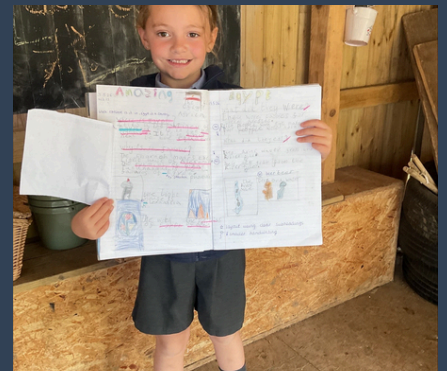
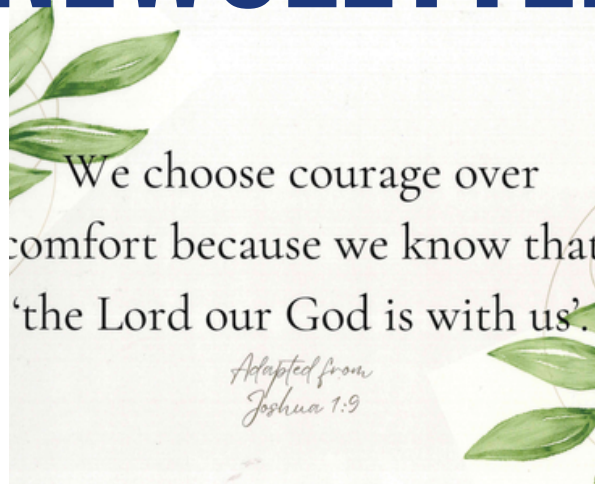


NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the final day of this half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful work and achievements we have seen across our school community.


This half term, our focus value has been courage—and it has been truly inspiring to see this lived out by our pupils in so many ways. We have seen children showing courage in their learning by tackling new challenges, sharing their ideas with confidence, and persevering when work has felt tricky. We have also seen courage in friendships, through kindness, standing up for what is right, and supporting one another. These are powerful qualities that we are proud to nurture at St Mary's, and they reflect our commitment to developing confident, compassionate young people.

I would like to thank all of our staff for their continued dedication and hard work, and you, our families, for your ongoing support—it makes such a difference to the life of our school.

As we break for half term, I hope you are able to enjoy some well-deserved rest and, hopefully, some sunshine with your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the academic year—a time that is always full of exciting learning opportunities, special events, and celebrations.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing half term break.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs Pearson

 Headteacher

School Dates for the Diary

- 23.05.26 - HALF TERM**
- 01.06.26 - INSET day**
- w.c.01.06.26 - Y4 Multiplication Check begins
- 02.06.26** - Children return to school
- 03.06.26** - MTFC Penalty Shoot Out
- 09.06.26** - Year 6 Trip to Crucible Theatre
- 10.06.26** - Cricket Festival Y5 and 6
- 11.06.26** - Y2 Butterfly House
- 19.06.26** - Father's Day Breakfast
- 01.07.26** - Sports Day
- 03.07.26** - Ashfield Transition Day Y6
- 07-10.07.26** - Y6 Bikeability
- 14.07.26** - Whole School Transition Day
- 14-15.07.26** - Quarrydale Transition Y6
- 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 the students have been learning about farm animals. We have thought about what facts we already know, after visiting White Post Farm, and learnt some additional facts to help us write leaflets. In maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes. We have looked at the properties of the shapes and how we can manipulate them to make a picture. We have learnt about the last two days of the Creation Story. The children enjoyed getting to pretended to be different creatures and taking a rest as they listened to the ending. As we are finishing Summer 1 and are now getting ready for the last half-term before Year 1, Foundation have been working on being more independent and taking accountability for themselves. We have focused on making sure we have well-written learning plans and in the morning, we have been practicing writing independently. Foundation should be very proud of themselves as they have all worked very hard on their phonics assessments this week - well done everyone!

Year 1 - Miss Bower

This week year one finished their independent writing for English, they all did a fantastic job! In maths we have now finished multiplication and division we did really well making equal groups and writing our repeated addition. In art we finished my canvas painting, we made a beautiful painting in the style of Yayoi Kasuma. For your RE lesson we finished comparing churches and synagogues we found lots of things that are the same and were interested to find out more about the things that were different. We have had some lovely designs in provision this week, there's been shoes, castles with draw bridges, and lots of flowers!

Y2 - Mrs Turvey

In English, Year 2 has completed a series of Egyptian leaflets that demonstrate considerable progress in their written composition. The children have structured their writing in paragraphs with clearly defined subheadings, and have thoughtfully incorporated captions to support their illustrations. The finished pieces, which feature detailed drawings and vibrant colour work, were fantastic and we're very proud of them. Our maths provision has focused on developing children's understanding of fractions, with particular emphasis on identifying halves, thirds, and quarters of numbers. This will be consolidated following the half-term break, before we progress to further develop the children's ability to tell the time. The history curriculum has been enriched through outdoor learning experiences, where children have been constructing their own structures linked to Ancient Egyptian architecture. This practical, hands-on approach has proved particularly engaging, with many children collaborating effectively in teams to construct pyramid structures. In art, the children have completed a project centred on hieroglyphic printing, which has impressive results and provided an engaging means through which to explore Ancient Egyptian communication systems.

