



Wednesday 17th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term and the start of the Christmas break, our school is filled with the excitement and sparkle that make this time of year so special. Over the past few weeks, the children have worked incredibly hard and it has been a joy to see their enthusiasm in classrooms, rehearsals and festive activities across the school. We would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support and partnership—it truly makes a difference to our children's learning and wellbeing as we come together to celebrate the end of this busy and memorable term.

It has been a long half term, but we have achieved so many wonderful things at St Mary's and there is much to celebrate. We have welcomed a number of visitors to school in recent weeks, all of whom commented very positively on the warm welcome they received, the school environment and the learning behaviours they observed in classrooms. Two visitors who first visited St Mary's in June returned earlier this month and remarked on the significant progress we have made on our improvement journey, particularly noting the marked improvement in the presentation of work in the children's books. In addition, a visitor who is a Trustee of the Collaborative Learning Trust, was extremely positive about the resilience our children demonstrated in their lessons. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our children for their hard work and commitment to their learning this term, and also to express our sincere thanks to the whole staff team for everything they do to ensure St Mary's continues to be the very best it can be.

Attendance

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our pupils we monitor pupil attendance on a regular basis as we know that every day counts – the more your child is in school, the more they will learn! Any days missed will increase the amount of learning that your child has missed and your child will then find it difficult to catch up.

Our vision for attendance is simple and ambitious:

100% attendance for all pupils is our ultimate goal

97% attendance is our minimum expectation for every learner (this equates to 6 days of absence across the school year).

Our current whole school attendance is 91.93% and we would really like to see this improve from January. Well done to Year 6 Topaz who have the highest attendance this year – 94.17%. Congratulations also to Year 1 Diamond who won the Pizza Party this half term for having the most improved attendance.

A huge well done to all of the children listed below who have achieved over 97% attendance this term. **Children in bold have 100% attendance** – well done!



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Treasure	Tobias	Asmaau	Elliott	Noah	Docilyne	Tamerlan
Bryana	Gabrielius	Dominik	Freya	Kushal	Msgana	Noah
Isaiah	Aissatou	Rose	Abhirami	Blake	Frankie	Annie
Cole	Zach	Shanice	Kelly	Banki	Malik	Harry
Willow	Teddie	William Sh	Excellent	Tyler	Miles	Seddy
Noah	Anaya		Mason	Panos	Emmanuella	Erwan
Acye	Eva		Willon	Daniel P	Amadou	Eliyo
Kaiwen	Theo		Alexis	Safeer	Abass	Idris
Trent	Flora		Jeffrey	Jeremy	Jacob	Alicia
			Gabia	Andreas	Alena	Divine
			Dyce	Naksha	Shekinah	Kaydence
			Oscar	Ethan		Michelle
			Dhanya			Heizl-Joie
			Layla			Ruby
						Richmond
						Logan W

Christmas Celebrations

Congratulations to our children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who did an outstanding job with their Nativity performances on Tuesday. Their enthusiasm and confidence was a joy to see and we hope everyone who was able to join us for the performances thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



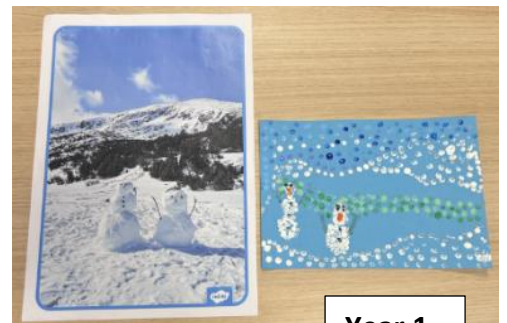
Santa came to visit us on Wednesday and delivered a selection box to all of our children – we are very grateful to the kind parent and member of staff who donated many of these to school.

Art

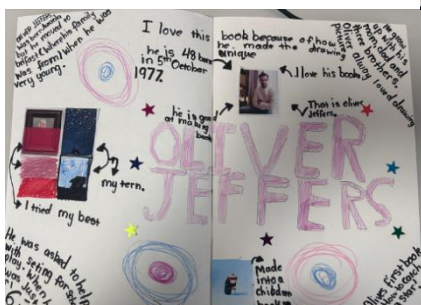
As part of our work on curriculum development, we have introduced a new art curriculum here at St Mary's. Miss McCarthy has been teaching it this half term and she has done an incredible job at introducing new artists and art techniques to the children. We have an art exhibition planned for later in the school year where you will have chance to look at your child's sketch book and see some of the fabulous pieces of art work that our children have created. We would really like to build up a collection of old shirts that we can use for art lessons so if you have any old men's shirts that we can have we would be grateful to take them in the new year. Here are a few wonderful examples of the work the children have completed:



