



St Mary's News

Love learning. Love each other.



It's time for our first newsletter of the school year. A time to share the fantastic learning that has been taking place across the school.

A huge welcome to our new families who have joined our St Mary's community—we look forward to seeing you at the various events that are held throughout the year.

It was lovely to see so many of you attend our Macmillan Family Breakfast on Friday 27th September. A phenomenal **£350** was raised in less than one hour. A huge thank you to everyone who donated. It is a charity that is very close to our St Mary's heart.

Thank you for all the uniform consultation forms that were returned. We had over 60 returns. Following on from the feedback about our uniform supplier—School Trends, we are liaising with other schools about which suppliers they use for uniform and their feedback. We will keep you posted on this.

Don't forget that all school meals must be ordered on the School Grid system by 8.55am on the day of consumption. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to do this, in advance of the deadline. School does not always have the capacity to chase up individual menu choices in the morning and a default choice is a sandwich.

Staff at St Mary's have recently received Rainbows training. The Rainbows programme aims to provide a positive impact on the lives of children and young people grieving a significant and often devastating loss in their lives. This can be bereavement or separation. If you think that your child may benefit from the Rainbows programme, please contact Mrs Casey to receive further information.



A polite reminder about parking and driving near school. Please park respectfully and do not block access to driveways, Clarks Hill and pavements. Please utilise the Longfield carpark for hometime pick up and remember that this is a 20 mph zone. Residents have been advised by the appropriate authorities to report any inconsiderate parking to the Police and Parking Enforcement agencies, who have advised us that they will ticket any cars not parked legally.



Thank you for your responses about a possible Breakfast Club at St Mary's. Enough interest has been expressed for us to proceed further with our research and we will be looking at visiting some existing provisions in schools over the forthcoming weeks. Look out for further information in due course.



blocks.

We are looking at hosting a range of different clubs for pupils during our lunchtimes and are looking for ideas and volunteers. If you would like to run a craft club, crochet club or chess club—or have any other ideas please let us know. Sessions would be 30 minutes / 45 minutes long and would run for half term

Curriculum update

We are well underway with our curriculum development plans and this year has already seen the introduction of new history and geography units. Thank you for your responses to our curriculum questionnaire. Your views have been taken on board and you will see some of them emerging in our curriculum overviews. You will be receiving a curriculum map from your child's teacher each half term which will outline exactly what they will be learning and the different enhancement opportunities they will be accessing.

We hope that your children have been talking enthusiastically about their learning at home and we welcome photos, videos or messages about how they have extended their knowledge outside of school.

On a final note—we will be saying farewell to Mrs Collins on the first Tuesday after the half term break. She has spent 12 years working at St Mary's as a midday assistant and 1:1 support assistant. We are very grateful for all that she has given to St Mary's and wish her the best of luck as she moves to pastures new.



A message from Rev. Carole

Dear friends,

Welcome to our new school year, a time for new beginnings, a time for hope, a time to give thanks for all the future brings, a time to grow further in our learnings and life experiences.

In school, this term, we have been learning about the different names of God. We started with Elhoim, God as Creator. This fits well with the Church year as September marks the beginning of Creationtide when we join with Christians around the globe in celebrating God's world.

As part of our own celebrations, we held our Harvest Festival services in Church with school on Thursday, 4th October, and an All-age Eucharist with both the school and the Scouts participating on Sunday, 6th October. School and Church have collected donations of non-perishable goods which were given to Porch Boxes, a registered charity based in Bury, providing crisis packs of food and toiletries for local people in urgent need.

Harvest is based on pagan agricultural festivals but, in medieval times, the Church began to observe Ember days - days singled out for the purposes of spiritual renewal through prayer, fasting and almsgiving during seasons that corresponded with sowing and harvest times. They were marked by offering thanksgiving for God's protective care over and giving growth to the crops. Now, we celebrate as we give thanks to God for all that He gives to us today.

