

## **Final newsletter of the term**

### **Welcome**



We are almost at the end of the year. It is always a sad time of year as we say goodbye to our Year 6 children and to members of staff but also one filled with hope as we welcome more new families into our school and begin to look to the next year ahead. Thank you for all your love and support during my first year as head of St. Mary's and for your continued dedication to supporting your children in their education. It really is the best job in the world and I am truly grateful to be the Head of St. Mary's. For our wonderful Year 6 children moving on, I wish you all the best in your new schools, we will truly miss you but know you are ready for new adventures. Don't forget to Dream, Believe, Achieve.

### **Goodbye to staff**

We are sad to say goodbye to Mr. Laughton who will be leaving us in July to pursue other opportunities and a partial goodbye to Mrs. Elmore who will be leaving the lunch team but will be carrying on with the Brightsparks team. We wish them well and remind them that they will always be a part of the St. Mary's family.



### **Hello to new staff**

As we say goodbye to staff, we also say hello. We are really lucky to welcome two new teachers to the team this year: Miss Georgina Hartley and Mr. Marlon Gasporotto.



Hello there! I'm Mr Gasparotto, and I'm incredibly excited to be joining the teaching team at St Mary's.

I decided to become a teacher because I love to see young people develop and become a better version of themselves as a result of my guidance. To see children achieve something new and gain belief and confidence in themselves is what drives me to be the best teacher I can be. For the past three years I have been working at schools in London, but now I have moved to the local area ahead of my start at St Mary's.



When I'm not in the classroom, you can find me pursuing my passions outside of school. I am half Italian, so I love cooking delicious Italian meals and trying out new recipes for myself and my family. I also enjoy going on long cycling trips where I discover new and exciting routes. Additionally, I am a huge fan of touch rugby and am an enthusiastic player. I feel my hobbies make me a more well-rounded person and I love sharing these passions with my students.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and I hope you all have a fantastic summer holiday!

Hello everyone, my name is Georgina and I am really excited that from September I am going to be Miss Hartley and part of the St Mary's family! I am looking forward to starting my teaching career with all of the lovely children and staff I have been lucky enough to meet over the past few weeks. Outside of work, I enjoy running, tennis and dancing - you may see me around the lanes of Burton Latimer training for my next race!



I have recently completed my PGCE at Keele University (which is close to where I grew up) having been inspired to become a teacher by my mum! Seeing the joy that teaching has brought her, and the difference she has made to children's lives it seemed a natural choice for me to follow in her footsteps.

Have a lovely summer and I look forward to getting to know you all soon.

### **Collective worship and British Values**

We have continued with the value of Justice and linked this to our British values of Democracy and Rule of Law. We have also talked about moving on and used bible stories to support children in their upcoming transitions.



### **Govilon**

June was an exciting month for our year 6 students as they finally got to experience the thrill of Govilon. Here is a recount of the trip from Harlow and Lena.



After the three-hour journey on the coach, we unpacked our stuff and then met back in the dining hall to eat lunch before leaving to do our afternoon activities. We played teamwork games like tag and using pipes to make the ball fall into a bucket. Our favourite was wearing a lifejacket upside down and transporting water. We got to throw it over our teams which was great as it was very hot. Once we returned for dinner, we got our ruck sacks ready and went up for a hill walk where we saw some spectacular views.

On day two, we went waterfall walking and we released all our worries while freefalling into freezing cold water on a hot day. We also went through a pitch-black tunnel where we were not allowed to put any torches on. We had to work as a team to make sure that we were all connected and safe; we used a stick to keep us close to the wall. The tunnel is 666m long!

On day three, our main activity was caving and we crawled through small spaces which was incredibly scary at times but it was a great opportunity to work together and support each other through parts of the cave that were tight and challenging.

Beach day was day 4. This consisted of games, sea glass hunting, kite flying and crabbing. One or two crabs may or may not have landed on Mrs Babb and Mrs Patrick's heads. To end one of the best days of the trip we ate a yummy fish and chip supper. During the evening when we got back to the centre all the girls snuck into the annexe for Mrs Patrick to choreograph a flashmob to surprise everyone else for evening entertainment.

