



ST MARY'S
CofE PRIMARY
SCHOOL

St Mary's Friday Flyer

Dear Parents/Carers,

Friday 28th November 2025

This week's Friday Flyer focuses on one of the most important topics for our school community: keeping children safe online. With technology playing such a big role in everyday life, it's essential that we work together at school and at home to ensure our children are protected, informed, and confident when navigating the digital world.

Inside this edition, you'll find practical tips on e-safety, guidance on parental controls, and advice for supporting children with social media use. Together, we can create a safer online environment for every child.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and digital wellbeing at St Mary's, we want to highlight the importance of e-safety, helping children stay safe, responsible, and confident online. Children today are growing up in a digital world filled with opportunities and risks. From social media and gaming to AI chatbots and online learning platforms, it is vital that we equip them with the skills to navigate this space safely.

Recent reports from the UK Safer Internet Centre and NSPCC show that:

- Scams and misinformation are increasingly targeting young users.
- AI companions and chatbots are being used by children as substitutes for real-life support, sometimes with harmful consequences.
- Inappropriate app age ratings can mislead parents about the safety of popular platforms like WhatsApp and Snapchat

What We Are Doing at School?

E-safety is embedded in our curriculum and reinforced through assemblies and class discussions. We regularly review our policies to reflect new technologies and threats, including AI and smart devices.

Our safeguarding team Laura Oakes, Paul Galvin, and Fiona Rolls-Drew are trained to respond to online safety concerns and are always available for support.

Parental Controls:

Parental controls are one of the most effective tools to help protect children online. While no system is perfect, they provide a vital layer of defence against inappropriate content, excessive screen time, and online risks.

- **Broadband & Wi-Fi Controls:**
- Set filters on your home broadband to block adult content and harmful websites.
- Schedule internet access to limit usage during homework or bedtime hours.
- **Device-Level Controls:**
- Link your child's account to your own on devices like tablets, phones, and gaming consoles.
- Use built-in tools like Apples Screen Time or Google Family Link to set daily time limits, restrict app usage, block explicit content, and track location.

Gaming & Streaming Platforms:

- Enable child profiles on platforms like Netflix, YouTube Kids, and Disney+.
- Use parental settings on consoles like Xbox, PlayStation, and Nintendo Switch.

Social Media Safety:

- Review privacy settings on apps like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat.
- Use restricted modes where available. Be Informed & Involved:
- Talk to your child about what they're doing online.
- Set clear expectations around screen time and online behaviour.
- Stay updated with trusted resources like Internet Matters, UK Safer Internet Centre, and NSPCC

Social Media Safety: What Every Parent Should Know

Social media is a powerful tool for connection and creativity, but it also presents risks that children may not be equipped to handle alone.

Common Risks:

- Inappropriate Content
- Cyberbullying
- Privacy & Reputation
- Scams & Grooming

Practical Tips for Parents:

- Know the Age Limits: Most platforms require users to be 13+.
- Set Accounts to Private and review followers regularly.
- Disable Location Sharing.
- Use Parental Controls.
- Talk Openly and model good behaviour

Age-by-Age Guidance

- Under 11: No personal accounts.
- 11 to13: Private accounts only.
- 13 to15: Gradual independence.
- 16 to18: More autonomy.

Useful Links

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/ukcis-social-media-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/resources/social-media-a-guide-for-parents/>

<https://education-experts.co.uk/support-parents-to-balance-childrens-access-to-social-media/>

🎄 Melton Christmas Tree Festival 🎄

The magical Melton Christmas Tree Festival begins today at St Mary's Church, filling the space with sparkle, colour, and festive cheer. With hundreds of beautifully decorated trees on display, it's always a highlight of the local Christmas calendar and a wonderful way to get into the festive spirit.

This year, our school has proudly contributed a tree to the festival – can you spot it among the dazzling displays? 🌟 Families are warmly encouraged to visit, enjoy the creativity, and soak up the atmosphere.

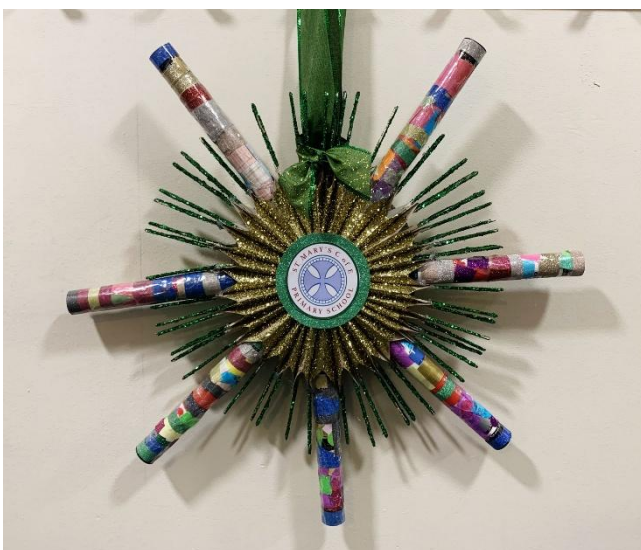
The festival runs throughout the weekend, so why not take a stroll through St Mary's and see how many different trees you can find? Don't forget to look out for ours – we think you'll love it!



St Mary's Christmas Wreath

Will be proudly on display at the Wreath Festival this Saturday and Sunday at St John's Church (opposite Morrisons).

Come along, soak up the festive atmosphere, and see the beautiful creations on show!



CHRISTMAS WREATH FESTIVAL
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAIR
10AM TO 4PM
29th | 30th November
St John's Church Thorpe End
Competition Wreaths on display and for sale. Gifts, raffle, 11am Saturday - Melton Town Band, 12 noon carols from the church choir.

🎄 Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert 🎄

Join us at St Mary's Church on Thursday 4th December for the Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert.

Our school choir will be performing alongside other local schools, sharing festive music and cheer.

It would be wonderful to see as many of you there as possible to support our talented singers! 🌟 🎵

Attendance
of the week

To be revealed next
week!



Happy Lunchtimes
Class
of the Week

Paused until
Jan 2026

Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love." 1 Corinthians 16 vs 13-14