



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

HAVE A HAPPY HALF TERM

A half term in the life of a school is a busy and varied one and St Mary's is no exception to this. Since the beginning of this new academic year we have managed to pack a lot of things into these past 7 or more weeks and, overall, have had a good, positive start to our year.

Our Children

As a Federation we are inspired by the children we serve...all 462 of them from Nursery up to Year 6. They are our shining light and our best ambassadors. We are truly proud of them all and aim to provide the best possible education for them. They take all their responsibilities very seriously, give us good feedback on how to improve the Federation and engage with all that we do



Year 5s in a huddle before one of their games.

and, this year, we have more children enjoying extra-curricular activities than ever before. Especially with sport. There has been more sport here this year than previously and, even this week, we have had a Year 5 team represent the school at another Rugby League World Cup festival. Well done to them all.

PTFA/Governors

Huge thanks to our PTFA. Way back in September they organised and led an excellent welcome BBQ for all those families who were able to make it and generated some money for the children of the school as well. They have even more things planned so keep an eye out for dates. Meanwhile, our Governing Body, led by Mrs Wells, have met several times and are helping to strategically steer the Federation to become the best we can be. No school is able to operate to its maximum without a good PTFA or Governing Body so a massive thank you to all those who volunteer in these groups to make the Federation improve.

Staff

Big thanks to all the staff. Our job is both a joy and a challenge, a vocation to serve the Church, the parish, the parents and the children. Part of the Church's Mission. The teachers and staff who work at both schools are key to the children's success and for that I am grateful for their continued hard work, passion and dedication.

Parents/carers

Finally, gargantuan thanks to all our parents and carers. You **ARE** the most important influences on your children's learning and we genuinely appreciate your engagement with the Federation. The vast majority of parents were able to make the recent consultation evenings and gave us some positive feedback as well as some areas to improve on. We thank you for this and wish



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 31st October School opens

Thursday 3rd November Flu vaccinations Nursery – Year 2

Friday 4th November Y2B Collective Worship 9am in the Hall, All welcome

Monday 7th November EYFS Open evening from 4pm-6pm (Infants)

Wednesday 9th November Y2B Parents Evening, details to follow

Thursday 10th November Y2B Parents Evening, details to follow



The Queen's Green Canopy is an initiative that began in May 2021 in the United Kingdom in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. To increase and protect the native tree cover, people are being urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.

In celebration of our late Queens Platinum Jubilee our Infant Eco Club planted an apple tree in our Prayer Garden. This tree is now officially part of the Queens green canopy. You can view it online at <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

Black History Month



As part of Black History Month Mrs Grange held an Assembly to teach the children all about Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela was born in South Africa on 18th July 1918 and he was a lawyer. In 1948, the South African government made new laws to keep White people and Black people apart. This new system was called the apartheid. In 1944, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress. The ANC wanted Black South Africans to have the same rights as White South Africans. They protested against the government as this was not fair. In 1990, South Africa's president FW de Klerk finally set Nelson Mandela free. Mandela and Klerk agreed there was to be no more fighting. Mandela called to all South African people to live together in peace. Mandela became the first Black president of South Africa. Mandela was and is a worldwide hero. He ensured that South Africa was a 'rainbow nation' because people of all races and skin colours were working

Outstanding Citizens Award

Infant children, one from each class were chosen for showing respect, compassion and resilience during this half term. They attended a celebratory tea party with Mrs Grange and had a wonderful time.

A big well done to them all.



Poppy Appeal



Poppies will be available to purchase at both the Infant and Junior site when we return after half term. If your child would like a poppy please send them into school with a donation.

Thank you for your support.



Grapes



STARS OF THE WEEK AND BEE AWARDS

	Star of the Week	Kindness Award		Star of the week	Bee Award
Nursery	Parker	Max	Y3RI		
RM	Poppy-Robin	Michael	Y3RO		
RB	Ted	Marley-Shea	Y4W		
Y1O	Stanley	Joshua AH	Y4M		
Y1G	Jack B	Alex J	Y5R		
Y2M	Luca	Matthew W	Y5HQ		
Y2T	Oliver	Luna	Y6W		
			Y6D		

Respect & Manners Award

Juniors:

Infants: Freya B



Could we please ask all parents to be respectful of our lovely residents and be cautious of how and where you are parking at drop off and pick up. We have had some complaints regarding parents parking on double yellow lines particularly at the Infant site.



Polite notice

Please help us to keep our paths and roads around both schools clean.

Remember to clean up after you dog,

Party Invitations

Please do not send in party invites for staff to hand out unless the invites are for the whole class.

Please note, we do not hand out class lists to parents.

Infant school request

We are running low on underwear, we would be very grateful of all donations.

Thank you.