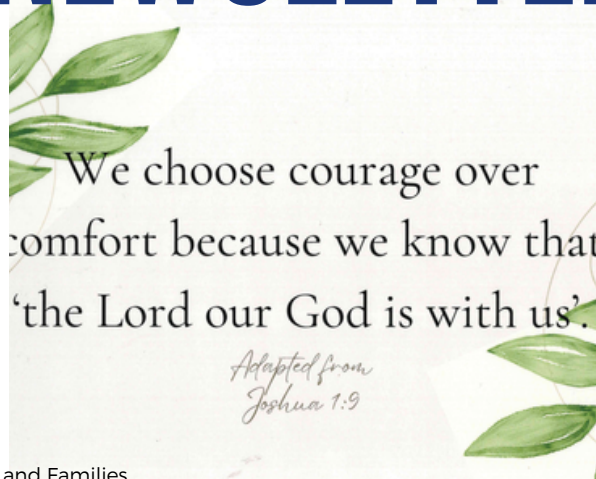


NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we move through this half term, our school value of courage has been clearly visible in so many aspects of school life. Courage is about trying your best, pushing yourself outside of your comfort zone and persevering even when something feels challenging—and our children have exemplified this beautifully.

One wonderful example was our recent Mini London Marathon event. It was a joy to see the children take part with such enthusiasm, determination and resilience. Every child should feel incredibly proud of themselves for rising to the challenge, supporting one another and showing such positive attitudes throughout. Their efforts were truly inspiring and reflected the strong sense of teamwork and perseverance we nurture at our school.

We were also delighted to welcome special visitors into school this week, who were incredibly impressed with the conduct, manners and attitudes of our children. As you are aware, we are currently awaiting the final Ofsted report. Once this has been formally received, we will of course share the outcome with you in full. We would like to thank you for your continued support and patience during this time.

Finally, thank you for everything you do to support our school community. Together, we continue to build confident, courageous learners who are proud of themselves and of one another.

Mrs Pearson

S Pearson
Headteacher

School Dates for the Diary

- 04.05.26 - Bank Holiday**
- w.c.11.05.26 - KS2 SATs**
- 21.05.26 - Mansfield Town Football sessions in school**
- 21.05.26 - Y6 Football Tournament**
- 22.05.26 - Y6 Fire Station Visit**
- 23.05.26 - HALF TERM**
- 01.06.26 - INSET day**
- 02.06.26 - Children return to school**
- 09.06.26 - Year 6 Trip to Crucible Theatre**
- 10.06.26 - Cricket Festival Y5 and 6**
- 19.06.26 - Father's Day Breakfast**
- 02.07.26 - Sports Day**
- 07-10.07.26 - Y6 Bikeability**
- 14.07.26 - Whole School Transition Day**
- 16.07.26 - Reserve Sports Day**
- 20.07.26 - Y6 Performance (2.00 and 5.00)**
- 22.07.26 - Y6 Leavers Service at Church**
- 23.07.26 - Whole School Transition Day**
- 24.07.26 - LAST DAY OF TERM**



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)

YR - Mrs Dubowski

This week has been very exciting; from class pictures to the Mini London Marathon, we have been very busy. We used our class snack talk, to talk about charity. We looked at the London Marathon and the many charity runners to help inspire us to run. In English, we sequenced Farmer Duck and continued writing our recounts of our school trip. We also looked at what details we could add to our class recount. In maths, we began deepening our understanding of addition and subtraction. The children used their prior learning to reason their answers. Outdoor learning was a challenge this week, as we had to review our learning from Spring. The class were fantastic and remembered all of the vocabulary they learnt related to texture. They listened very well, as they learnt how to make tree prints using clay. We're very proud of the children for their performance during the Mini Marathon; they have all worked very hard this week!

Year 1 - Miss Bower

This week we have had another busy week, we started our new book "The darkest dark" which is about the astronaut Chris Hadfield. We have been starting to look at a setting description and how we can use adjectives to help us with this. In maths we have started to look multiplication and division, we have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have introduced shades and tints in art and explored how adding either black or white to a colour can change this. Next week we will be planning our own setting description in English and continuing with multiplication and division in Maths.

