

Newsletter November



How is it almost December? The weeks are just flying by and school continues to be a busy place full of love and learning. We are always so proud of our children and all that they achieve. They continue to work hard (as do our staff) and I could not ask any more of them.

Collective Worship

Our new value for this term is Respect. The children have looked at the Ten Commandments and discussed why these are still as important today as they were when Moses received them. This has been linked to our British Value of Mutual Respect and to our Anti Bullying Week which is all about choosing respect. We have discussed the fact all children have a choice and they have the power over that choice. We have asked them to choose to show respect to everyone, regardless of their differences.



British Values and Protected Characteristics

The children have now been introduced to the protected characteristics listed below. Every Wednesday, our collective worship is about a British value and a protected characteristic, as well as looking at world events.



The children know that It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of their protected characteristics which are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Spirituality

Spirituality continues to be a focus in school throughout the curriculum. Again, in this newsletter, I have picked out my favourite examples of each of the types of spirituality that the children have experienced.



Window moments – When I look out of my bedroom window I can see my garden. It makes me feel happy and calm.

Mirror moments – I looked deeply into myself and realised I could work on being more kind to others. I am going to try hard to do that.

Door moments – I saw my sister was upset so I tried to cheer her up. We ended up having a lovely day together and I felt so grateful and proud I had helped someone else.

Candle moments – My Nan has died and I feel sad but I imagine her looking down and watching me and it makes me feel happy again.

Courageous advocacy

We are very proud to introduce a brand-new award – the award for courageous advocacy. When using the term 'courageous advocacy' we are referring to the act of speaking out against an issue of injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. Our children show this in the charity work that they undertake. Georgia took part in a tap-a-thon for Children in Need and her dance school raised over £700. Well for being the first person to win this award, Georgia!



Sport and PE



PE Kit

As you are aware we are in the process of changing our PE uniform (from September 2025 it will consist of the school logo navy PE T-shirt, school logo navy PE jumper, navy shorts, navy joggers/leggings and plimsolls/ trainers). However please note the old PE uniform is still permitted to be worn this academic year (white PE t-shirt, royal blue shorts or joggers, sky blue PE jumper and plimsolls/trainers).

Earrings must be removed for PE, and long hair tied back, children need to be able to do this themselves or arrive at school prepared. We are not allowed to put tape over the children's ears.



PE is a valued part of our pupil's education; we thank you for your support in ensuring they are suitably prepared for their physical education.

If you are unsure which days your child will be completing their PE lessons, please contact their class teacher.

School Sports Competitions and Festivals



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, increasing their self-esteem and a desire to continue participating in sport.

We promote our school 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."

Gymnastics

This term we took 10 KS2 pupils to Corby Gymnastics club to compete in a level 2 and level 3 gymnastics competition. The children had attended a few morning practice sessions prior to the competitions to allow them to learn routines to perform in vault, floor and bench. In comparison to previous years, we felt very unprepared going into the competition feeling like we were not as well rehearsed as we would like to be.

The children held their nerve, remembered their routines and performed with control precision. We were delighted that we finished an impressive second place in both the level 2 and level 3 competition, and 1st overall.

If your child is interested in participating in Gymnastics we run morning Dodgeball clubs in school, if they wish to advance their skills there are local gymnastics clubs that they may wish to attend:

Visit www.matrixga.co.uk or www.ketteringgymnasticsclub.co.uk for more information.

Net and Wall Festival

We have also attended two Net and Wall Festivals this term, taking approximately 25 children in years 3/4 and 5/6.

Festival events are non-competitive and so are great for pupils to take part in varying activities that promote a range of skills, the net and wall festival aimed to focus on skills such as tracking and returning a ball, volleying, serving and shuttle runs which are required for sports such as Volleyball, Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis.

Cross Country

Maddie and Ella participated in the next round of their cross-country competition, having both qualified in the top 20 fastest girls for their age group earlier this year.