We also reflect on the complexities we face as part of the human-food source relationship as we think about global connections, transportation links, those who work to bring food to our tables, and the injustice in the world where hunger and, even, starvation continue to exist. Of course, Harvest goes beyond food; we harvest wind energy, natural gas and oil. So, today, we also think about how we can play our part in safeguarding and protecting our environment in the light of climate change and pollution that could cause long-term damage to our planet.

I pray that, as we embark on this new education year, we will grow together in love for our world, for creation, for our school, our Parish community, for each other and for God.

With love,

Rev. Carole



Nursery



All the Nursery children have made a very positive start to learning, we are very proud of them. We have been busy finding our way around the classroom, learning new skills and making new friends. The children are already starting to show us their strengths and capabilities and we are looking forward to building on this. We have been counting, mark making, looking at different shapes and colours. The children have enjoyed taking part in yoga and dance and PE sessions with Mr Juliff.

Mrs Reger & Miss Clyne

Reception



What an amazing start to the year! Children have been engrossed in their learning about their bodies this half term. The taste test was a sour challenge for our children, yet it was thoroughly enjoyed. We have thanked God for all of his gifts and reminded ourselves of some of the most important gifts he has given us. Thank you to parents and carers for all of your help settling the children into Reception class, it's lovely to see them bounce into class in the mornings.

Mrs Rathor, and Miss Day

Year 1

Year one have made a super start to the year and amazed us all with their class assembly. I was surprised how well they learned their lines, and they were very brave to stand up in front of everyone. We have been busy this term exploring through Science, and we have been putting our hands and feet into lots of different things to describe how they feel.

Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Rowland and Ms Kendrick.



Year 2

What a busy half term we have had in Y2! The children have settled in really well and are becoming familiar with our class routines. This half term we have been learning all about the geography of the seaside. We found out about the physical and human features of the British coastline and the different plants and animals that live there. The children really enjoyed our trip to the beach and their behavior was excellent. We have also been looking at the work of artist Jayne Huskisson, making our own wax relief art and reading books in the 'Lighthouse Keeper' series by Ronda Armitage.

Mrs Williams, Mrs Sharples, Mrs Collins and Mrs Fieldan



Year 3

Y3 have enjoyed reading books by Anthony Browne this half term and have produced some good writing in different styles. The children have also created some lovely artwork inspired by Anthony Browne's illustrations in the 'Gorilla' book.



Y3 have been learning about harvest in R.E lessons and also contributed beautifully to the whole school harvest service and Sunday worship at St. Mary's Church.

Well done to all pupils who presented a speech to the class in their bid to be a Y3 school councilor. The children thought very carefully about what they would like to do should they receive this role. Congratulations to Sophia and Jessica who were democratically elected by the Y3 pupils. Mrs Casey, Miss Norton and Mrs Wright



Year 4

Year four have had a fantastic start to the school year. The children have been engrossed in our study of World War 1. They have learnt all about the causes of the war, life in the trenches, women's role, how animals were used and had time to reflect on the sacrifice of so many. They have been really fascinated with finding out how Heaton Park was used during WW1 and using our old school log books to see how the war affected the pupils. The written work they have produced linked to this topic has been fantastic. The children have also created ceramic poppies in the style of Paul Cummins (the artist behind the display at the Tower of London). Year four are looking forward to continuing with this topic and lead our school's remembrance service. Well done year four. Mrs Hazelwood and Mrs Watson



Year 5

I have been delighted with the children's excellent start to the year and have been impressed with their hard-working attitude and super behaviour. They enjoyed reading the book 'Street Child' and were fascinated by the details about life for poor children in Victorian Britain. The class were very interested to learn about the work of Dr John Snow and his investigations into how cholera was spread through contaminated water.

We have spent some time working with textiles to weave using a hand loom and using paper. We have also looked at work by the artist and designer William Morris. In science, the children have worked with interest and maturity when learning about the life cycles of various animals and humans.

Mr Percival and Mrs Coxon



Year 6

It's been a busy start to the academic year for Y6. So far we have completed our Bikeability training, organised the voting for our new house names, elected house captains, helped to lead the Harvest Service in church, worked with EYFS to support the youngest children with their play at lunchtimes and have completed a great deal of high quality work.