Y2 - Mrs Turvey

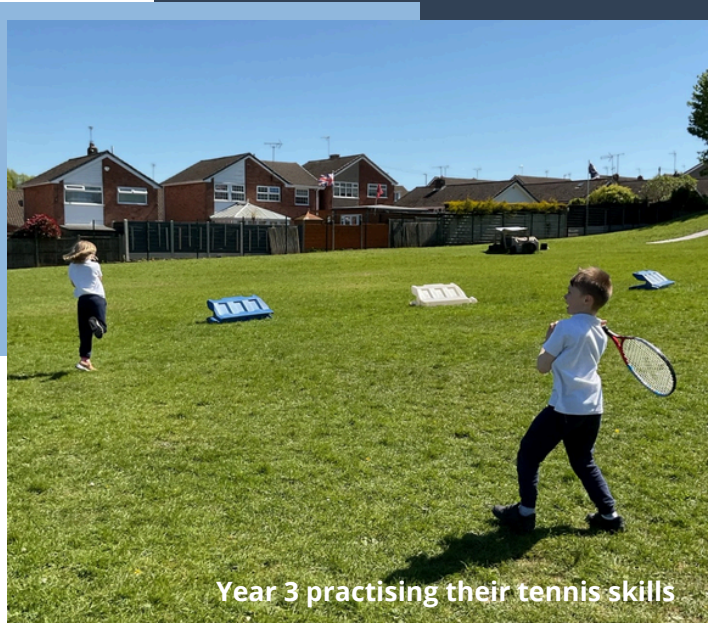
In English, we have continued their exploration of Julius Entangled with the Egyptians, with the week commencing with focused reading of the text. The response has been notably positive, and we have built upon this momentum by introducing freeze frames as a means of deepening comprehension. Through the use of body language and facial expression, children have been able to represent different moments from the narrative, creating a physical interpretation of the story. The opportunity to share these interpretations with their peers has fostered both confidence and collaborative learning. Maths continues to present interesting insights into pupil progress. Our assessment indicates that pupils have developed secure understanding in measurement, with the majority able to apply this skill accurately and independently. Next week, we will be shifting our focus towards temperature and capacity, and we'll use water trays as a practical resource to support this learning. This hands-on approach should enable pupils to develop their understanding through direct experience. Our Art provision this week has been particularly enriching. Year 2 have investigated pattern as a design element, and we have taken learning outdoors to observe naturally occurring patterns in our environment. Children identified patterns in tree trunks, leaves, and flowers with impressive observational skills, before undertaking their own pattern creation using natural materials they had collected. In RE, we were privileged to take part in Shabbat. This experiential approach to learning has enabled children to develop a deeper understanding of religious practice and tradition.

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 have finished planning the end of their letter from Lucy to Mr Tumnus, linking beautifully with our new class novel, and they were absolutely captivated by the film. We have even watched the second! During P4C, the class discussed relationships and what the characteristic of a good friendship is. In Art, they researched our focus artist and created a design page. In RE, the children learnt about Islam, a visual representation of the times of day a Muslim might pray. To top it all off, they had a wonderful time doing some outdoor play on Friday afternoon as a reward for working so incredibly hard this week!



Reception being budding gardeners



Year 3 practising their tennis skills



Year 2 creating freeze frames in English

Y4 - Miss Buckley

What a productive week we have had in Year 4! In Maths, we have completed our learning on decimals and made strong links back to fractions. The children explored how decimals and fractions represent the same values in different ways, strengthening their understanding through reasoning and application. It has been great to see growing confidence when moving between fractions and decimals. In English, the children completed an independent write based on *The Wild Robot*, creating their own alternative narrative openings. They have thoroughly enjoyed this text and have been so engaged that many have asked for it to continue being read in class. Their writing showed creativity, thoughtful vocabulary choices, and a strong sense of setting and character. In RE, we have been exploring the differences between letters and stories written by Paul the Apostle, focusing on Corinthians and Galatians. The children considered the purpose of these writings and how they were used to guide and support early Christian communities. In Music, the children have been practising their recorder skills, focusing on control, accuracy, and reading simple musical notation. It has been lovely to see their confidence grow as they begin to play more fluently. In History, we brought our timelines to life in our books after first dramatising key events. This helped the children to embed their understanding of chronological order and recall important moments more confidently. In Science, we have been learning about the functions of the human digestive system. The children explored how food travels through the body and the role of each organ, building a clear understanding of this important process. In PE, we have been developing our tennis skills, with a focus on serving. The children showed great determination as they practised control, accuracy, and technique. It has been a wonderful week, with the children showing enthusiasm, creativity, and a real eagerness to learn across all areas of the curriculum.