On the last day, we had a nice end to the week by visiting The Big Pit and learning about the miners and the coal mines. After getting some souvenirs, we retreated back to our coach to see our families again after five busy, long but amazing days.

Govilon was an eventful and wonderful week that we're sure a lot of year 6's would love to repeat again.

## **Sports**

### **School Games Mark**

The School Games Mark is a government-led awards scheme to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition, accessibility, inclusiveness of sport and physical activity across their school and into the community. Promoting 60 active minutes a day and Healthy and Active lifestyles. Participating in this process allows schools to evaluate their PE provision and assists them in developing an action plan for future progress.

I am pleased to confirm we have again been awarded **GOLD** for our PE and School Sport provision for 2023-2024.

This is the highest award obtainable, which we have sustained for three consecutive years now.

This reflects all the work we do in school from PE lessons, extra-curricular clubs, active lunchtimes, inter and intra school competitions, Pupil voice, PE training and sports leaders, our results were phenomenal and a further improvement from previous years statistics, please see below some of our data:

We attended 32 Inter school competitions providing 258 opportunities for pupils to represent their school.

100% of pupils in KS2 have participated in various intra school sports competitions

95.2% of year 6's attended an inter school sports competition/event

70.2 % Year 5/6 pupils participated in a minimum of 1 inter school competition

82.2% Year 3/4 pupils attended an inter school sports competition

54.7% Year 2 pupils attended a minimum of 1 inter school competition

80.5% (year 2-6) SEND pupils attended an inter school competition

3 school games finals were reached (Gymnastics, New Age Kurling and cross country).

A minimum of 8 extra curricular sports clubs were available each term ( a variety of 19 different clubs throughout the year)

A significant rise in extracurricular sports club participation rose (total of 61% attending a minimum of one club across all year groups).

70.2% of year 5/6 attended an extracurricular sports club

77.2% years 3/4 attended an extracurricular sports club

21 year 6's were trained as Sports Leaders and carried out activate lunchtime play as well as assisting with sports days and competitions.

Skip 2 B fit initiative was launched, and all pupils regularly participated in the daily mile challenge each week.

### **Healthy School Ethos**

Thank you to all Parents/Guardians who attended school Sports Days. It was lovely to hear your positive feedback and job at being able to share such a fun annual event with the children. The children were really proud to be able to showcase their skills to you, as well as hear you cheering them on during the traditional races. Plans are already in the making to make next year even bigger and better.

Biggest thank you to our Year 6 Sports Leaders who were fantastic at helping to run the activities.

Thank you to PTFA for donating £1000 to be spent on lunchtime equipment.

This investment as well as a further £3000 from sports premium has allowed us to purchase swingball sets, football goals, climbing walls, basketball hoop and scooters, various balls and multi skills equipment for the children to enjoy at lunchtimes from September.

## **School Sports Competitions**

Our aim is to attend a wide variety of inter school competitions and festivals (minimum of 5 events each term) to allow as opportunities for as many pupils as possible to attend and experience a variety of sports in both competitive and non-competitive environments.

We cannot deny that winning always provides a great feeling and sense of achievement, however more importantly we hope pupils who attend gain a sense of pride, awareness of varying sports and the benefit physical activity provides, increased self-esteem and a desire to continue participating in sport.

We promote our schools and school games values at these events which include Respect, Determination, Honesty, Passion, Self-Belief and Teamwork, our motto is "win, draw or lose we always show our values."

Since our last newsletter we have participated in another inter school competitions, allowing a further 10 children to experience competitive sport and proudly represent our school.

We attended a year 5/6 Football tournament, unfortunately we lost every game, despite the results they children still enjoyed the event. Mr Laughton commented on the determination and effort that we inputted despite facing defeats, which was great to hear.

As we have often communicated win, draw or lose we always show our values!

We have one final competition left for the term, which is a PDET Multi skills Going for Gold event, involving 15 pupils from years 2-4. In previous years we have had a top 4 finish, we wish the team the best of luck as I'm sure they will have lots of fun.

## **Sports Clubs**

Sports Club this term will run until 19<sup>th</sup> July (no session on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July).

Thank you to everyone who has attended clubs this year, it is great to offer a variety of sport and promote healthy and active lifestyles via clubs within our school as well as further helping to develop children's skills and confidence in addition to PE lessons.