Our focus has been the USA and in particular we have studied the impact of the Jim Crow laws on the southern states of this country and learnt about how the African-American community came together to end segregation. We've all completed an in-depth project on an individual state and have learnt about the massive contrasts in landscape, climates, biomes and population that can be found in America. As well as this we have worked on learning about the properties of materials in science, have created different routines in gymnastics and have made massive progress with our arithmetic skills. A fabulous (if exhausting) start to our final year at primary school.

Mrs Cook, Mrs Rowland and Mrs Lowe



E-safety

Over the coming weeks I will be placing various e-safety posters onto class dojo. The posters will cover various online topics and programmes such as Twitter and You Tube. Please take the time to read the information to help keep your children safe online.

Mrs Reger.

Collective Worship

This year we are following new materials from the Diocese of Rochester in our collective worship sessions. So far we have looked at different names for God that can be found in the Old Testament including El Roi, El Shadai, El Rohim and Yahweh. We have now moved on to thinking about the wisdom of God and how we can be wise in our own lives. Next term we will be taking an in-depth at King David as well as commemorating Remembrance, thinking about Advent and preparing for our amazing Nativities!

Mrs Cook

Sport

In football, the squad have played in the Crofton Cup against Mersey Drive and after an entertaining game were narrowly defeated by 1 goal! We have also taken part in a friendly against Fairfield Primary school and there are plenty more fixtures in the pipeline for those children that haven't yet played in a match. The netball team have been training hard in preparation for their first netball rally, the first week back. It looks like we have a strong squad, after winning the rally last year. Here's wishing them luck.

Please, if you have any Aldi sports kit stickers can you drop these off at the office so we hopefully can get some additional kit to use for the school sports teams. Thank you. Mr Percival

Music

The Choir have performed twice already this half term, once at St Mary's church heritage weekend and then during our Harvest festival. As usual they sounded beautiful and performed with great enthusiasm. The choir have a busy schedule coming up next half term and are looking forward to performing at the different events.

Years 2-6, enjoyed listening to and joining in with the Bury Music Centre Band, who came to perform for the school earlier this half term. This has inspired many of our pupils to start learning a music instrument. If your child would like to learn a musical instrument there are copies of the Bury Music Centre leaflets at the school office or you can contact the service directly Email: mail@burymusic.co.uk Phone: 0161 796 9910 Website www.burymusicservice.co.uk

Mrs Hazelwood

Important dates for your diary

Please note that some of these dates differ those sent out on the Year at a Glance, due to timetable changes.

28 Oct	School reopens to pupils
	Diwali celebration in school
31 Oct	Y6 – Class Assembly
02 Nov	CommuniTree Family Event
03 Nov	Y4 in Church – 10.30am
06 Nov	Y5 Open afternoon - 2.30pm
07 Nov	EYFS / KS1 Phonics Evening – 6pm
08 Nov	World Science Day
11 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
13 Nov	Individual photographs
14 Nov	YR Class Assembly – 3pm
15 Nov	Dogs Trust in school
15 Nov	Children in Need
18 Nov	Road Safety Week
20 Nov	Parents' Evening 3.45 – 6.30pm
21 Nov	Parents' Evening 3.45 – 6.30pm
28 Nov	Y2 Open afternoon – 2.30pm
29 Nov	Flu Vaccinations
01 Dec	Y5 in church – 10.30am
05 Dec	Nursery Nativity – 9.30am & 2.45pm
11 Dec	KS1 Nativity - 9.30am & 2.30pm
12 Dec	Reception Nativity – 9.30am & 2.45pm
13 Dec	Christmas Dinner Day
17 Dec	EYFS & KS1 Christmas party
17 Dec	KS2 Christmas Service – St Mary's Church 6.30pm
18 Dec	KS2 Christmas Party
19 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
	School Closes at 2.30pm

**Our Eucharist service is held every Thursday in school at 9.10am.
You are welcome to join us in worship.**