

OCTOBER 2024



ST MARY'S C E PRIMARY

# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome back to a new year at St Mary's.

We hope that your family has settled well into the year, certainly the children have made a brilliant start in school and we are especially pleased with how well our new Reception pupils have transitioned into life at our school. To those families who are new to St Mary's this term - a very warm welcome! I am sure you will feel like you are part of the school family in no time at all.

I myself am very excited about the year ahead; I look forward to leading and representing the school as its new Headteacher and I thank you for the well wishes and kind words that you have shared with me.

The term has already got off to a busy start with Year 6's residential, Year 1's Parent Workshops, Y2's Mosque visit, Parents' Evenings and Reception's Phonics Workshops. We've celebrated congratulations assemblies and are especially proud of our first Headteacher award winners - well done.

As always, we will strive this year to bring our school vision to all of our children and families by working together to 'bring out the best in each other, so that every member of the community can enjoy fullness of life'. (John 10:10)

Mr Warland

## Friends of St Mary's (PTA)

FOSM is a group of parent volunteers who work with the school to hold fundraising events throughout the year. They support the school in purchasing items that it could not otherwise afford to buy. In the past, they have funded new climbing equipment in the playground, an electric piano, additional books and reading resources and playground games with all money raised going directly towards making the children's experience of school better. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Sarah on: 07703070039.



ST. MARY'S CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Bringing out the best in each other...  
that all may know 'Life in all its fullness'. John 10*

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## FOSM Events 2024:



Discos - Infants (Reception, Y1 and Y2) from 3:30 - 4:30 Junior school (Y3 - Y6) from 4:45 - 5:45	4th October 24 14th March 25 13th June 25
Christmas Fair 3:30 - 5:30	6th December 24
Reception and KS1 Movie Night 3:30 - 5:30	22nd January 25
KS2 Movie Night 3:30 - 5:30	23rd January 25
Summer Fair 3:30 - 5:30	4th of July 25

## School Dates for your Diary:

You can synchronise our calendar with your own using the calendar on our school website. Visit: <https://www.stmarys-sellyoak.co.uk/calendar-of-events/> or scan the QR Code:



24.10.24	14.00 – 15.00 Encourage Harvest Service at Church & Mrs Cater Retirement
25.10.24	09.30 – 10.30 Encourage Harvest Service at Church
	28.10.24 – 01.11.24 Half Term Holidays
04.11.24	No School Today (Staff INSET)
05.11.24	Children return to school
13.11.24	14.30-15.30 5 Dragonflies Parent Workshop - school hall – enter Lodgehill Playground
14.11.24	14.30-15.30 5 Grasshoppers Parent Workshop - school hall – enter Lodgehill Playground
20.11.24	09.00 – 09.45 4 Otters Class Assembly
21.11.24	09.00 – 09.45 4 Beavers Class Assembly
27.11.24	09.00 – 09.45 2 Squirrels Class Assembly
28.11.24	09.00 – 09.45 2 Hares Class Assembly
04.12.24	09.00 – 09.45 6 Badgers Class Assembly
04.12.24	14.30-15.30 R Lemurs Parent Workshop - school hall – enter Lodgehill Playground
05.12.24	09.00 – 09.45 6 Moles Class Assembly
05.12.24	Reception and KS1 Theatre Trip to the MAC (Normal lunch)
05.12.24	14.30-15.30 R Meerkats Parent Workshop - school hall – enter Lodgehill Playground
06.12.24	15.30 – 17.30 Christmas Fair – Volunteers please contact Sarah: 07703070039
10.12.24	Christmas Theatre Company visiting school
11.12.24	Christmas Dinner Day
12.12.24	KS2 Theatre Trip to Crescent Theatre – <b>Late Collection</b> – 4.15pm from usual doors.
17.12.24	09.30 – 10.30 Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
18.12.24	09.30 – 10.30 Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance
19.12.24	14.00-15.00 KS2 Christmas Carol Service at Church
20.12.24	09.30 – 10.30 Reception and KS1 Christmas Service at Church
	23.12.24 – 03.01.25 Christmas Holidays
06.01.25	No School Today (Staff INSET)
07.01.25	Children return to school

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## Admissions: Reception 2025:

As in previous years, applications for admission to Reception classes in Birmingham is online. If you have a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021, you are now able to apply for a Reception place for next September.

The link for this is below:

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions)

Open sessions for prospective parents interested in a place at this school will be held on Thursday 7th November and Tuesday 12th November between 9.30 and 11.00 and also Wednesday 20th 4.45pm - 6pm. Please contact the school office if you would like more details and we would be grateful if this information could be passed on to any other parents locally who may be interested.

## Thank you...

Thank you to all who attended our first round of parents' evenings for this year. It was great to see so many of you coming along (over 92% of children had at least one parent/carer attending) and we hope that the information shared was useful for you. Please be in touch with your child's teacher via the school office if there is anything further you would like to discuss or share.

## Mrs. Cater

This half term marks the end of an era as we say good bye to a member of staff who has supported hundreds of children over her 30 years at St Mary's. Mrs Cater is known for her compassion for and dedication to our children and families. I know that you will all wish to join us in saying the fondest of farewells to her. Please come and join us on Thursday 24th at St Mary's Church at 2pm to wish her well. Mrs Cater - you will be deeply missed.

## Harvest Donations

We will be continuing our tradition of collecting food for our Harvest appeal this year. We are aware that for many families, donating food is not something they are able to do. If you are able to, we are asking for donations of tinned or packet items (no perishable goods please). All items will be going towards the Christian Life Church local food bank so people in the community benefit directly from your generosity. Contributions can be sent into school from Monday 21st October to Friday 25th October.



## Spirituality at St Mary's:

At St Mary's we are very concerned with developing the **whole child**. Whilst academic success is very important to us, spiritual and character development is also a key priority.

**What do we mean by 'spiritual development'?** We know that our diverse community is made up of children from many faith backgrounds and also those without a particular faith. Our belief is that our children's spiritual development is linked to their inner beliefs, values, interactions within their community and their relationships with others and the earth.

**How do we develop spiritually?** At St Mary's, we use our curriculum to provide multiple opportunities to explore spirituality through the metaphor of Windows, Mirrors and Doors. We encourage our children to: 'Look out into the world' (Windows); 'Reflect on how their learning impacts them' (Mirrors) and 'Make changes to how they will live in our school community and the world' (Doors).



As a Church of England school, our Governors are largely selected by the original foundation: the Church. It is our Governors' belief that St Mary's School was created to serve the immediate community and that is what we do to this day. It is our ambition that all who enter St Mary's School feel welcome regardless of their faith or any other protective characteristic. The practices that we have, that are distinctly Christian are mainly within our worship. These are **inclusive, invitational and inspirational** times when we gather to reflect and for some, worship God. We invite families of all faiths and of none, to join us in school for Congratulations assemblies and at Church for services. When they do, we ask them to take part in as much or little as they feel comfortable with - our worship is always invitational.

All of our work is focussed on us meeting our vision of bringing out the best in each other so that all may know life in all its fullness.



## A Harvest Prayer

Dear God,

At Harvest time we thank you for the food that we eat and for all the other good things we have.

We ask you to help those who are not as lucky as we are and pray that they benefit from the help and generosity of others.

Amen