Clubs for September will be released on first week back, look out for updates on ParentMail.

We have 3 days of Summer clubs taking place at St Mary's, leaflets have been shared in the weekly bulletin last week, places are filling fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July- Festival of Sport

1<sup>st</sup> August- Festival of Dodgeball and Nerf

## **ST Mary's got talent**

On the last day of term, we will be holding a St. Mary's Got Talent competition. Throughout the year, the children have auditioned through different rounds, and we have 6 acts that have made it through to the final. Who will be crowned as the most talented member of St. Mary's Primary School – we will find out very soon. If your child has made it through to the final, you will be invited to come and join in the festivities.



**PTFA**



# PTFA News



Please like, share, and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)

Email: [stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk)

## ❖ Ice lolly sale

- ❖ Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July after school

## ❖ Lending library

- ❖ Located in the year 5/6 area – see details and images below
- ❖ More donations are welcome of children and adult books

## ❖ Outdoor Cinema

- ❖ Back by popular demand – provisional date 21<sup>st</sup> September!!
- ❖ We're looking for volunteers to help plan and/or run the event on the day
- ❖ Without volunteers this event can't happen so if you're able to help in any way, please let us know

## ❖ Coin Competition

- ❖ Collect your coins over the summer for this years coin collection
- ❖ More info to follow in September

**Thank you to parents, volunteers and teachers amazing support over the past year! We've managed to raise an amazing £8k and couldn't do it without you!**

## **Next Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7pm**

We love to welcome new people, just come to reception.

### **Lending library**

We are very pleased to announce that our lending libraries are now OPEN! These libraries are full of books for both children and adults to enjoy. Please take a look and feel free to borrow a book. When you are finished with it, simple return it.

If you have any unwanted books at home (that are in good condition) feel free to add them to the collection. We would particularly appreciate books for adults.



## **Uniform change from September 2025 but can be used from September 2024**

### ***New PE kit***

*The PE t-shirt and jumper will be changing to navy. The new uniform is already available to purchase from Karlsports. Pupils will be able to wear the current colours (white t-shirt and pale blue jumper) until September 2025 and then everyone will be expected to wear the new navy styles with logos.*



### **Brightsparks** – from September 2024

There will be a slight increase in the full session of After School club.

Please see the prices from September below:

- Breakfast Club - £5.00 – 7:45-8:45am
- Brightsparks After School Club half session - £5.00 – 3:15-4:30pm
- Brightsparks After School Club full session - £9.50 – 3:15-5:45pm

***To end our year***, I wanted to share a beautiful poem that Evalyn has written about Friendship.

Friendship  
Is  
Me  
Happy as lee  
Being friendship is helping me  
Growing  
Into a community.

Friendship  
Is  
Clouds  
White and fluffy as a bunny  
Hopping here and there  
Hopping everywhere.

Friendship  
Is  
Sharing  
And caring  
I am a warm heart like a hot water bottle  
Burning  
All day long.

Friendship  
Is  
Happiness  
Like a hug on a dark day.  
Loving one another

Friendship is US

## SEND

We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

### Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

What a fantastic year it has been! I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support, engagement and encouragement this year. I am so pleased that we have had so many of you attend the SEND Parent's Evening sessions and ISP review meetings this year and wanted to thank you for all your positive feedback from these. To our Year 6 leavers and some of the children we have leaving us for new schools in September, I want to wish you the best of luck – you will be missed! I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday, and we look forward to you all joining us again in September and meeting some new faces with our new EYFS cohort.

THANK YOU!

### Spotlight

At St. Mary's, we have children with a wealth of different needs. This section of the newsletter will highlight a particular area of need and explore how you can help to support your child at home. Each newsletter, we will explore a different area of need. If you have a specific [area](#) you would like us to cover, please send your suggestions into the school office.

#### SEND Support for Families

As well as providing support for our children at St. Mary's with SEND, there are also services available to support the parents, carers and families around those children with SEND, over the summer period.

