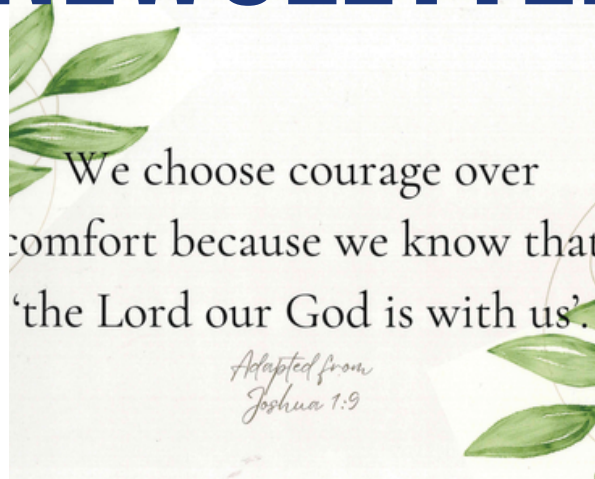


NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we begin this half term, I am delighted to share our continued whole-school focus on our value of Courage. Courage is not only about being brave in big moments, but also about the quiet, everyday acts we see across our school: trying something new, speaking kindly and honestly, standing up for others, learning from mistakes, and persevering when something feels challenging.

I am also incredibly proud to share some wonderful news with our school community: we have achieved OPAL Platinum accreditation. This is the highest possible award and recognises our outstanding commitment to high-quality play for every child, every day. This achievement reflects the courage, creativity and cooperation shown by our pupils, as well as the dedication of our staff and the invaluable support of families.

Our OPAL journey has encouraged children to explore, take safe risks, solve problems independently and work collaboratively—skills that are closely linked to our value of courage. Seeing children confidently lead their own play, adapt their ideas, and support one another is a powerful testament to how play enriches learning and well-being.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this success, whether through donations, feedback, encouragement or simply supporting our play ethos at home. This accreditation belongs to our whole community.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Together, we will keep nurturing courageous learners who are ready to embrace challenges with confidence and kindness.

Mrs Pearson

S Pearson

Headteacher



We are called to create an environment where both children and staff aspire to be, and give, their best. Everyone is emboldened to take risks, overcome challenges and be courageous in their efforts to achieve their potential. Leaders make bold curriculum choices that enable children to:

- gain knowledge, skills and experiences to navigate life in an evolving world; and
- develop characteristics such as self-belief, ambition, and resilience to overcome life's challenges.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you." (Joshua 1:9)

Church Updates

Upcoming Church events

- 1st Sunday of every month - Choir in attendance at Energise.

School Dates for the Diary

- 27.04.26 - Class Group Photos
- 28.04.26 - Y6 Quarrydale Transition Day
- 30.04.26 - Mini-London Marathon Event
- 04.05.26 - Bank Holiday
- w.c.11.05.26 - KS2 SATs
- 23.05.26 - Half term
- 01.06.26 - INSET day
- 02.06.26 - Children return to school
- 09.05.26 - Year 6 Trip to Crucible Theatre

YR - Mrs Dubowski

This week we have been learning about parts of a plant through the Creation Story. Foundation are very excited that we are going to begin landscaping our classroom garden - we can't wait to start planting pretty flowers. In English, we started to write a recount of our class trip to White Post Farm. We also enjoyed writing our thoughts about the trip in our class spirituality journal and discussing how we connected with nature. In maths, we have continued to strengthen our knowledge of number bonds and addition up to twenty. We got very competitive playing race to twenty; the class were able to show how strong their addition skills are becoming. Our favourite part of the week was finally getting to complete our Easter egg hunt. We were very disappointed as a class, last term, when we could not complete one due to poor weather. However, we kept our promises and let the children hunt for their bunnies - which the play team made really challenging! This week in our class art time, we made dot paintings. Our class art time is starting to help the children be more creative; they have tried to be more experimental in our creative area.



Year 2 collaborating together in the continuous provision

Year 1 - Miss Bower

This week in English we have finished our instructions and have practised using these to make our own jam sandwiches. In maths we have started to look at volume and capacity, we used the outdoor water area to look at whether things were full, nearly full, half full, nearly empty or empty. In art this week we have looked at primary and secondary colours and enjoyed colour mixing.

Y2 - Mrs Turvey

In Y2 this week we've completed a diary entry in English. We've been in role as Julius from our class novel, we've used first person and tried to include our thoughts and feelings in our writing. Next week we'll be starting to think about our next outcome where we'll be producing leaflets all about Egypt!

In Maths we've completed our unit on length and height. We've improved in confidence with measuring. Next week we'll be looking at weight, capacity, and temperature.

In our wider curriculum topics, we've looked at the equator in geography and located hot and cold places on earth. In history we've started looking at the Egyptians and in science we've been learning about plants. We've enjoyed planting our own beans and we're looking forward to seeing how they grow!



Year 1 sharing their understanding of capacity in Maths

Y3 Miss Wain

Year 3 have had a wonderfully busy and exciting week. In Maths, they explored mass and capacity, using practical activities to deepen their understanding. In English, the children began planning a thoughtful letter from Lucy to Mr Tumnus, linking beautifully with our new class novel, and they were absolutely captivated by the film. Science brought more creativity as they learnt about and illustrated the life cycle of a flowering plant. During P4C, the class discussed safety and making sensible choices with trusted adults. In Art, they experimented with shades and tints in preparation for their own Starry Night inspired artwork. In RE, the children learnt about Islam, creating vibrant posters showing where and how people worship, as well as the importance of the Holy Book. To top it all off, they had a fantastic time at Wheelgate on Monday, exploring adventure tourism as part of our new Geography unit.



