



St Mary's C of E Primary School

Whole School Newsletter Monday 3rd March 2025

Dear families of St Mary's,
Welcome back! We hope you had a restful break and are ready for the new half term. On Friday, we sent out curriculum maps for each year group so please take a look at these. Whilst it is still quite chilly, it has been wonderful to feel the promise of spring in the air. We are looking forward to the opportunities we have to develop our outside learning now that the weather is on our side. Thank you to families who were able to attend our Parent Book Look last week. It was wonderful to see how proud your children were to share their learning with you.

We have noticed that some children have been wearing Smart watches to school. These are not permitted in school and we please remind parents to ensure these are left at home.

We hope you have a positive rest of the week.
The Team at St Mary's



Dates for your diary

Monday 3rd March - Year 3 class assembly at 2:30pm

Friday 7th March - World book day

Monday 10th March - Butterfly cake sale

WB 10th March - Science week (Workshops for Yr 1-6)

Friday 14th March - Year 3 at Natural History Museum

Monday 17th March - Year 1 class assembly

Friday 21st March - Mufti day

Friday 28th March - Rocksteady concert at 2:30pm

Friday 28th March - PTA Easter Egg Hunt

Blue is new!

World Book Day is almost here!

Please note, that although World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March, we are celebrating as a school on **Friday 7th March**. You will have received a very detailed Weduc from Mrs Hadley, our wonderful reading champion, but to summarise for you:

- The children will come to school in PJs/onesies and will bring in their favourite story.
- They are invited to join in the "Create a bookmark" competition. Entries can be submitted any time until next Thursday.
- We would love them to learn the World Book Day [song](#) which we will be singing in assembly.
- They can bring in books to take part in the "book swap".

Our Christian Vision

Nurture, Learn & Grow Together.

The parable of The Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32) reminds us that from small beginnings, amazing things can grow. We know that in every individual there are seeds of great potential. We nurture, learn and grow together as a diverse community where all children, staff and families are welcomed, included and valued.



*What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade. **Mark 4:30-32***

Our Values

Respect Kindness Perseverance

Our Vision and Values in Action

Come and see the learning and experiences in school that help us to grow on our Instagram page

[stmaryschess](#)



Click on the icon to go directly to our Instagram page.





Welcome Mrs Baxter You will hopefully recall from previous communication that Mrs Baxter, the Headteacher at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, is providing us with additional senior leadership capacity until the end of the spring term. Mrs Baxter has a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be on site full time until the Easter break. Mrs Baxter has been welcomed so wonderfully by our children. She has commented on the lovely warm and welcoming atmosphere of our school which makes us incredibly proud to hear!

Faith Group Committee At the end of last term, our Faith Group Committee met for the first time. Together, with our Assistant Headteacher Mrs Sage, they wrote a prayer for the school. We are a diverse community and the children wanted the prayer to be something that was invitational for all. We are so proud of what they have written and are already using the prayer in both classes and in Collective Worship. You will see it proudly displayed outside our school hall. If you would like to use this prayer at home, please feel free to do so. Thank you to our Faith Reps and we look forward to seeing what they will do next!



National Number Day 2025

National Number Day was a lot of fun! You will remember that at the end of last term, we had a competition to find the heaviest potato and longest carrot. We were blown away with the entries and are grateful for all of you who took part. We can now announce that the heaviest potatoes were all found in Year 5! Congratulations to **Noah**, **Artie** and **Stanley**. Our longest carrots were provided by **Vlad** in Year 1 and **Anabiyah** and **Michal** in Reception. Thank you to everyone who took part and to Mrs Rose for organising.



Welcome Reverend Nicholas Pye

We have had a very exciting and special week at St Mary's as we welcomed our new Vicar, Reverend Nicholas Pye to our St Mary's family. On Tuesday evening, staff, our head pupils and various members of the local community and Guildford Diocese, joined together to witness Reverend Nicholas be commissioned and welcomed into his new role.

The service was followed by a wonderful celebration in our school hall. A warm word of appreciation to all the school and church staff congregation who helped with setting up the celebration. We are really looking forward to Nicholas learning about our very special community and working together with him in the future.



Online safety

Our main priorities at St Mary's is to ensure that children are happy, safe and valued. During lessons and Collective Worship, we regularly speak to our pupils about how they can stay safe online. We would just like to remind you as families of some of the legal age requirements to the different social media platforms they might be accessing at home.

Facebook - 13 or over

Instagram - 13 or over

Tiktok - 13 or over

Snapchat - 13 or over

As a school, we do not recommend that any of our children are on these platforms or accessing a smartphone. If you (as parents and carers) decide to give them access, please make sure you are monitoring them regularly, putting on restrictions and having frequent conversations about following these SMART guidelines.

You can find some helpful guidance on Social Media use on the [NSPCC website](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/). The government has also written some very detailed guidance [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-safety-advice-for-parents).



Visit to the Islamic Community Centre

Providing enriching opportunities for our children is an important part of making learning meaningful and memorable.

On Wednesday, Year 5 and 6 visited the Islamic Community Centre in Morden. It was an incredibly enjoyable and informative trip. Sh Bilal Patel, the Iman, spoke to the children about the five pillars of the Islamic faith and let the children spend time in their main hall where daily prayers take place. Refreshments were provided for the day and they allowed the children to use a special VR set to experience the pilgrimage to Mecca.



Collective Worship

We started Collective Worship this term by looking at the Julia Donaldson book, "Paper dolls". We thought about how we are all different, but special, made by God. We discussed the importance of working together and never losing what we love in our hearts. We have also been learning a wonderful song called, "Every Step". You can listen to it [here](#).

Science Week

This year, the topic for British Science Week is "Change and Adapt". To celebrate and explore this, on the 10th March, we will be having workshops for Years 1–6. The children will look at topics ranging from understanding natural selection and evolution, to examining the physical principles behind changing states of matter. Children will engage with concepts such as heat transfer, air pressure, gravity and material properties. During the week we will also be doing activities in classrooms related to this topic. See see a separate Weduc which includes an activity pack.

