

Newsletter October

The end of the first term



I cannot believe that we are at the end of the first term already. The last eight weeks have flown by and have been jam packed with learning and fun. The EYFS children have settled in well and the Year 6 children are living up to their responsibility as the role models of the school. We have welcomed even more new children into most year groups and continue to grow as a family.

I pride myself on calling us a family and am so grateful for the parental support that we receive. I would like to politely remind people that the staff of St. Mary's are human too. Whilst we will happily take on board criticism to support making the school a better place, it is unfair to hear it at the school gates or read it on Facebook. If you do have a concern, please contact the school office. Like you, our staff have a right to be treated with respect and dignity at all times.

Collective Worship

We have continued with the value of friendship and looked at several bible stories, both from the old and New Testament. We have looked at what we can learn from the bible stories and linked that to our relationships with family and friends.



British Values and Protected Characteristics

We have focussed on the value of mutual respect this term, linking it closely to the value of friendship. We will be introducing children to what Protected Characteristics are after half term and each Wednesday worship will focus on one characteristic and one British Value.



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

We have continued to collect the ways we experience spirituality in our lives. I have picked out some to share with you.



Window moments – On holiday in Greece, I went to an active volcano and stood in one of its craters. I could smell the sulphur and felt the steam coming out of a slit in the rocks. I couldn't believe that I was inside a volcano! It was humbling to think how amazing our planet is and how small and vulnerable I felt in the rocks.

Mirror moments – I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and did a talent show. It was scary but I found an inner strength to do it. I was so proud of myself afterwards and realised I can do anything!

Door moments – I saw a homeless man outside Tesco in Wellingborough. I asked him if he needed anything and he said just a chocolate bar. I bought him the biggest chocolate bar I could find. He was so grateful, and it made me feel sad such a small thing brought him so much joy. It made me reflect on the needs of others and how lucky I am.

Candle moments – When I was doing my gymnastics competition, I felt like my uncle who had passed away was there watching me.

Values crew

We now have a Values Crew in place to support with Collective Worship and ensure that our Christian ethos is highlighted in everything we do in school and celebrating the other religions we have in our school community. Well done to those children who have gained a place on the values crew.

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, 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."

Cross Country

This term we attended Cross Country competition in which 26 children from years 3-6 participated in their age-appropriate races. For many this was their first experience at cross country/endurance running. The event was a great experience, and we were extremely proud of the children's efforts and determination, especially those that found it challenging but still persevered and completed the course.

Two children from year 5/6 successfully qualified for the school's county finals later on in the year. There are no finals/progressions for children in years 3/4 however we have successfully identified some running talents that we were previously unaware of.

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 Wicksteed Park.

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

Tag Rugby

Last week we took 10 children to take part in a Year 3/4 Tag Rugby competition.

Having only being able to facilitate one practice session ahead of the competition we were unsure what to expect. The children were fantastic, and notable learnt and improved with each game and showcased their speed and agility which helped in both attacking and defending.

Overall, we finished third and qualified for the school games finals later in the year.

We will be running a Tag Rugby morning club to allow for pupils to continue playing and practicing. If your child is interested in joining a Tag Rugby team, Kettering Rugby Football Club is your local club and have training/teams from under 6's to adults.

Visit www.ketteringrugby.com for more information.

Forthcoming Competitions

We have begun preparations for forthcoming competitions: Indoor Athletics, Gymnastics, Boccia Net and Wall Festival and Invasion Festival.

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 will continue/start after half term. There isn't going to be any football on a Friday afternoon, Indoor Athletics is replaced with Tag Rugby and karate is likely to continue but may change day. We will let you know details when possible. When available to book on ParentMail you will receive an email.

Day / Time	Sports Club	Year Groups
Monday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Archery	All Years
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

Mural

Back in July, every child in school helped to create a beautiful mural that has taken pride of place in our Prayer and Reflection Garden. We have asked the Bishop to come and bless it for us and then we will have an official opening for the children. Below is a picture of our mural. We have incorporated many different images to show who we are as a school. We have the school building, the church, the A14, the lamb of God, a bee for our Ivy bees who are a protected species and live in the mound in the playground, the dove of peace, farms and fields and our school vision.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility

This week, the staff and children have been looking at what mental health means. It was felt as it was World Mental Health Week it would be a good time to stop and think about the mental wellbeing of staff and pupils alike. As a staffing team, we have looked at the risks that may cause ill mental health and the protective factors around that may help someone who is struggling with their own mental health. I hope this information will be of help to you.