Both listened well to advice regarding pacing themselves and not setting off too quickly to conserve their energy. Both ran well and finished just outside of the top 20, a few places short of qualifying for the finals.

If your child has expressed an interest in running, I recommend joining Junior Park Run, their organised events are free and take place Saturdays 9am at Wickstead Park.

Please visit www.parkrun.org.uk/kettering for more information and to register your child.

Indoor Athletics

This term we have also attended Year 3/4 and 5/6 Indoor Athletics competitions, allowing opportunity for nearly 50 children to compete and experience athletics.

We competed in Sprint races, hurdles raced, assault course and over under races, relay races, speed bounce, javelin, long jump, triple jump/5 strid, vertical jump and chest push.

It was a fantastic event, and children enjoyed cheering on their peers throughout the morning/afternoon.

We had lot of individual and small team successes gathering points for a number of 1st and 2nd place finishes in the races and scoring high in speed bounce and long jump.

We finished 7th overall in both the ¾ and 5/6 competitions.

If your child has shown an interest in Athletics and would like to receive further coaching Kettering Town Harriers is our local club, and have junior teams for children to compete in.

Please visit www.ktharriers.com for more information.

Forthcoming Competitions

We have begun preparations for forthcoming competitions: Boccia, New Age Kurling, Tag Rugby Finals and Net as well as other have a go competitions.

Sports Clubs

We are committed to providing a variety of sports clubs to children both before and after school; they may change term to term depending on the forthcoming events and weather. Please see below clubs which are currently available to book this term on ParentMail.

Day / Time	Sports Club	Year Groups
Monday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Archery	All Years
Monday PM – 3:15-4:15pm	Karate	Years 1-6
Tuesday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	Dodgeball	Years 4-6
Wednesday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Gymnastics	EYFS & Year 1/2
Thursday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Gymnastics	Years 3-6
Thursday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	Dodgeball	Years 1-3
Friday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Tag Rugby	Years 2-4

Safeguarding

This week, the staff have been thinking about how we can continue to ensure our school is one that is kind and that any friendship issues don't turn into bullying issues. This fits in with the learning that the children have been doing during Anti Bullying week on choosing respect.

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility

More information can be found at <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-abuse-and-neglect/bullying-cyberbullying>

Attendance

At the point of writing this newsletter, the whole school attendance was at 96.4%. This is an improvement on last term, and I hope we can continue to improve as the term goes on. Whilst we would never want a child to come to school feeling poorly, we do ask that where possible, your child does attend school. As mentioned in the last newsletter, missing school can be detrimental to your child's education and life prospects. It is also harder for children to make and maintain friendships if they are not at school regularly.



Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day, two members of Year 6 had the honour of laying the wreath at the Burton Latimer War Memorial. We are so proud of them both and the dignity that they showed on the day.



Social media

We now have an Instagram account for school. If you would like to follow us, we can be found under the name **stmaryscebl**. We will be posting regularly to show you some of the amazing learning that is happening in school.



Anti-Bullying Week 2024

This year's Anti-Bullying Week had the theme of 'choose respect'. We started things off early with a whole school assembly on Friday to think about what it means to be respectful, and how we can show it to others and ourselves. Then on Tuesday we invited everyone to come to school in their odd socks to support Odd Socks Day. Odd Socks Day celebrates and raises awareness of differences, recognising that we are all different, and that is ok!



On Wednesday we were lucky to have a special online assembly from the School of Kindness, to celebrate World Kindness Day. St Mary's is now officially 'a kind school', so we wanted to mark this special day by thinking all about how we can spread more kindness! The assembly helped us to understand why kindness is important, including the role it plays in creating strong, supportive communities. We learnt about what it really means to be kind, how kindness is contagious, the impact kindness has on our physical and mental health and how we can each play our part in creating a kinder world. We were set a special challenge to send a notecard to someone to tell them why we think they are amazing – these were very gratefully received and everyone felt the kindness across the school! The national Kindness Awards also launched this week – do you know someone who deserves an award? Nominate them here:

www.schoolofkindness.org/kindnessawards

At the end of the week we wanted to think about the special people in our lives by celebrating 'Friendship Friday'. We carried on the theme of 'choose respect' by thinking about all the ways we can show respect to our friends.

