



Live life, Love Learning, Guided by God
St Mary's Primary School and Nursery
Head Teacher Newsletter
Friday 7th July 2023



Dear families,

It has been such a busy but exciting time in school over the past few weeks. Sports days, PE showcase lessons, ice-lolly sales, assessments, report writing, trips and visitors coming into school and of course, oodles of new learning! The children are still working incredibly hard even though we are on the final stretch of the year. Thank you to those who have been able to attend our 'Meet the Teacher' meetings so far – your attendance is valued and most welcomed by our staff and will help your child to feel prepared for the new academic year ahead.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the **summer fair tomorrow from 1-4pm!** The PTA are amazingly organised and committed to making it incredible! Preparing for such a large event is time consuming and hard work for volunteers and we are very lucky to have the support. If you can spare an hour or two in the morning or after the fair helping us to tidy up this would be appreciated.

Please can I remind parents that children must not play with the playground equipment or go on the climbing apparatus in the morning or after school.

The last class newsletters of the year will be on Friday 14th July.
The last Headteacher Newsletter of the year will be on the 21st July.

Thank you and hope to see many of you tomorrow!
 Mrs Lawlor

The last day of term is Friday 21st July at 1:15pm.

Collective Worship Coping with Change

This week we looked at what change means and how it can affect our mind and body. We talked about how changes can be **expected changes** or **unexpected changes**. We explored ways that we can view change positively and explored self-care techniques to help us manage any changes we may face.

Please look at the resources we used and talk to your child about it.

[You can find the resources here on our website.](#)

How Does Change Affect Us?

Changes can affect us in different ways.

Change can make us feel different emotions. Some of these emotions will be comfortable and others will be uncomfortable.

Sometimes, change is planned and expected to happen,

whereas other changes are unexpected and unplanned and can happen quickly

Self-Care Techniques

- Get a good night's sleep with a regular routine
- Take a bath or shower
- Read a book you love
- Listen to your favourite, happy music
- Go for a walk and look at nature, noticing what is happening around you

- Talk to friends and family
- Play sport with others
- Craft
- Do some relaxation techniques
- Bake a cake
- Write or draw



This year the staff at St Mary's have been working towards becoming an Attachment Aware School.

*Attachment awareness in schools is aimed at helping schools to develop an ethos and school community which is attachment aware and able to provide a nurturing environment and positive relationships to promote secure attachments. This can help to improve attainment, behaviour and overall wellbeing for both pupils and staff. **Derbyshire AASA programme 2019***

Last week, Mrs Quinn was very proud to represent our school at a celebration event where she was presented with our bronze award. It was a great opportunity to share the amazing work which is happening in schools throughout Kingston & Richmond and we are now beginning to plan our pathway towards the silver award!



Managing Worries Parental Workshop

Wednesday 12th July

1.30pm

All parents/ carers are welcome!

Following the success of the Emotional Regulation Parent Workshop earlier this term, we are pleased to be able to invite you to another workshop from the Emotional Welfare Service which will focus on managing worries.

We all face worries at some time in our lives. Worry isn't all bad. It can be helpful as long as it doesn't last too long, become too intense, or happen too often.

Sometimes children might avoid things that feel new or challenging. But doing new things (that are safe and right for their age) helps children to grow. With each new challenge they can gain skills and confidence.

Parents can help children face things without letting worry hold them back and this workshop will help to give you the confidence to teach your child to manage their worries in a supportive and healthy way.

We look forward to seeing you on 12th July!

Attendance Matters

Week commencing: 19.6.23 to 23.6.23

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
99%	97%	93%	97%	95%	97%	92%

Whole School Attendance: 96 %

Week commencing: 26.06.23 to 30.06.23

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
92%	97%	91%	97%	92%	98%	92%

Whole School Attendance: 95%

Holidays in Term Time

I would like to remind all parents that holidays during term time will be recorded as an **unauthorised absence**.

Persistent Absentees

Being in school every day is so important to your child's educational attainment and progress.

If your child takes too much time off school, they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent.

Attendance below 90% = persistent absence

Our focus for July is:

Transition and change

St Mary's Term dates for September
2023-2024

[2023-2024 Term dates](#)



Open the Book

It was our last Open the Book Worship this week until the new academic year.

