



# St. Mary's Newsletter

5th July 2024

## Parent – Teacher – Friends – Association

Thank you to all of you who came along to our first 'Friends of St Mary's' meeting. The team had some great ideas about how they can support school going forward and were keen to start making plans for the next academic year. If you feel you could offer any help- any time at all will be gratefully received- please contact the school office who will forward your interest onto Miss Bell (school liaison) or Jo Spence (Chair).



## Summer Fair

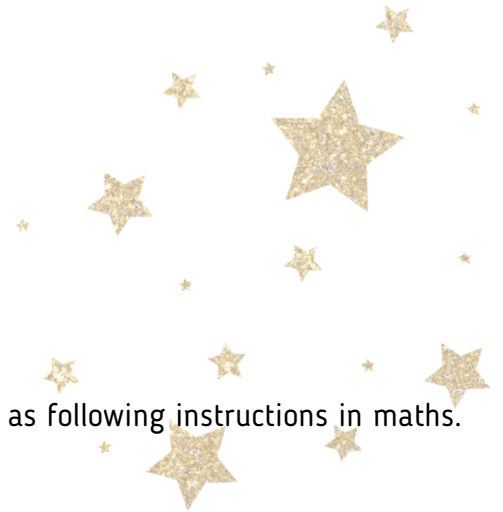
We are very much looking forward to seeing families tomorrow at our summer fair. Please join us in praying for sunshine. The forecast is not looking good, so we may have to bring stalls into school.

## Year 6 Residential

Despite some children having a little anxiety before going on the residential to Dukeshouse Wood, it is fair to say that each and every one of them had something positive to share about the trip. Favourite activities included the 3G swing, fire making, the zip wire and 'the food'. The team at Dukeshouse Wood were amazing with the children and made every effort to encourage them to be brave and persevere when faced with difficulty. The children also enjoyed the obstacle course, archery and shelter making. Staff reported that their behaviour was very good. We are so proud of them. They will sleep well tonight!

## Stars of the Week

- YR Jude for brilliant reading with expression.
- YR Dexter for working with your friends to create a new ball game.
- Y1 Una for showing amazing manners and following all instructions.
- Y1 liyla for excellent effort when writing her story about Dougal.
- Y2 Caspian for trying hard with your listening to help complete your work.
- Y2 Leo for fantastic stage direction and acting skills in English this week.
- Y3 Phoebe for excellent listening when building hexagonal bee cells as well as following instructions in maths.
- Y3 Holly for great work in Maths, listening well and following instructions.
- Y4 Lilly for showing maturity in lessons and excellent talk partner skills.
- Y4 Jax for always being ready to learn and focussing well in all lessons.
- Y5 Harriett L for having a positive and upbeat approach to work, even when it gets tough!
- Y5 Grace M for using a wide range of techniques in maths to complete problems.
- Y6 Jacob having the courage to face up to things he didn't want to do.
- Y6 Heath for showing immense determination and perseverance in the fire lighting activity.



## Changes to the DfE Attendance Penalty Notice Rules

Please note that the Department for Education (DfE) has made important changes to school attendance penalty notices which will come into effect from **19 August 2024**. This will affect the rules around penalty notices issued to parents for their child's school attendance, including holidays taken during term time.

### Increase in penalty notice amount:

**Previous fine** £120; if paid within 21 days £60; **New fine** £160; if paid within 21 days £80

### Escalation in cases of repeat offences:

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

### Limited number of penalty notices per parent

A national limit of 2 penalty notices can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period. At the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool, such as prosecution, will be considered.

Our year-to-date whole school attendance is currently 95.6%. We are **14th in the attendance league** of schools within the Trust.

Please support us by sending your child into school every day so they do not fall behind due to lost learning opportunities.

## Question of the Week

- YR. Why is plastic unsafe for sea animals?
- Y1. What did the Good Samaritan do?
- Y2. What Bronze Age artefacts were discovered at Must Farm?
- Y3. What is a pneumatic system?
- Y4. What is a tropical climate?
- Y5. Ahead of our class trip to the wetlands, can you describe what a biome is using key terminology?

## Stars in the Community

Congratulations to Ella (Y6), Daisy (Y3), Harper (Y4) and Janae (Y2) and all of the Inspirer la Danse girls who thought they were having their new dance filmed for a promotion video, when in fact they were auditioning for Disney Land Paris. And they smashed it! They go in May 2025 and will be taking part in the Disney parade.



Dates for your diary are on the following page...

## Adult Reading Support

There are a number of apps available that read text aloud, which some of our parents might find useful for ease of reading. We recommend NaturalReader 16 and ClaroPDF to easily send pages from our website to the app to read aloud.

## Children Walking Home Alone

Walking home **without** an adult is a great way to be independent and most of our children are wonderful examples in our community. A small number of children, however, may need a reminder that they are expected to follow our school rules of READY, RESPECTFUL & SAFE whilst wearing their school uniform. This is because members of the community can recognise them as a St Mary's pupil. We would very much appreciate it if you would reinforce these expectations with your child.

Event	Date	Time	Details
School Summer Fair	Sat 6 Jul	11am-1pm	All welcome
Y5 trip to Washington Wetlands	Tue 9 Jul	All day	Email from teacher
Reception End of Early Years assembly	Tue 9 Jul	2.15 - 3.30pm	Reception parents
Y6 'Get Me Out of Here!' performance	Fri 12 Jul	2.30 - 3.30pm	Y3-Y5 children & Y6 parents
Y5 Trust Athletics	Mon 15 July	All day	Children only
Reception trip to Hall Hill Farm	Tue 16 July	All day	Email from teacher
EY & KS1 Mass in school hall	Wed 17 Jul	2.45pm - 3.25pm	EY / KS1 parents welcome
Y6 leavers Mass in church	Thu 18th July	10am	Y3-Y5 children & Y6 parents
Y2 End of Key Stage 1 assembly	Thu 18th July	2.30 - 3.30pm	Year 2 parents
Fri 19 July break up for Summer holidays			
INSET day	Mon 2 Sept	All day	School closed to children
INSET day	Tue 3 Sept	All day	School closed to children
Wed 4 Sept return after Summer break			