Thank you to all our school community for showing so much respect and kindness this week.

Children in need sale

Thank you to everyone that bought a cake from our sale. We managed to raise £220 for Children in Need. We have some very lovely cakes made and bought. We are so grateful for your support.



Care of School Books

The school has purchased a large amount of books, to ensure our children have a wider range of phonically decodable books to enjoy. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that some of these books have been returned with water or food damage. We understand that accidents happen, and it is especially easy for water bottles to pop open in book bags which is why we suggest that water bottles are not to be kept in book bags. Recently, we have had some books returned to us damaged (pictured below.) This can result in us not having enough books in school to share with all of the children.

We must ask due to the cost involved in purchasing and then replacing these books for parents/carers to please ensure your children are careful when using the books at home or transporting them to and from school.



Writing to King Charles

After creating the coin challenge art with a King Charles theme, Forgiveness class wrote a letter to tell him all about it.

Dear King Charles,

We are writing to you from St. Mary's CE Primary Academy in Burton Latimer. We are a class of year one and two children, ages five to seven. We want to share something exciting with you. To raise money for our school, we had a coin challenge. We had to bring in any spare coins from our house and then use them to create a picture. In our class we decided to use our coins to create a picture of you. We are all really inspired by you and your strength.

Yours Faithfully,

Forgiveness Class.





PTFA News

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

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk



❖ **Christmas Fair**

- ❖ Come and enjoy the Christmas lights switch on with a festive visit to the school
- ❖ Santa, games, tombola, raffle and more...
- ❖ 29th November

❖ **Asda Cashpots**

- ❖ Asda donate money to schools for anyone who opts into the 'Cashpot for Schools' campaign via the Asda Rewards apps
- ❖ You shop and they donate to the school!

Next Meeting – 13th January, 7pm

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

Following our recent AGM & re-election of committee members, our current chair has confirmed this will be her last term in the role.

If you value the disco's, panto's, Christmas cards, fairs, cinema, chocolate bingo, uniform sales etc & have every considered becoming involved, this is the year to get on board and ensure the future of your PTFA

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)

Individual Support Plans



Your child’s new ISP will be sent out in the week commencing **Monday 25th November 2024**. You will notice that there are some updates to your child’s plan this time around. These include a new box on the One Page Profile for the children to express what they find tricky, a new ‘whole class provisions’ box, which outlines general strategies in place and ‘parent comments’ and ‘pupil comments’ boxes. These boxes contain comments made from parents and pupils during the review meetings. If you have any questions about the contents of your child’s ISP, please talk to the class teacher in the first instance or contact the office to arrange a meeting with myself.

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.

Spotlight on...Mental Health and Wellbeing

This year, we have been given the opportunity to partner with the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST). Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) have been created to offer early intervention, low intensity, mental health support within schools for children and young people with mild to moderate mental health difficulties. Miss Price and Mrs Campbell will be leading this jointly. The MHST will also support the Mental Health Lead in each education setting to introduce and develop their Whole School Approach. The MHST will also offer support and advice to education setting staff to identify the most appropriate services for their need and help liaise with other appropriate services.

Our school has signed up to work with MHST, the MHSTs will be taking referrals via our Mental Health Lead in School (Miss Price and Mrs Campbell), with whom you should discuss any concerns you may have about the emotional health of your child/young person/the children and young people you work with.

There are many things Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) who work with MHST can help with in our school, where needs are more complex, they may need to refer a young person onto another team or service that is better placed to support.

The below table shows the types of presentations EMHPs can help with, things they may be able to help with (with discretion and under close supervision), and things they won’t be able to help with.

