



Thursday 12th March, 2026

Dear Parents/Carers, Hopefully, now that we are in the month of March, we will begin to see some improved weather although the amount of rain we have had today is not a good sign! The weeks are flying by as we approach Easter, so I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few updates with you.

This is the fifth whole-school newsletter we have sent out this year. In the first newsletter back in September, I explained that we hoped to move towards sending newsletters electronically via email. However, we also provided the option for families to request a paper copy to be sent home. All of our previous newsletters can be found on the school website under **"Our Families – Newsletters."** You will also find another slip at the bottom of this newsletter. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy each time, please complete the slip and return it to your child's class teacher.

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.

We have had a number of children who have been absent with chicken pox over the last few weeks. If you child has chicken pox then they do need to stay off school until all of the spots have crusted over. Children who have a mild cold, sore throat or runny nose can attend school. 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](#)



World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day last Thursday and it was lovely to see the children in their book-themed fancy dress or comfy reading clothes. We had lots of activities during the day to celebrate the love of reading – one of the most enjoyed activities was when classes paired up and read to each other. We would like to make this a regular feature in our calendar as the children (and staff!) enjoyed it so much. Mrs Bailey sent an e mail home regarding some book themed competitions – I am going to extend the deadline for entering these competitions to Monday 16th March.

Reading Challenge - Take a photograph of yourself reading in the most unusual place you can (try to think outside the box for this). You can hand your pictures to your class teacher or email to Louise.bailey@hunsletstmarys.co.uk

Potato Decorating Competition- Decorate a raw jacket potato as your favourite book character and bring to school. (Prizes to be won)

Rainbow Market

We will be holding a **Rainbow Market after school on Thursday 26th March**. We have changed this date from the original date due to Eid. This will be similar to a toy sale, but with a fun twist—each class will run a table based on a specific colour theme. You can find your child's class colour listed below.

Reception – silver and gold Year 1 – blue Year 2 – red Year 3 – black and white
Year 4 – orange and yellow Year 5 – pink and purple Year 6 – green

Please have a look at home for any items you might be able to donate for us to sell. Ideas include toys or books that your child no longer uses and would be happy to pass on. We are also encouraging children to be creative with their donations. For example, Year 3 might bring in a bag of black and white mints for their black and white table, Year 2 could bring in some KitKats, and Year 6 might bring in buns decorated with green icing. The money raised by each class will go towards supporting the school trips we are organising for the remainder of the year.

Staffing Updates

After 10 years of dedicated service to St Mary's, we have said a fond farewell to Mrs Helen Easterby, who has recently moved on to begin a new career. During her time at St Mary's, she has supported many children and staff across the school. Her kindness, hard work and commitment have made a real difference to so many members of our school community, and we are extremely grateful for the care and support she has given over the years. We would like to thank Mrs Easterby for everything she has contributed to the school and wish her every success and happiness in her new role.

March

Monday 16th March – Assessment Week

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

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



April

Wednesday 1st April – Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Decorating competition – children can decorate an Easter Bonnet for our Parade and a hard-boiled egg for our egg decorating competition. Both entries can be sent in to school from Tuesday 31st March

Thursday 2nd April – school closes for the Easter Break

Monday 20th April – school re opens

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support,

Ms Jessica Crisp

Mrs Alison Smith

Head of School

Executive Head teacher



Child's Name _____

Please send a paper copy of future newsletters home.