Year 5



Year 1





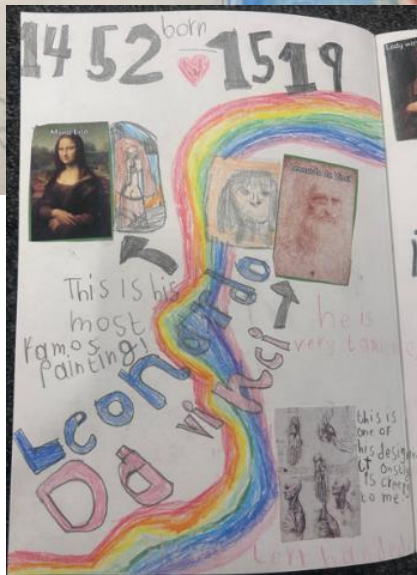
Year 6



Year 3



Year 4



Year 2



COURAGE

This half term, our Christian value has been **courage**. Together, we have been thinking about the different ways we can show courage, especially when we face challenges or feel a little nervous. We have enjoyed sharing Bible stories about people who showed courage and trusted God in difficult situations.

I have attached a separate newsletter with lots of lovely information for you to explore with your child at home.

Our school choir will also be showing great courage this Thursday as they visit a local care home to spread some Christmas cheer by singing carols and sharing the joy of the season.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the autumn survey. We really value your feedback and appreciate your support in helping us to reflect on what we do well and identify areas where we can continue to improve for the benefit of all our children. We were very pleased with the many positive responses, which reflect the strong partnership we have with our school community. If you have any further questions, concerns or would like to discuss your feedback in more detail, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who will be very happy to help.

Here is a summary of the responses (35 in total) to the questions:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I Don't Know
My child is happy at St Mary's.	21	14	0	0	0
My child feels safe at St Mary's.	21	13	1	0	0
St Mary's makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	16	17	2	0	0
St Mary's makes we aware of what my child will learn.	22	12	1	0	0
My concerns have been dealt with properly.	16	14	3	0	2
St Mary's gives my child with SEND the support they need.	7	9	0	1	0
My child does well at St Mary's.	20	15	0	0	0
My child can take part in clubs and activities.	18	16	0	1	0
St Mary's supports my child's personal development	18	16	1	0	0
I would recommend St Mary's to another parent/carers.	Yes = 32			No= 3	

Fundraising

Thank you so much to all our families and friends for your wonderful support of our recent fundraising events. By selling raffle tickets and sending in money for our Christmas games, you helped us raise an incredible total of almost £1,400. We are truly grateful for your generosity and partnership, which so clearly reflects our shared values of community and kindness. A very special thank you goes to Mrs Shields for organising these fundraising events and giving so much time and energy to make them such a success. The money raised will be used to subsidise school trips, ensuring that all our children can enjoy rich and memorable learning experiences beyond the classroom. Your support makes a real difference—thank you.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Pawsey has now welcomed her new baby – a beautiful baby boy named Finn. We wish the Pawsey family our very best wishes for their first Christmas with their new addition to the family. Also in baby news, Miss Ahmed will be starting her maternity leave after Christmas – we wish her the very best for the new year as she awaits her special arrival.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Crosthwaite for an incredible **30 years of dedicated service** to our school. Over the years, Mrs Crosthwaite has made a difference to the lives of so many children, families, and colleagues. We are very grateful for her commitment, kindness, and hard work, and we are proud to celebrate this wonderful milestone with our school community.

Come and See

We hope you enjoyed our Come and See Christmas Craft event – it is always such a special treat for the children to have you join them in their classrooms. Our next event is a Come and See Maths event ... please do not let the word 'maths' put you off from coming! You will have the opportunity to find out what your child is learning in maths and how you can support them at home. You will also have opportunity to visit a maths session in their classroom. Here are some good websites to practise key maths skills, children in Key Stage 2 also have a Times Tables Rockstars account.



[Topmarks – Free Interactive Learning Games, Maths Worksheets & Teaching Resources](#)

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)



January

Monday 5th January – school closed for staff training day

Tuesday 6th January – school opens for the spring term

Wednesday 21st January @9am – Come and See: Maths for Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), parents/carers invited to join us

Tuesday 27th January @9am – Come and See: Maths for Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6), parents/carers invited to join us

Wednesday 28th January @9am – Year 4 Amber Class Worship, parents/carers invited to join us

February

Wednesday 4th February @9am – Year 3 Sapphire Class Worship, parents/carers invited to join us

w/c Monday 9th February – Children's Mental Health Week

Wednesday 11th February @9am – Parent/Carer Forum with Ms Crisp – come and join me for a coffee and chat!

Friday 13th February – school closes for February half term

Monday 23rd February – school re opens



We would like to thank you all once again for your continued support and partnership throughout this term. We hope you and your families enjoy a restful and happy Christmas break, filled with warmth and special moments together. We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year, refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning. On behalf of everyone at St Mary's, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Ms Jessica Crisp
Head of School

Mrs Alison Smith
Executive Head teacher

