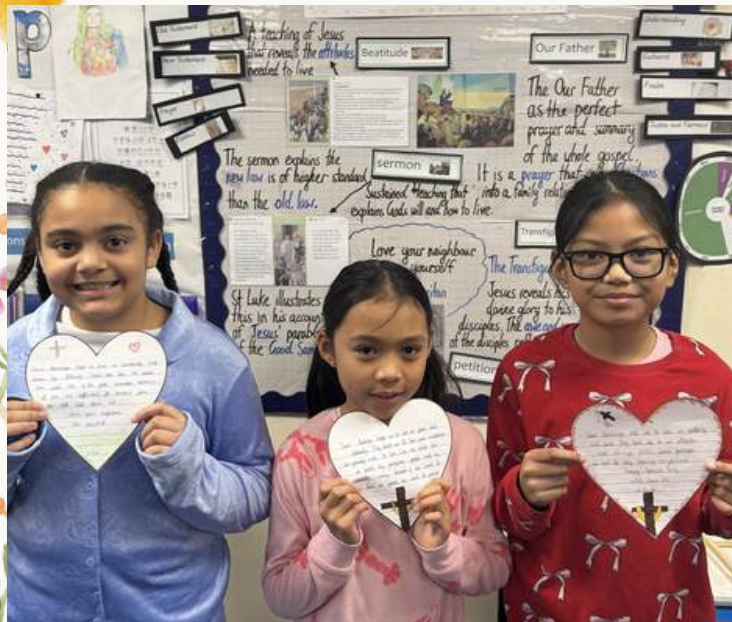
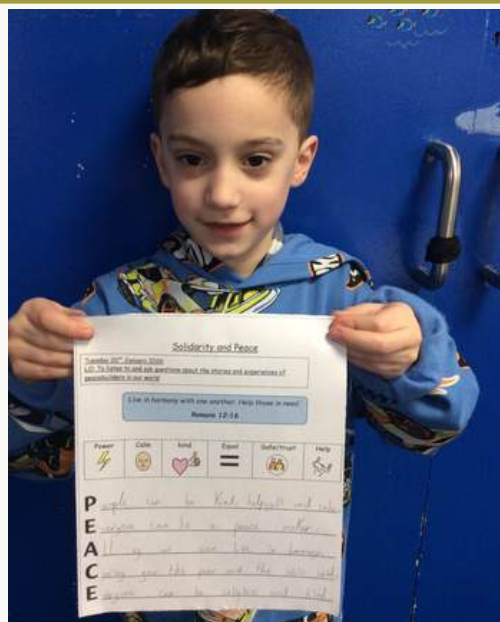
- Tuesday: Reasoning Maths – Mr Howell
- Wednesday: Grammar – Miss Georgiades / Mrs Neter
- Thursday: Arithmetic – Miss Black
- Friday: Reading – Mrs Gleason

Children should enter school via the car park and go directly to the library.



In their Catholic Social Teaching lesson, Year 2 explored the theme of peace in our world. They recognised that not everyone experiences peace and discussed simple ways we can share peace and show solidarity with others.

The children then wrote thoughtful acrostic poems to help spread this message.



Year 5 have been reflecting deeply on their Big Question, "How do Jesus' teachings help people live in solidarity and build peaceful communities?" Linked to our Spring 1 Catholic Social Teaching focus on Solidarity and Peace, pupils wrote thoughtful responses showing how Jesus' message inspires unity, compassion, and peace in everyday life.

Year 6 - Into University

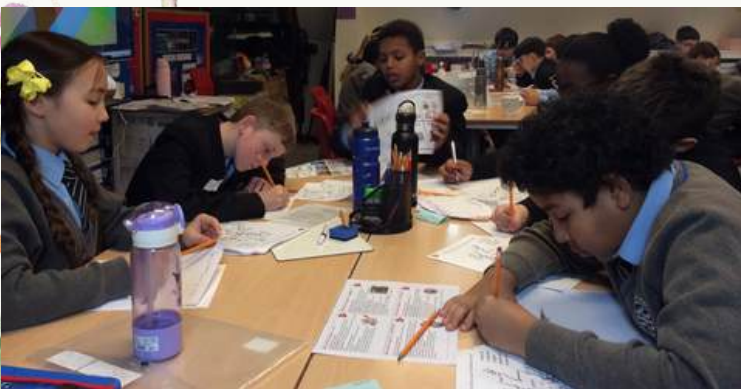
Year 6 have begun their week-long workshops at the Into University Centre. On the first morning, they explored the expectations and purpose of the programme and were introduced to engineering and its importance in modern society. The children carried out a friction experiment using ramps and different surfaces and learned about different types of engineering before designing their own robots. As Artan explained, "We did a friction experiment where we used a ramp and different surfaces to see how the toy car changes speed."