#### Summer Reading Challenge

Every year Northamptonshire Libraries deliver the Summer Reading Challenge for 4- to 12-year-olds. The Summer Reading Challenge 2024 launches on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. 'Marvellous Makers' has been developed in partnership with national art's charity Create. Focused on celebrating creativity, this year's Challenge will encourage children to explore new books and stories while taking part in free activities, from arts and crafts to music, dance and more! From July 20th to September 21st, children can get their imaginations fired up through the power of reading and creative expression as they help the team of marvellous makers prepare for a fictional festival, all brought to life by celebrated artist Natelle Quek. They'll also be rewarded with free incentives including stickers! Please look at your local library's website or Facebook page for more information or visit [Learn more about the Challenge](#)



**High Five Enfold Parent Group**  
High Five is our parent/carer support group. Whether your child is a pre-schooler or approaching adulthood, the challenges and complexities of navigating life with a dependent with additional needs can be isolating. High Five meets once a month in the St Andrew's Church rooms, Kettering (opposite Sainsbury's). We also have regular family events. Parents/carers and siblings as well as the autistic young person all get together to take part in a range of events in the school holidays.

These include zoo trips, farm, bowling, pottery, Think Tank, Cadbury World, Twin Lakes, archery, and water sports etc. These activities are all subsidised by our fundraising and grant applications to ensure they are affordable. It is important to us that families are able to come and try something and not feel they need to stay the 'whole day' to get the value. It is about making opportunities accessible and manageable.

#### Fishing Days - for children and young people who are living with a disability.

Fishing Days: **9th, 12th, 22nd and 26th August, 9.30am to 3pm.**  
Castle Ashby Fisheries, Grendon Pond NN7 1LF, £5 per day. YIP members have [first priority](#).  
For more information or to book please contact: Call Jackie Ackroyd on 01933 352981 or email [jackie.ackroyd@freedom-leisure.co.uk](mailto:jackie.ackroyd@freedom-leisure.co.uk)

- No experience necessary.
- Full coaching throughout the day.
- Please bring a pack lunch & drink.
- All equipment provided.



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### Freedom SEND Youth Club

Structured for those who struggle with large groups and need a little bit more encouragement... concentrating on our individuality.

Run by very dedicated DBS checked volunteers Freedom is our SEN Youth Club on Thursdays 4.30pm - 6pm for primary school aged children (and their siblings)

Our young people enjoy a play together with toys and games they chose the week before.... whilst parents & carers chat and enjoy a cuppa. Tuck Shop is available

[FREEDOM \(SEND\) Primary Youth Club | Facebook](#)

[RUSH 2The DEN | Rushden | Facebook](#)

Rush 2 the Den 16 Fitzwilliam St, Rushden NN10 9YW



### Irthlingborough Library Lego Club

Irthlingborough Library Lego Club. Have fun completing Lego challenges or creating your own masterpieces.

Saturday 20th July 11am to 1pm.

Book at the desk or email [irthlingborough.libraryplus@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:irthlingborough.libraryplus@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Groups not suitable for children under 5 years. Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult.

### Inclusive Swimming at Kettering Swimming Pool

Sundays from 4-5pm. £4 a session and carers go free.

Swimming on a weekly basis for those with disabilities or health conditions for all ages (normal pool ratios apply).

For more information please contact [Wesley.neville@freedom-leisure.co.uk](mailto:Wesley.neville@freedom-leisure.co.uk)

Or telephone 01536 234409

Parking is available in the Cornmarket Hall carpark (free on a Sunday).



### NEW Weekly SEN Club for Children aged 3- 8 years

Introducing our NEW Weekly SEN Club for Children aged 3- 8 years, hosted by [Lightbeam](#), a Community Interest Company—and it's FREE!

Join us after school or on weekends for fun, engaging activities tailored just for our amazing kids! Our activities include sensory circuits, sensory play, arts & crafts, and interactive games—there's something for everyone! While the kids have fun, carers can connect. It's a perfect opportunity to share experiences and support each other.

To register, follow the [Lightbeam](#) Facebook Support Page and message us with the details of the people who want to attend. For more information, contact us at [admin@lightbeamservices.co.uk](mailto:admin@lightbeamservices.co.uk) or visit [LightBeam Support Group | Corby | Facebook](#)

For more fun, free and inclusive activities across the county this summer, head to

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/EZxl6KdU6wBYJNx3?ref=Link>