MHST can work with: CWPs can work with:	MHST and CWPs may be able to work with (please consult MHST):	MHST and CWPs are unable to work with:
Low mood- behavioural activation	Phobia work	Conduct disorder
Worry management	Early onset of OCD symptoms	Treatment of parental mental health difficulties
Problem solving	When active self-harm is present	Chronic depression
Sleep hygiene	When suicidal thoughts are present	Extensive, long-standing phobias
Graded exposure for anxiety (generalised anxiety, separation anxiety, health anxiety, social anxiety)	Eating problems /using eating as a way of regulating emotions	Severe, active, high risk self-harm
Simple phobias	Controlling behaviours relating to anxiety/emotional dysregulation presentations as NVR may be appropriate	Active suicide ideation
Supporting with self-harm when associated with and the focus of work is on low mood/anxiety		PTSD
Thought challenging		Relationship issues, MHST do not offer counselling
		OCD severe in nature
		Attachment disorders
		Eating disorders
		Assessment of developmental disorders
		Assessment of learning difficulties
		Pain management
		Historical or current experiences of abuse or violence
		Symptoms of psychosis; significant confusion, hallucinations of an auditory or visual nature

Spotlight on...Mental Health and Wellbeing

Referrals to the MHST will be made following the current pathway for emotional health and wellbeing needs for Children and Young People via the Referral Management Centre (RMC). The RMC provides a single point of access for professionals to make referrals into children and young people's specialist community health services. All referrals go via the Mental Health Lead (Miss Price and Mrs Campbell) within school. Referrals can be requested by staff and parents. In order for us to refer into MHST, we will need to gain your consent first of all.

MHST and their EMHPs will predominantly be working 1:1 with children, however they also offer staff training, parent workshops and consultations.

As part of the initial support from MHST, we are conducting audits and questionnaires with staff, pupils and parents to get the perspective of students, staff and parent/carers about the mental health and wellbeing offer at St Mary's C.E. Primary Academy.

To do this, we are asking for your views on our current provision for mental health and wellbeing in school.

In order to submit your views, we ask that you follow the link below to the questionnaire. The MHST will then look at the views submitted by parents (and staff and pupils in school) and will create an action plan to support us moving forwards.

[St Mary's C.E. Primary Academy Parent/Carer: School Mental Health Needs Questionnaire](#)

If you have any questions about the support that MHST can offer or our provision for mental health and wellbeing, please get in touch.



NHS
Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

#weareNHFT



Introducing the
Mental Health
Support Team



MAKING A
DIFFERENCE
FOR YOU,
WITH YOU



NORTH NORTHANTS SEND IASS CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2024

Join the fun and bring your ideas to life! Create a Christmas card that's as magical as the season and spreads joy and cheer!

The 5 competition winners will each receive 25 printed cards of their festive design, a £10 Amazon gift card, and their artwork will be showcased as one of the 5 official SEND IASS Christmas cards for 2024!

To enter, submit your entry by 6PM on Sunday, 24th November 2024, via email at SENDIASS@northnorthants.gov.uk or by post to East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ.

All winners will be contacted by Wednesday, 4th December 2024.

The banner features a group of diverse children, including one in a wheelchair, standing in front of a Christmas tree. A circular logo for 'NORTH NORTHANTS SEND INFORMATION ADVICE SUPPORT SERVICE' is in the top left corner.

NORTH NORTHANTS SEND IASS CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2024 - TERMS & CONDITIONS

Eligibility: Entrants must be aged 25 and under, with one entry per person. Entries can be submitted by young people aged 16 and over, or by a parent/carer, by sending a clear photo of the A4 creation to SENDIASS@northnorthants.gov.uk or by post to SEND IASS, East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston, NN14 4LZ.

Required Information: Include the child's/young person's name and age, as well as the parent/carer's name, email address, and phone number. This information will only be used to contact you if you win.

Winners: There will be 5 winners, contacted by Wednesday, December 4, 2024. Winning designs will be shared on social media from December 16 to 20, 2024.

Prizes: No cash alternatives; prizes are non-transferable. If a winner does not respond within three days, the prize will be forfeited, and another entrant will be selected.