On day two of their Into University programme, Year 6 had another productive morning at the Into University Hub. They worked hard creating informative posters about British personalities who have made important contributions to society and confidently presented their work to different teams. One group researched Samantha Payne MBE, learning about her company, Open Bionics, which designs bionic arms for children.

Year 6 - Into University

As part of their week-long Into University workshops, Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic third day visiting the Natural History Museum. During the visit, they took part in an engaging workshop about protecting our ecosystem, learning about changes affecting forests, oceans, and the atmosphere, and working collaboratively to design solutions such as LEGO models to protect coral reefs, reduce ocean pollution, and create an oyster reservoir to show how oysters provide food and help purify water.



On Day 4 at the IntoUniversity Hub, Year 6 wrote personal statements about what they would like to study at university and their future aspirations. They confidently presented their ideas in groups, speaking beautifully in front of peers and adults. One pupil shared, "I want to be a football manager and study Sports Science in Birmingham."

IT'S Movie NIGHT





Valentine's Day Party!

£4- 1 child
£7- 2 siblings
£10- 3 siblings

EYFS: PARTY IN THE HALL, 1:30-3:00PM

Y1-Y6: PARTY IN THE HALL, 3:15-5PM

DATE: THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026

ALL CHILDREN TO WEAR OWN CLOTHES TO SCHOOL
(PLEASE MAKE PAYMENT BY MONDAY 10TH
FEBRUARY)

Arts and
Crafts



Hot dog and
a drink



Music and
Dancing



Bring extra cash on the day if you want to buy any extras:

Face Paint



Keyrings



Heart sunglasses



Fidget toys





Valentine's Day

The school council and Y6 leaders will be selling sweet bags the week before half term outside Y1 and Y5



£2



Nursery

What a lovely week we've had in Nursery! The children were very excited to learn the phonics sound P and loved getting their hands messy while planting seeds. They talked about what plants need to grow and carefully counted out 4 objects together before watering their pots. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and smiles as they learned through play.



Reception

Reception have had a joyful and busy week, full of fun water play, phonics learning and exciting construction play outdoors. In RE and collective worship, the children confidently retold the story of the Three Wise Men and their gifts, before celebrating the greatest gift of all, Baby Jesus. They finished by saying the Glory Be prayer together, giving thanks to God in a calm and special moment.



Year 2

In Dance, Year 2 have been developing their turning skills. They practised taking turns to focus on using their arms correctly to help them balance and control their movements while spinning. The children then built these turns into a short dance routine set to “It’s the Hard Knock Life” from Annie.



Year 2

Year 2 have been enjoying their work on the story *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. They explored the firework display described in the book by watching New Year’s Eve fireworks and collecting exciting adjectives and onomatopoeic words to describe what they saw and heard. The children then used paint and straws to create their own colourful firework pictures, combining literacy and art in a fun and creative way.



“It was good to use the straws to paint the fireworks, and we were mixing colours to make them look bright.”
— Sofia



Year 3

This week in Art, pupils explored Anglo-Saxon interlaced designs— patterns where shapes weave and cross over one another. They looked at examples of jewellery from Sutton Hoo and noticed how animals and repeating patterns were worked into the designs. The children then created their own symmetrical artwork using watercolours, carefully selecting three bright colours and practising controlled brushwork. They finished by explaining how their work reflected traditional Anglo-Saxon style.



