



Our school is a friendly and vibrant community, where all of God's children flourish and gain the knowledge, wisdom and skills needed to care about themselves, their community and their world.

Friday 2nd February 2024 Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible and very full week this has been! It all began with the story of Zacchaeus when we remembered the importance of being a good friend and how good friendships can change your life. Friendship is one of my favourite school values and I know that the children are making friends for life here at St. Mary's. To support this, some children from our Worship Leading Team visited classes to spread this message, giving each child a heart to take home. I wonder whether your child's paper heart made its way back to you?

I showed another visitor around the school this week and we walked into Reception to see two little girls who are best friends hugging each other; it was the sweetest thing ever and all around the school I'm finding children celebrating their friends' successes or just naturally helping their friend who's lacking confidence with a Maths question or how to spell a word. This atmosphere of mutual support is something we have worked hard on, and it's bearing fruit.

This sense of friendship and fun was epitomised this week when our Young Voices choir travelled together to the O2 to join hundreds of other children from around the UK. The organisers of this fantastic event believe passionately in inspiring the next generation to find their love for music - and that is exactly what they did. Our children were magnificent, from the moment we stepped onto the coach, until the moment we stepped off it (at about midnight!) They behaved impeccably and sang their hearts out - but the sense of comradeship was precious. On our return journey, sitting behind me on the coach were two Year 6 children, huddling together under their coats and sleeping peacefully on each other's shoulders. Again, a beautiful demonstration of friendship and trust. I was proud of every single one of them - and I know the parents and carers were too. This was a night that all involved will never forget. A huge thank you to all the staff that made this happen but especially to the very talented Mrs Cotter for her commitment to musical excellence and unwavering passion.

And finally, it's not just the children of St Mary's who are developing life-long friendships but so too are the staff. The Staff Room is often a-buzz with laughter and occasionally a safe place where one person might shed a tear with a trusted and supportive friend. We really do have the best collection of people on our staff and are lucky to have a network of strong relationships - and as some of us heard at the O2, sung so brilliantly on Wednesday night, was that, what the world needs now... is love.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Amanda



Prayer of the Week

Dear God,

Thank you for our school values and all our friends and families and all our teachers in our lessons.

Please can you help people to be kind to each other and help people that are poorly.

Olivia and Aaliyah Year 2

Safer Internet Day

Dear Parents and Carers,

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day. All children will be taking part in a range of activities to help them stay safer online.

As part of this day, we would like to invite you into school for an informal meeting about how you can help to keep your child safe when they are online.

The meeting will be in the KS2 Hall and will start at 14:30; teas and coffees will be available. The meeting will finish in time for you to be able to pick your child up from school at home time. Unfortunately, we won't be able to offer any additional supervision for young children.

As things are moving at a such a pace technologically, and as more and more games your children are playing are putting them at risk, we would strongly encourage you to come along, if at all possible, to ensure that you are up to date in your understanding of some of the biggest dangers.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.



Parent Volunteers

We are looking for Parent Volunteers to come in to school to hear children read.

One-to-one reading sessions give the children further opportunities to practise their reading and comprehension skills with an adult.

If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer, please contact the school office on 01303 251390 or contact the class teacher.

Thank you

School Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 3

Start of Term 3	Tuesday 2 nd January
End of Term 3	Thursday 8 th February
Staff Development Day	Friday 9 th February

Term 4

Start of Term 4	Monday 19 th February
End of Term 4	Wednesday 27 th March
Staff Development Day	Thursday 28 th March

Term 5

Start of Term 5	Monday 8 th April
End of Term 5	Friday 24 th May

Term 6

Start of Term 6	Monday 10 th June
End of Term 6	Friday 19 th July
Staff Development Day	Monday 22 nd July
Staff Development Day	Tuesday 23 rd July