We are so thankful for the Open the Book team who spend time preparing and sharing stories from the Bible with us each week. The team are a group of volunteers from St Mary's Church congregation and they are extremely valuable members of our school community. The children really enjoy taking part in the weekly stories and the whole school community always look forward to welcoming them each week.



Jane, one of the Church Wardens at St Mary's, would like to invite members of the local community along to the Julian meetings she facilitates.

JULIAN MEETING

***Are you interested in experiencing
contemplative prayer?***

Have you heard of The Julian Meetings?

Contemplative prayer has been part of the Christian tradition since earliest times, associated during the medieval period with monasticism, but since the 20th Century, reclaimed as a normal part of many people's spiritual journey.

'The Julian Meetings' is a network of gatherings across the world which aims to foster contemplative prayer and meditation. The network is named after the 14th Century English mystic, Mother Julian of Norwich, whose place of prayer can still be visited in Norwich today.

Meetings begin with a 'lead-in' – a reading, a poem or a piece of music, followed by a period of silence. There is time afterwards for a cuppa and opportunity to chat, if you so wish.

~~~~~

The **Chessington Julian Meeting** is a small group that gathers on the last Thursday of each month from 7.30pm – 8.30pm in a local home. The Meeting is open to anyone with an interest in exploring the experience of sharing silence with others.

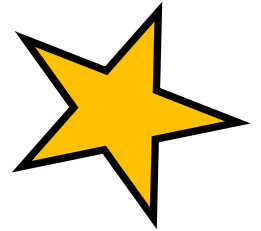
For more information about a 'taster session' please contact

Jane on - **07585840457**

Further information on the Julian Meetings Network can be obtained from [www.julianmeetings.org](http://www.julianmeetings.org)



# St Mary's Stars of the week



Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Aylah YR** for joining in so well at Sports Day, trying her best and not giving up!

**Eron YR** for listening, watching and joining in so well during Sports day. We are so proud of you.

**Beatriz Y1** for being enthusiastic towards all of her learning and being a fantastic role model to her friends!

**Ivy Y1** for working hard to develop the skill of being able to explain her understanding during our class discussions!

**Cody E Y2** for creating a new outfit for Traction Man, using interesting adjectives to describe and label his design.

**April Y2** for carefully using the correct mathematical vocabulary to describe movement, position and direction.

**Ethan Y3** for investigating absorbency of nappies in science.

**Tegan Y3** for her ideas with the class about a story character.

**Maisie Y4** for achieving BRONZE and SILVER levels in St Mary's 99 Club Tables challenge in two consecutive weeks. Outstanding!

**Otter Class** for a superb class assembly last Monday, showing off your fantastic art work, singing and playing your ukuleles so well.

**Taylor Y5** for her superb attitude towards all aspects of school life: you are an asset to the class.

**Poppy N Y5** for her consistent hard work in all subjects this year!

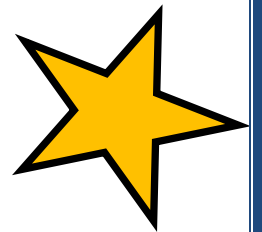
**Emilia Y6** for carrying out some excellent research in order to produce a well written, informative biography on an inspirational individual. Well done!

**James Y6** for researching and producing an informative, engaging biography on a truly inspiring individual. Well done!

Well done to all our stars of the week!



# St Mary's Stars of the week



Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**David YR** for always being a kind friend, sharing and making us all smile!

**Aylah YR** for being very creative in art this week and making a fantastic treasure chest.

**Jack Y1** for working hard to improve his handwriting and sentence structure!

**Abhijith Y1** for focussing on his sentence structure in his writing.

**Year 2 stars** are being presented on Monday due to being out on a trip!

**Kristin Y3** for good use of a range of persuasive words in her writing in English.

**Mason D Y3** for showing great interest in Design & Technology lessons while learning about designing, assembling and making cushions.

**Year 4 stars** are being presented on Monday due to being out on a trip!

**Frankie Y5** for his behaviour on our school trip to Chessington School.

**Kian Y5** for his behaviour on our school trip to Chessington School.

**Y6 Sports Captains, Vices, Head Boy and Head Girl.** For working hard to help Mr Russ and Mrs F practise and deliver a fantastic sports day for KS2 and Reception. Well done!

**Harry Y6** for working hard to practise and memorise your lines for your assembly. Well done!

*Well done to all our stars of the week!*