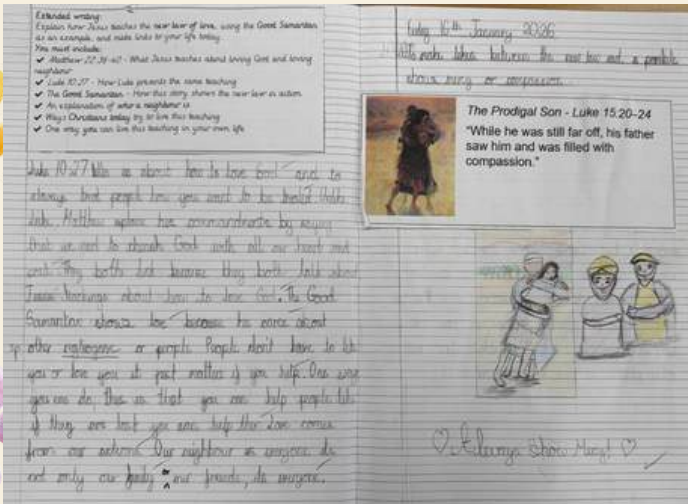
Year 4



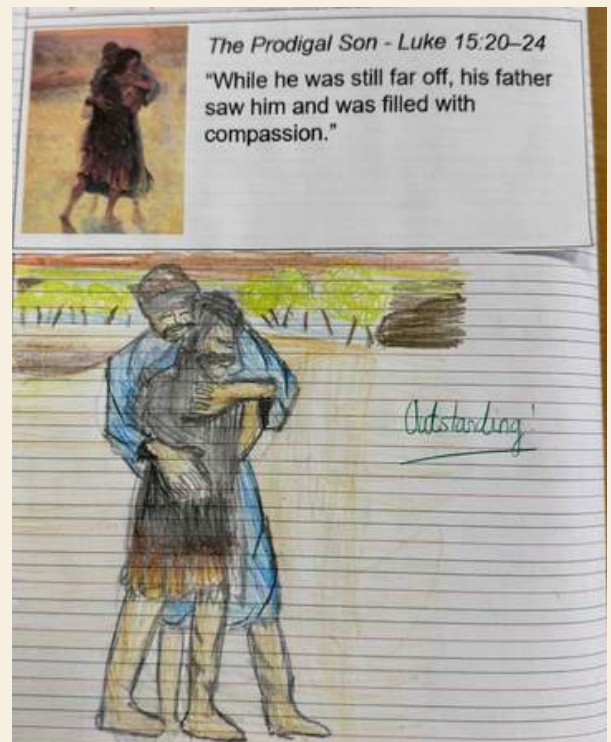
In Year 4, we have been starting each morning with a focused 15-minute Roll and Solve activity to help strengthen the children's multiplication skills. This calm and purposeful routine supports a positive start to the day, builds confidence, and encourages quick recall in a fun and engaging way. It is also helping pupils to feel well prepared and secure as they work towards their multiplication check in June.

Year 5

This week in RE, Year 5 continued learning about Jesus' new law of love, exploring how Christians are called to love God and love others. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, pupils discussed how love is shown through mercy and compassion in action.



Nicole



Hung

The children also created artwork inspired by the Prodigal Son, helping them reflect on forgiveness and unconditional love.



Year 5

On Wednesday, Year 5 took part in their second swimming lesson of the year at St Paul's. The children were organised into groups and worked on developing key swimming skills, with a focus on water safety, confidence, and improving their swimming techniques. Pupils showed good focus and enthusiasm as they continued to build their skills in the pool.

"I liked that we did backstroke, and we learnt how to breathe underwater and be safe in the pool," said Bella (Y5).

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance

Y4 100%



Punctuality

Y6 99.2%



Green stickers and House points

House Points

1st place TM 128

2nd place JF 107

3rd place A 79

4th place E 74



Green stickers

Y3 and Y6



Awards



Isla-May Y1 Salina Y1 Soraiya Y5
Annabelle Y1 Hassiet Y5
Charbel Y1

Star of the week

Nursery: Whole class

Reception: Khari-Jay

Year 1: Risamicha

Year 2: Joseph

Year 3 Kaliyah

Year 4: Kyra

Year 5 Hung

Year 6 Timofei

Pen License

Ezekiel Y3



Head Teachers Award

Zendaya Y4



Important Dates

Y4 Tower of London trip	Monday 2nd February
Y5 trip to St Vincent's House Care Home 1:15pm-3:20pm	Monday 2nd February
Y2 Class Assembly	Friday 6th February
Gymnastics competition - 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.	Friday 6th February
MAYOR'S CUP 2025/26 - Boys/Girls	Friday 6th February
Y5 Jupiter project 9.30am to 11.20am	Tuesday 10th February
Valentine Dsico EYFS 1:30-3pm Valentine's disco Y1-Y6 3:30-5PM	Thursday 12th February

[Please click here to see 2026-2027](#)