Year 3 enjoying their trip to Wheelgate

Y4 - Miss Buckley

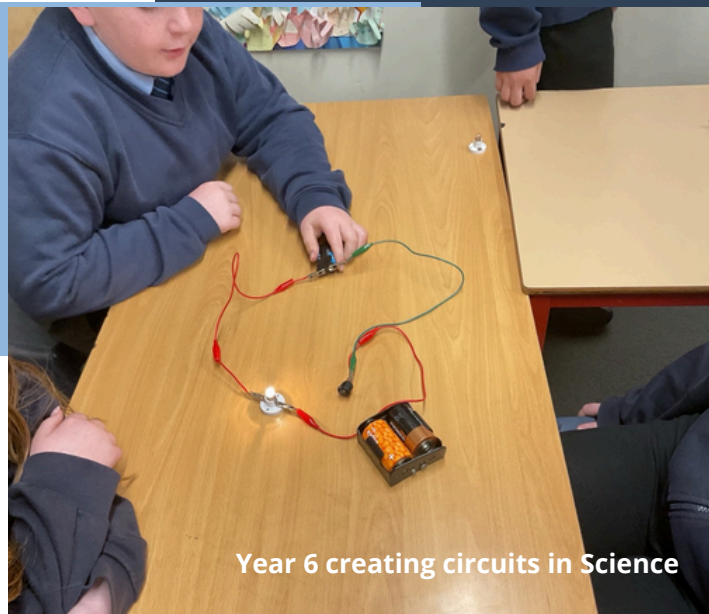
What another busy week we have had in Year 4! In Maths, we have been using place value charts to explore how digits move when values become 100 times smaller, focusing on moving digits two places to the right. The children then applied this understanding to divide 1- and 2-digit numbers by 100. In English, the children have been writing an alternative narrative opening for *Treason*, using descriptive language inspired by our visit to Haddon Hall. They thought carefully about setting, atmosphere, and the clothing worn during Tudor times to bring their writing to life. In History, we acted out a timeline of Henry VIII's life before creating a visual class timeline to deepen our understanding of key events during the Tudor period. In Spanish, the children created visual family trees to check and consolidate their knowledge from last week's vocabulary. In Music, we were introduced to the Blackadder theme tune and recapped the value of different musical notes, building on prior learning. In DT, the children began designing their Tudor pies, thinking carefully about what ingredients would have been used during the time period and creating a design brief. In Science, we recalled our knowledge of the human body by drawing around a body and labelling key parts. This supported the children in confidently labelling diagrams independently in their books. In RE, we explored how the day of Pentecost links to the Kingdom of God and the role of the Holy Spirit. This gave children a chance to reflect on how Christians believe they should live their lives to reflect this.



Year 4 recalling body parts on Science

Y5 - Mrs Marshall

Year 5 have had a thoughtful and productive week of learning. In English, the children have been developing balanced arguments, exploring reasons why animals were once used in war. In maths, they have been investigating percentages and how these link to equivalent fractions. Our geography work has taken us around the world as we explored different time zones, while in history we built a clear chronology of events leading to conscription and the introduction of the Military Service Act. In science, the class have been learning how food webs show the connections between living things. Next week, the children will continue their argument writing by considering reasons against using animals in war, and in maths they will move on to calculating perimeter and area.



Year 6 creating circuits in Science

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones have had another full week of learning and fun! Our Mellow Monday activities this week were tennis and baking blueberry/chocolate muffins! In tennis, we thought about the 'forehand and backhand' stroke. We worked in pairs to practise these strokes and giving each other useful feedback. For our baking task, we were given a choice to bake blueberry or chocolate muffins. Miss Cave then took a little step back and supported us to work in small groups to carefully follow the recipe and work together as a team. In English, we have been thinking about how the character Iron Man may be described. We have used a range of tools such as emotive language, rhetorical questions and power of 3 to persuade people to look for Iron Man as he is very much 'Wanted!'.

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

Year 6 have had a lovely week completing lots of revision ready for their SATs. In maths, they have been exploring angles in a quadrilateral and triangles. This was something they initially found tricky, but solved in the end. In English, they have written an informal letter as part of their holes unit from Stanley to his Mum. In Science, they have considered different types of materials to be insulators or conductors. In RSE, they have considered who their safe adult is and where they feel safe in school as part of their learning for safety. In Music, they have discussed the different timbres of instruments that can be heard in 9 to 5. Next week, they are going to write a formal letter demanding that Camp Green Lake be closed immediately.



Stepping Stones baking muffins

OPAL



Highlights

I am delighted to share an exciting development in our approach to play provision here at St Mary's. We have recently introduced rough and tumble play as part of our OPAL initiative, and I must say that the response from our pupils has been exemplary.

The introduction of this form of play represents a thoughtful expansion of our provision, one that recognises the developmental benefits of physical, energetic play in a structured and carefully managed environment. What has impressed us the most profoundly is the maturity and responsibility our pupils have demonstrated throughout this transition. They have engaged with the play in a manner that reflects genuine understanding of its purpose and boundaries, and the results have been remarkably positive. A significant factor in the success of this initiative has been the collaborative approach we adopted in our assemblies, where pupils worked with staff to establish risk management strategies. The introduction of rough and tumble play to our OPAL provision exemplifies how we continue to evolve our offer, always with pupil wellbeing and development at the forefront of our decision-making.



Golden Broom Award

Sonny



Welly Award

Year 2



Resources needed:

- Dolls pushchairs
- Scooters
- Ride on toys, tractors, bikes
- Balls