Y5 - Mrs Marshall

What a busy week we have had in Y5! In English, we completed our balanced argument linked to whether animals should be used in war zones. The children presented both sides of the argument well and articulated their personal opinion whilst maintaining a formal tone. After that, we have completed two hook days which have included our imaginary community's session. In this session, the class created areas linked to the farm from *War Horse*. They have then completed a 'role on the wall' to show what we know about the main character, Albert, before we interviewed 'Albert' within our class to show our growing knowledge! In maths, we have started exploring perimeter. The class have really enjoyed this learning and have been highly engaged in their learning and are eager to learn more! In Geography, we have been looking at 'push and pull' factors linked to migration. They linked this to reasons why people may have wanted to evacuate during WWI and why they may have wanted to move to new countries or places. In History, we have created and completed timelines linked to the Military Service Act (1916). We have also completed our DT learning by creating Trench Stew during our outdoor learning session! Next week, we will continue to expand on our history knowledge by exploring the reliability of sources. We will also build on our new English knowledge by exploring example texts and features needed within our first person monologue.



Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones have had another busy week! They have been thinking about planning their Wanted poster using lots of persuasive devices such as rule of three, emotive language and rhetorical questions! In Maths, we have all been focusing on measurement. Some of us have been thinking about using a range of vocabulary associated with length and some of us have been thinking about converting units of measurement. Our emotional literacy topic this week has been thinking about how we can create our own 'calm backpacks'. We have been exploring a range of calming strategies that support us.

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

Year 6 have had a tremendously busy week completing lots of work! In English, they have completed an independent write to social services demanding that Camp Green Lake be closed down. They focused on lots of formal features for this. In Maths, they have completed their unit on translation and reflection. This was something they initially found tricky but persevered with. In RSE, they have explored how to be safe in different situations. In art, we have evaluated our final outcomes. Next week, we are going to be doing lots of revision in preparation for their SATs by playing lots of different games.



OPAL



Highlights

This week at St Mary's, our children have continued to demonstrate the qualities that make our school community so special. We have been fortunate to welcome visitors to our school grounds, and it has been heartening to see our pupils take on the role of ambassadors with such confidence and maturity. What has been most impressive is their ability to articulate the risk assessments and risk management procedures that we have carefully put in place to keep everyone safe. This demonstrates not only their understanding of these important safeguarding measures, but also their growing awareness of responsibility and care within our outdoor spaces. The creative use of our outdoor facilities has also captured the imagination of our pupils this week. The transformation of the mud slide into a slip and slide, utilising water from our water area, exemplifies the kind of imaginative and resourceful play that we actively encourage at St Mary's. Alongside this, the spinny bars and swings have remained firm favourites, and there is considerable appetite among our pupils for continued expansion of our play offer. We are committed to developing these facilities further, and we are exploring fundraising opportunities to support this ambition. Yesterday, the entire school community participated in our Mini London Marathon, with children running two miles. This was a remarkable achievement that showcased not only physical endeavour, but also the value of courage that sits at the heart of our school ethos. The presence of the fire engine, which provided a welcome cool-down for our pupils following their exertion, added an element of excitement to the occasion and created a memorable experience for everyone involved. I would like to remind parents and carers that all sponsorship money raised through the Mini London Marathon should be returned to school by Friday, 8th May. This fundraising initiative represents a significant collective effort, and we are grateful for the support that families have provided in encouraging our pupils to take part in this worthwhile challenge.



Resources needed:

- Pipes, funnels, guttering, and buckets for the water area
- Balls of all shapes and sizes
- Dinosaurs