Y3 Miss Wain

Year 3 have had a wonderfully busy and exciting week! In Maths, they have been adding, subtracting and finding fractions of a whole. In English, they have completed their independent write as Mr Tumnus replying to the letter sent by Lucy. They did a wonderful job of stepping into the character's role! In Geography the children created their own tourist attraction, choosing which type they wanted to include in their world. In Art, the children completed their Starry Night Sky focusing carefully on the ripples, dashes, tints and shades. In Computing, the children created their own Branching Databases using a more complex programme. In RE, we thought about eh question- 'Why might some people make prayer an important part of their life whilst others deem it a waste of time?' The children enjoyed debating the question and came up with both insightful and respectful answers.



Year 2 children working on their art outcomes



Year 3 children creating databases in Computing



Year 3 creating their own tourist attraction

Y4 - Miss Buckley

In English, the children wrote a balanced argument discussing whether school uniform should be banned or not. They worked hard to consider both sides of the debate, using persuasive language and evidence to support their points before reaching their own conclusions. In Maths, we finished our learning on time, continuing to practise converting between analogue and digital clocks and solving time problems. Alongside this, the children have been practising their times tables in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check after the holidays. We have been so impressed with their determination and growing confidence. In Music, we recapped pitch and continued practising Tudor music on the recorders. The children showed great perseverance, as some of the pieces were particularly tricky! In DT, the children spent the day cooking their Tudor pies. There was lots of excitement as they prepared ingredients, followed recipes, and finally saw the results of all their planning and designing from previous lessons. In History, the children created a double-page spread to showcase all of their learning about Henry VIII and the Tudor period. It was wonderful to see how much knowledge they have gained and how creatively they presented their work. In Science, we set up our experiment on tooth decay, which will take place over the week break. The children used eggs to represent teeth and placed them in different liquids including coke, coffee, water, and vinegar. They made thoughtful predictions and discussed how sugar and acidity may affect our teeth over time. In RE, we explored the idea of fellowship and thought about how we can demonstrate the Fruits of the Spirit in our everyday lives through our actions and choices. In Spanish, the children concluded their learning by carrying out a survey about eye colour, using the vocabulary and questioning skills they have developed over the topic.



Year 4 children practising their times table facts

Y5 - Mrs Marshall

This week in Y5, we have started to explore angles in maths. At first, we were a little bit worried about this, but we have shown courage and perseverance during this and have surprised ourselves with our understanding! We have started to explore measuring with a protractor and understood it well too. After half term, we will practise drawing angles to measure them with a protractor to build our confidence more. In English, we have been completing our independent write linked to our first-person narratives. We have used our whole class feedback and success criteria's to edit our writing to make sure it is our best work. In history, we have created a double page spread to share our understanding of the significance of the Military Service Act. In science, we have explored different forms of pollination and have created a double page spread to share this learning. We have been doing lots of pre assessments before our learning next half term and we are excited to learn about local geography, life in science and inspirational people in RE.



Year 5 exploring pollination in Science

Stepping Stones

It's been another full week of learning and fun this week! We have been thinking all about 'bees' as they have been a bit of a popular topic in our group this half term. We have explored how important bees are and the crucial role they play. Then, we have been researching ways to keep bees alive and stop them becoming extinct. One way is to create habitats for them! So we have been writing instructions to create a 'Bee Hotel'!

In Maths, we have been thinking about our individual targets ranging from fractions to sorting 3D shapes. We are most definitely ready for a break after giving 100% to all our learning this half term!

Y6 - Mrs Woodward

Year 6 have had a busy week this week. In English, they have been uplevelling a piece of writing regarding an endangered species. In RE, they have created their own projects to improve harmony and respect in the community of different faiths. In Computing, they have planned and designed their own blogs. In Science they have planned and designed their own investigation regarding voltage. In RSE, they have considered how words can hurt other people and how portraying different peoples identities is illegal and can have serious consequence. After the half term break, they are going to be choosing their play.



Stepping Stones sorting 3D shapes

OPAL



Highlights

In OPAL, the children have demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm whilst creating our water area, exploring the properties of different materials through purposeful tipping and pouring activities. This hands-on engagement has proven effective in capturing the interest of all our learners, fostering both curiosity and practical skill development.

The unpredictable weather has presented us with valuable opportunities for outdoor learning. Following the heavy rainfall earlier in the week, our mud pit experienced a resurgence in popularity, with children eagerly engaged in digging and discovering the small creatures that inhabit this rich environment. As conditions improved and the sun returned towards the end of the week, we observed a notable shift in activity. The dried mud pit gave way to a diverse range of pursuits: our children enjoyed creating bubbles, exploring our dressing-up provision, building and playing in the sand pit, and engaging in gymnastics activities. This natural progression demonstrates how our outdoor spaces continue to support varied and meaningful learning experiences.

The mini-London Marathon proved to be both an enjoyable and highly productive event for our school community. We were humbled by the generosity demonstrated by families and supporters, raising an impressive total of £2,451. I would like to extend congratulations to Maisie in Foundation, who displayed remarkable commitment and raised over £300 individually—a truly outstanding achievement.

The enthusiasm and encouragement from parents and carers cheering our children on throughout the event was fantastic. The children are understandably excited about the prospect of investing these funds into our school environment. Their preference for additional bars and fixed equipment reflects the genuine popularity of these resources and the value they place on active, physical play.



Golden Broom
Nihal

Welly Award
Year 5



Resources needed:

- Pushchairs
- Scooters
- Balls
- Dolls
- Dolls house

Reminders – as the weather turns warmer, please ensure children have a sun hat and sun cream applied before the start of the school day.