Risk and protective factors

Individual	Family
Risk factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)• LGBTQIA+• Looked after children• Body image• Drugs and alcohol• Social media use	Risk factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse (including neglect)• Mental and physical health• Substance abuse• Parental consistency and support• Poverty/socio-economic status• Being a young carer
Protective factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive coping strategies• Healthy self-esteem• Interests and hobbies	Protective factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supportive relationships• Validation• Autonomy• Security

Risk and protective factors

Community	Learning environment
Risk factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insecurity and deprivation• Lack of support networks• Lack of opportunities such as sports or hobbies	Risk factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-attendance• Academic and exam pressures• Bullying or discrimination• Lack of positive friendships• Peer pressure• Poor pupil-to-teacher relationships
Protective factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong community and support• Acceptance• Belonging• Physical and psychological safety	Protective factors <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Having a trusted adult• Emotional literacy skills• A peer network• Problem-solving skills

European languages day

This term our children have been celebrating European Languages Day. We had a fantastic afternoon recognising and sharing our many cultures in Europe and further afield.



All of our children spent time understanding what European Languages Day is all about and then we had tailored activities to explore Europe and specifically France, as we teach French in key stage two.

In EYFS, Letty and Aiden read French stories to the children where they could call out responses. The children loved this. It was followed by the opportunity to finger paint "Sunday Afternoon" by Georges Seurat. The children were fascinated by the fact a lady was walking a small monkey in the park!

Year 1 and 2 got active singing and acting to 'Tête épaule, genoux, pieds' (Head, shoulder, knees and toes) Our children enjoyed pronouncing the French lyrics sometimes correcting their teachers! They finished their afternoon learning about the French artist, Henri Matisse and drawing "The Cat and the Red Fish". We have some exceptional artists blooming in year 1 and 2! C'est magnifique!

In Key stage 2 we already have French lessons, and we put those to good use, playing French themed sports in P.E. and writing about French tourist attractions and how to get there on French transport. Year 5 and 6 finished their afternoon recreating 'A Starry Night' by Vincent Van Gogh whilst years 3 and 4 read French stories to each other.

It is our first time recognising European Languages Day and it was a huge success!

Year 5 trip to Peterborough Cathedral

This term saw Year 5 children visit Peterborough Cathedral. The weather held up and we enjoyed a visit to the magnificent cathedral. All the children were in awe of the architecture but also the choir that sang songs we sometimes only hear on TV! Our children were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the service. It was a joy to see our children so enthralled.



Kindness Ambassadors

September and October have been a busy couple of months for our new intake of Kindness Ambassadors!

We started by taking part in the NSPCC Kindness challenge, where we challenged all classes to come up with as many ideas as possible to help create a kind classroom. There were so many great ideas! From this we will be creating something very special – watch this space to find out more!



Last week we celebrated World Mental Health day by holding a poster competition. The brief was to design a poster showing 'something that makes you happy', but with a twist – it had to have a yellow theme! This was to recognise the #helloyellow initiative from Young Minds, aiming to increase awareness of young people's mental health, create conversations, and encourage togetherness, to show our children that they are not alone.

This week, children from KS1 and KS2 had an online Kindness Workshop from the charity 52 Lives (www.52-lives.org) and their School of Kindness! We learned that kindness has three qualities – being friendly, generous and considerate. We learnt about the science of kindness and the positive impact it has on our physical and mental health. Next, we practised empathy by watching videos of kindness in action and then said kind things to each other in the classroom. To put our kindness into action, we thought of someone we knew who could do with a little kindness. We then made them something in our classrooms and plan to give it to them this week. Finally, we looked at the quote 'Be the change that you want to see in the world' and decided that **we** can help to create the kind of world we want to live in. The School of Kindness has a Kids' Club which is free to join where you will get a free newsletter with kind challenges, stories, activities, jokes, competitions and videos to watch.

Just visit www.schoolofkindness.org/kids-club to sign up. The children and teachers have all given fantastic feedback from the workshops and we hope it has inspired everyone to go and spread the kindness!

We have also had our first of two zoom meetings this term with the School of Kindness, who are supporting our Kindness Ambassadors to develop projects that will continue to spread kindness across our school. In this meeting we met up with other schools from across the country and shared all our exciting ideas. We are looking forward to putting these into action over the next few weeks!

