

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 11th September 2026

Edition 2

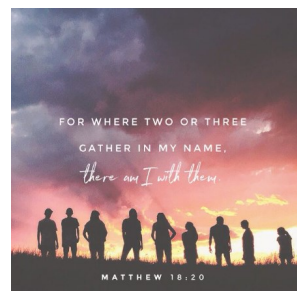
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 18:20

This week, our Celebration of the Word has focused on the message that Jesus gave us: *"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them."* The children have reflected on how working together makes us stronger and more effective, both in our learning and in our relationships with others. They have also considered how prayer can strengthen and unite us as a school family, helping us to grow together in faith and love.

As we begin this new year journey together, we look forward to building on these values of community, cooperation and faith, ensuring that every child feels supported, valued and encouraged to flourish.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you a wonderful weekend.



Children as Leaders

At Saint Mary's, we are proud to develop leadership opportunities for all children. Through roles such as the **GIFT Team, Mini Vinnies, Eco Team, Play Leaders, School Council, Reading Champions** and **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**, our pupils help to shape school life, serve others and be positive role models. We look forward to seeing our young leaders grow in confidence and make a difference throughout the year.



Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors would like to remind all children that they are available on the playground at both playtime and lunchtime to support anyone who may need a friend, someone to talk to, or help with a worry.

They are easy to spot because of their **high-visibility jackets** and are always happy to help make our playground a safe, happy and inclusive place for everyone!

Reception Parent and Carer Meeting

A reminder that our **Reception Parents' Meeting** will take place on **Monday at 3:30pm**. The meeting will focus on how we teach **phonics** at Saint Mary's and ways that you can support your child with their early reading and writing at home. It will also be a valuable opportunity to ask any questions you may have now that the children have settled into school and experienced their first few weeks in Reception.

We look forward to welcoming you and working together to support your child's learning journey.



Exciting New Reading Books for Key Stage 2

We are thrilled with our new **Collins Big Cat** reading scheme in Key Stage 2. These high-quality books are a wonderful addition to our reading provision and it has been fantastic to see how much the children are already enjoying them.

The engaging texts are helping to inspire a love of reading and develop children's confidence as readers. Thank you for reading regularly with your child at home. Sharing books together and encouraging daily reading is the single most important thing you can do to support your child's learning and help them become successful, lifelong readers.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to implement the new scheme and ensure its success. Their dedication and commitment have made this exciting development possible, and we are delighted with the positive impact it is already having on our children.

The more you read, the more you know!

Esme

They are special, just for us!

Jaiden

They are really exciting!

Leala

Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Pearl	For always having a lovely smile on her face
	Darcey	For helping her new friends settle into Nursery
Reception	Sergio	For settling in to his new environment, showing confidence and independence
	Melis	For being kind and helpful and always helping at tidy up time
Year 1	Arthur	For working hard in maths whilst learning place value to 10
	Elena	For always helping to keep the classroom tidy
Year 2	Kiano	For asking and answering lots of questions and being an inquisitive learner
	Archie	For being an amazing friend to everyone
Year 3	Chloe	For excellent effort in her writing this week
	Nyima	For showing kindness to her friends
Year 4	Tommy	For a fantastic start to the year in all lessons
	Zak	For showing respect all the time
Year 5	Max	For such a brilliant attitude towards all of his work this week
	Eva	For showing kindness and respect to everyone
Year 6	Blake	For making a super effort with his independent writing
	Teddy	For being very polite and respectful

Dojo

winners

Year 4



Brownies at St Mary's

Did you know that there has been a Brownies group held at St Mary's school for over 40 years!

Brownies is for girls aged 7—10 and is held during term time on Tuesday nights 6pm—7.15pm.

If your daughter is interested in joining, please call Ann : 07766 705160



Safety in the morning

Children have voiced concerns about the safety of themselves and others during the morning drop off before the playground in open.

Please remind your child not to play in the car park or by the vehicle gates, as this is a busy area during mornings.



Attendance

We strive for excellent attendance at Saint Mary's.

If your child is unwell and they are need to rest and recover at home we completely understand, but the table below shows the impact of a lower attendance.

Children will miss valuable learning time and typically will not as much progress as their peers who are in school every day.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons

Attendance

Nursery	95.38%	Year 3	94.58%
Reception	96.67%	Year 4	98.67%
Year 1	96.36%	Year 5	100%
Year 2	98.1%	Year 6	98.57%

Whole school 97%



Forms and permissions

If your family is new to Saint Mary's, please ensure that all forms and permission slips are returned to the office as soon as possible.

This information is particularly important for class teachers, as it allows them to confirm which children can be added to **ClassDojo** and whether photographs can be shared on our **school social media channels** and our **website**. Thank you for your support in helping us keep our records up to date.

Handwriting

We are very proud of the effort our children are putting into developing their handwriting skills. Children take part in daily handwriting sessions to help them improve their letter formation, presentation and fluency. In EYFS, children focus on developing both their gross motor and fine motor skills, building the strength and coordination needed for successful writing.

As children move through Years 1-6, we use the Letter-join scheme to teach and develop a clear, consistent handwriting style. Resources are



also available for children to practise at home.

If you would like more information about accessing these materials, please speak to your child's class teacher.

RE Parent Questionnaire

We would be grateful if all parents and carers could take a few minutes to complete our **Catholic Schools Parent Questionnaire** by following the link below.

Your feedback is invaluable in helping us celebrate what we do well and identify areas where we can continue to grow and improve as a Catholic school community.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views and support the ongoing development of Saint Mary's.

Parent Survey Catholic Schools – Fill in form

Dates for the Diary

Monday 14th—Y5 swimming and New Reception parents meeting after school
Thursday 17th—Y1 Forest School
Monday 21st—Y5 swimming and Fire Service visiting school for EYFS classes
Tuesday 22nd—Trip to Clonter Opera for Y4/5/6
Wednesday 23rd—Y5/6 football league at CHS
Thursday 24th—Y2 Forest School
Monday 28th—Y5 swimming and Police visiting school for EYFS classes
Tuesday 29th—Y5/6 cross country at EBA
Wednesday Y5/6 Boys football at AHOC
Thursday 1st October —Y3 Forest School
Monday 5th —Y5 swimming
Thursday 8th—Y4 Forest School
Monday 12th—Y5 swimming
Tuesday 13th - EYFS open morning
Wednesday 14th —Harvest Mass in school hall 9.15am and Y5/6 Girls football AHOC
Thursday 15th—Y6 Forest School
Friday 16th—EYFS Stay and Play session

Forest School Fun

This week, our **Nursery and Reception children** enjoyed their first **Forest School** session of the year and had a fabulous time!

The children loved exploring the outdoor environment, discovering nature and taking part in a range of exciting activities. Forest School provides wonderful opportunities for children to develop their confidence, curiosity and teamwork skills while learning through hands-on experiences in the natural world. We are looking forward to many more outdoor adventures throughout the year!



The Big Future

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year,

The Big Future are asking for your support in making sure pupils at St Mary's have the opportunity to take part in this national survey, just follow the link:

[https://](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/)

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/



Prayer

Loving God,

Thank You for a wonderful start to our new school year.

Help us to learn together, work together and pray together, remembering that You are with us whenever we gather in Your name.

Bless our children, families and staff. Give us kind hearts, helping hands and the courage to always do our best.

May we grow in faith, friendship and love throughout the year ahead.

Amen.

