



Monday 9th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already in week 6 of this half term - it doesn't feel like it was a whole five weeks ago that we returned to school after the Christmas break. Here are some notes, reminders and updates from the first half of the spring term ...

Attendance

Improving attendance remains a key priority for our school. Every day in school matters. When a child misses just one day a fortnight, this adds up to around 20 days across the school year — the equivalent of four full weeks of learning lost. Even small amounts of absence quickly accumulate and can have a significant impact on a child's progress, confidence and sense of belonging. Learning builds step by step, lesson by lesson, and gaps can make it harder for children to keep up with new concepts and skills. We need every child in school, on time, every day, unless there is a genuine reason for absence. Your support in ensuring strong attendance is essential so that all children have the very best opportunity to succeed.

Each week in our Friday Worship we celebrate the classes with the highest attendance and we look at which class is making the most improvements from last half term – this class will win a pizza party at the end of the half term.

These are the classes that have had the highest attendance this half term:

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Week 1	Y1 Diamond 100%	Y3 Sapphire 98%	Y4 Amber 97%
Week 2	Y1 Diamond 98%	YR Pearl 98%	Y6 Amethyst 97%
Week 3	Y1 Diamond 98%	Y6 Amethyst 96%	Y6 Topaz 96%
Week 4	Y3 Sapphire 98%	Y6 Amethyst 96%	Y6 Topaz 96%
Week 5	YR Pearl 94%	Y6 Amethyst 94%	Y4 Amber 94%

This website gives really good guidance for parents/carers on whether children are too ill to attend school. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

At the bottom of this newsletter you can see an example of some absences that are not authorised by schools. If your child has 10 or more unauthorised absences within a 10-week period then you could receive a fine from the local authority.



Spring 1

This half term our Christian Value has been 'kindness' – we have been learning about how to be kind to ourselves and how our kindness can make a difference to others. This has led to us thinking about our friendships, how to be a good neighbour and what random acts of kindness we can do. I have attached the Home School Values Resource on 'Friendship' which you can use to talk to your child about friendship and kindness.

Both Year 4 and Year 3 have led their Class Worship this half term, they did a great job of speaking clearly and sharing the key messages from the Picture News resource. Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to join us for these.

Our **Come and See** sessions this half term were linked to maths. Parents/carers came to find out more about how we teach maths and how they can help their child at home, they then visited a lesson in their child's class. If there is anything that you think would be a good focus area for a **Come and See** event, please do let us know!

Parent / Carer Forum

A group of parents/carers have started meeting every fortnight on a Thursday morning for a coffee and a chat. They have started think about some fundraising activities that school could hold to help us to raise money towards the cost of school trips and they are currently planning to support school in organising a Rainbow Market. This will be on Thursday 19th March after school in the school hall. If you would like to join this group then please come to the Cabin on the main playground on Thursday 26th February at 9am.

For the Rainbow Market we will allocate each class a colour and they will be responsible for bringing things in of that colour that they could sell. For example, if the class colour is red they might bring in toys/games/books that are red and that could be sold, cans of coke, KitKats, packets of red sweets or buns with red icing. Please have a look during half term to see if you have any books, toys or games that could be donated for the Rainbow Market. We will be collecting donations from Monday 9th March. Any money raised will be used to support visits and visitors for the rest of this school year.

Food and Drink in School

Just a reminder that St Mary's is a nut-free school. Children must not bring any nuts or products containing nuts into school as we have pupils with allergies - this helps to keep everyone safe.

Children may bring a bottle of water to drink during the school day. Those who have a packed lunch may also bring a juice drink for lunchtime, provided it is not fizzy. We encourage all families to provide a healthy packed lunch and ask that chocolate bars are not included.

Children in Key Stage 2 are welcome to bring a healthy snack for morning break such as fruit, vegetables or a squeeze yoghurt. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are provided with a piece of fruit each day.

Road Safety

We have received a number of concerns regarding adults driving and parking unsafely in the car park at the front of the school. As many children and their families walk through and around this area at the beginning and end of each day, their safety must remain our priority. We kindly ask all drivers to take extra care, drive slowly and park considerately at all times. Thank you for your support in helping us keep everyone safe.

Staffing Updates

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our St Mary's family has grown once again! Miss Ahmed welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Hidayah, on 1st January. We are thrilled to hear that both Miss Ahmed and baby Hidayah are doing well. I'm sure you will join us in sending our warmest congratulations and very best wishes to them both at this special time.



After 19 years of dedicated service, we say a fond and heartfelt thank you to Miss Wormald as she moves on from her role as a teaching assistant at St Mary's this Friday. Throughout nearly two decades, she has shown unwavering commitment, kindness and patience, supporting countless children in their learning and personal development. Her calm presence, warm encouragement and deep understanding of our pupils have made a



lasting difference to so many children and their families. Miss Wormald has been a valued and much-loved member of our staff team, and while she will be greatly missed, we are incredibly grateful for the care and dedication she has given to our school community. We wish her every happiness and success in the next chapter of her journey.

February



Friday 13th February – school closes for February half term

Monday 23rd February – school re opens

Thursday 26th February @3:30pm – Phonics Meeting for Year 1 parents/carers

March

Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th March – Pupil Progress for parents and carers

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day: children can come dressed as a book character or in their comfy reading clothes.

Wednesday 11th March @9am – Year 2 Emerald Class Worship

Monday 16th March – Assessment Week

Thursday 19th March @3:30pm – Rainbow Market

Friday 27th March – Come and See: Art @2:45pm

April

Wednesday 1st April – Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Decorating competition

Thursday 2nd April – school closes for the Ester Break

Monday 20th April – school re opens

As we come to the end of the Spring 1 half term, we would like to thank you once again for your continued support and partnership. It has been a busy and productive few weeks, and we are very proud of all that the children have achieved.

We hope you and your families enjoy a restful and refreshing half-term break next week, with time to relax and recharge. We look forward to welcoming the children back soon, ready for the next part of the spring term and all the exciting learning ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support,

Ms Jessica Crisp

Mrs Alison Smith

Head of School

Executive Head teacher





Unauthorised Absences (this list is not exhaustive)

- Taking a holiday which is not agreed by school
- Not letting school know why your child is absent
- Day off to celebrate a Birthday
- Day off because another family member is ill
- Oversleeping
- Shopping trips or day out
- Arriving at school after registers have closed (9:20am)
- Mild illness - headache, cough, sore throat
- Reluctance to attend school
- Illness without medical evidence if persistent absentee
- Taking whole day off for short medical appointment
- Family celebration

