



Friday 26th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we settle into the new school year, I'd like to take a moment to highlight a topic that is increasingly important in our children's lives – **online safety**.

In today's digital world, children are growing up surrounded by technology. While the internet offers incredible opportunities for learning and connection, it also presents risks that we must navigate together. From social media to gaming platforms, it's vital that we help our children understand how to stay safe, make responsible choices, and know where to turn if something doesn't feel right.

At school, we are committed to teaching pupils about digital citizenship and safe online behaviour. But your role at home is just as crucial. Simple steps like setting parental controls, talking openly about online experiences, and encouraging critical thinking can make an enormous difference.

Let's work together to ensure our children are empowered, informed, and protected online.

Warm regards,

L Oakes

Collective Worship

This week in our collective worship, we have been reflecting on the theme of compassion – what it means to show kindness, understanding, and care for others. Through stories, discussions, and quiet moments of reflection, the children have explored how compassion can be expressed in everyday actions, both in school and at home.



Picture News



At St Mary's, we use Picture News as a powerful tool to help children engage with both local and global current affairs in a way that is age-appropriate, thought-provoking, and inclusive. Each week, Picture News provides a topical story that sparks discussion and reflection across the curriculum—from

assemblies and PSHE lessons to debate clubs and classroom activities. These stories are carefully chosen to highlight key themes such as British Values—including democracy, mutual respect, and individual liberty—and to promote understanding of the Protected Characteristics outlined in the Equality Act.

This week our Picture News has been focusing on the question can anyone break a record if they try hard enough? The story is focusing on the Guinness World Records as it is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year.

Harvest Celebrations

As a Church of England school, celebrating Harvest is an important part of our calendar and ethos. It offers a meaningful opportunity for children to reflect on gratitude, community, and the importance of sharing with others. Through Collective Worship and classroom activities, pupils will be learning about the significance of Harvest and how we can support those in need.



Each year, we ask families to contribute donations of non-perishable goods, which will be passed on to Melton Storehouse, a local charity supporting individuals and families in our community. We will begin collecting donations from the week commencing 6th October, and your generosity will be appreciated.

MacMillan Coffee Morning



We warmly invite you to join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 3rd October, from 9:15am to 10:30am. This event is especially close to our hearts, and we're proud to support Macmillan Cancer Support and the incredible work they do for families facing challenging times.

Throughout the morning, children from all year groups will be sharing Harvest performances-bringing joy, energy, and a real sense of community to the occasion. Whether you're popping in for a quick cuppa or staying for the full event, your presence will mean a great deal to us.

Performance times will be shared next week, so you'll know when your child is taking part. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this special morning together.

If you're able to support the event with donations of cakes or biscuits, they would be *extremely welcomed* by Mrs Fendell, who is kindly organising the morning. Donations can be brought in before school on the day.

Mrs Fendell will also be holding a raffle with lots of wonderful prizes up for grabs.

Online Safety

Many of us see our online lives and offline lives as different.

But for children growing up with technology and the internet, there isn't a difference – online life and offline life is just life.

Technology can move at an extraordinarily fast pace. So, it can be difficult to know how to start talking to your child about what they're doing online, who they might be speaking to or discussing the potential risks and issues.



Starting the Conversation:



Talking regularly with your child can help keep them safe online. Making it part of daily conversation, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed.

It also means when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

But it's easy to become overwhelmed with the different technology, the language that children use, the vast number of games and apps which are available and the potential risks.

The NSPCC has a vast amount of information available to parents to help support you when talking to your children about being online and keeping safe. You can access this information via the link below.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

If you're stuck, not sure what to do, or if you're worried about your child, you can also contact their trained [helpline counsellors](#) on 0808 800 5000.

Childline also has lots of information about online and mobile safety that will help you and your child.

Attendance

At St Mary's, we encourage all pupils to aim for at least 96% or above attendance across the school year. This means missing no more than 7 or 8 days in total. Attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence, which can have a significant impact on a child's learning, progress, and wellbeing. Being punctual is equally important as arriving late not only disrupts your child's start to the day but also affects the learning of others. Every minute of the school day matters, and we appreciate your support in helping children arrive on time and ready to learn.



Safeguarding



At St Mary's, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, supported, and listened to—both in and out of the classroom. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we take this duty very seriously across our whole school community.

We follow the statutory guidance outlined in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, which covers all aspects of child protection, including recognising different forms of abuse, safe recruitment, and how concerns must be reported. Children are regularly reminded that they can speak to any adult in school if they feel worried or unsafe, and we have clear posters around the school to reinforce this message.

Our dedicated safeguarding team includes:

- Laura Oakes – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Paul Galvin – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)
- Fiona Rolls-Drew – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

If you ever have concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our safeguarding team. Together, we can ensure that every child at St Mary's has the best possible start in life.

Year 3 Rise Charter Sports Festival

This week, our Year 3 children had the wonderful opportunity to take part in the Rise Sports Festival at Frisby C of E Primary School, joining other Year 3 classes from across the trust. The children engaged in a variety of sporting activities designed to promote teamwork, resilience, and fun. It was truly heartwarming to see them interacting and cooperating with pupils from other schools—building friendships, encouraging one another, and showing great sportsmanship throughout the day. We are incredibly proud of how they represented St Mary's and embraced the spirit of the event.



Attendance
of the week

Class 1 and Class 6
100%



Happy Lunchtimes
Class
of the Week

Class 1 & Class 4

Dates to Remember 2025-2026

Print me and
keep me
handy!

Below are dates for this academic year. We will continue to add new dates, and these will be added in green.

Monday 29 th September	Prospective New Starters Tour 3.30pm
Tuesday 30 th September	Prospective New Starters Tour 3.30pm
Wednesday 1 st October	Flu Vaccinations - all year groups
Friday 3 rd October	Harvest Festival & Macmillan Coffee Morning 9.15am
Friday 17th October	Inset Day – School Closed to all pupils
20th – 24th October	Half Term
Wednesday 8 th October	Open Session for all parents 3.30pm – 4.15pm
	Phonics Meeting for Year 1 parents 3.30pm
Friday 10 th October	Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day (details to follow)
Monday 13 th October	Prospective New Starters Tour 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 th October	Prospective New Starters Tour 3.30pm
Monday 27 th October	Start of Autumn term 2
Tuesday 28 th October	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm (details to follow)
Wednesday 29 th October	Individual School Photos
Tuesday 4 th November	Phonics Information Evening for EYFS Parents 3.30pm
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents Evening 3.30pm – 6pm (details to follow)
Friday 21 st November	Children in Need
Friday 28 th November – Tuesday 2 nd December	Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church
Thursday 4 th December	Mayor's Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church 6.30pm
Friday 5 th December	Santa Fun Run
	FoSMS Disco – To be Confirmed
Monday 8 th December	KS1 Nativity 2pm (1 st showing)
Tuesday 9 th December	KS1 Nativity 2pm (2 nd showing)
Wednesday 10 th December	EYFS Nativity 2pm
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Coffee Morning 9.15am
Monday 15 th December	EYFS/KS1 Cinema Trip
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas Church Service at St Mary's Church 1.30pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 18 th December	KS2 Panto trip
Friday 19th December	Last day of Autumn Term!