Even more excitingly, we are currently working to become an official 52 Lives 'Kind School'! We already know all our staff and children show so much kindness each and every day – we will soon have the official stamp to prove it! Watch this space!

The kindness does not stop here! November is St Mary's Month of Kindness, so expect a lot more to come! We are looking forward to celebrating, among others; Anti-Bullying Week (11-15th November); wearing our odd socks on Odd Sock Day (12th November) and creating something special for World Kindness Day (13th November). Thank you to all our staff, children and parents for supporting us in spreading the kindness.

St Mary's Kindness Ambassadors.

"Be the change that you want to see in the world"

Mahatma Ghandi

Swimming

We have had several parents express that they do not want their children to go to the swimming sessions that school provide. Swimming is a statutory part of the curriculum and schools have a duty to ensure that all children can swim 25 metres and perform self-rescue should they need to. Telling school that you do not want your child to go to these swimming sessions is the same as saying you do not want your child to learn science. Schools must report each year how many of the year 6 children can swim. I am hoping that this information will explain to parents why children need to go to swimming lessons.



Attendance

At the point of writing this newsletter, the whole school attendance was at 94.8%. This is below the National Average for this time of year. Missing school can be detrimental to your child's education and future prospects. Children who miss fewer days become better readers and have a higher chance of achieving higher grades at GCSE level. Whilst we would never want any child to come to school feeling poorly, we must acknowledge the impact it has when a child misses too much school.



- A child who is absent a day of school per week, misses an equivalent of two years of their school life.
- 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all.
- poor school attendance is also closely associated with crime - a quarter of school age offenders have truanted repeatedly

GCSEs may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning. This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.

Welcome to our new governors



We are very lucky to announce that we have two new parent governors, Claire Bambridge (Sienna's Mum) and Yasmin Santoriello (mum to William, Oscar and Talula). I want to take this opportunity to thank Mel Dickerson (Letty's Mum) and Laura Hughes (Elliot's mum) for their hard work and dedication for the last four years. You have been fantastic parent governors and we are very grateful to you both.

Claire and Yasmin have both kindly written a few sentences to introduce themselves.



My name is Claire Bambridge and I am also a new parent to the school, with my eldest daughter having started her journey in EYFS this year.

With a background in teaching and primary education, I bring a deep understanding of the education system. My aim is to utilise my knowledge, skills and experience from teaching across the primary phase, to this privileged and responsible role.

I have a strong and vested interest in the well-being, development and success of *all* our children. I am passionate about ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive academically and personally, in a supportive, inclusive and enriching environment. I believe it's crucial that children develop a life-long excitement for learning and have many enjoyable and memorable experiences of their time here at St Mary's.

In my role as Parent Governor, I will offer a parental perspective on matters being discussed, supporting the school in continually raising standards and to make a positive and meaningful impact for the benefit of our children, parents, staff and the wider community over the coming years.



Hello my name is Yasmin. I have 3 children who attend St Mary's at the moment. I am very grateful for this incredible opportunity. I look forward to working together as a team to ensure that the children receive an excellent education.

Improving childrens' school experience and education is extremely important to me. I have already been part of the St Mary's family for 6 years, and by the time my youngest leaves it will have been 16 years! I am a highly driven person and very organised. We attend church and will happily support the school's Christian ethos.

School Nurse Coffee Morning – Tuesday 12th November 2024

Two members of the School Nursing Team will be here at St Mary's on 12th November 2024 between 9am and 11am to provide opportunities for parents/carers to visit with us within school in the form of a drop in coffee morning. This is a group session, but they can offer parents the opportunity to speak to them 1:1 for more sensitive topics if required. Please note, they do not cover medical issues in place of seeking GP support, but they can signpost to other services when needed.

The nurses can provide advice and support with sleep, toileting/continence, healthy lifestyle advice, wellbeing/emotions and behaviour, amongst other non-medical issues parents face. It also allows parents the chance to talk to them about any of these topics and answer any questions they may have about their service without the need for a formal referral in place.

Please come and join us for this event. It will be a good opportunity to discuss any worries you may have, in a more informal setting. There will also be members of the school pastoral team present who will be happy to chat with you about any support we can offer in school. Entry will be through reception – we look forward to seeing you.

PTFA

PTFA News



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

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk



❖ **Wreath making workshop**

- ❖ Come and join us for some festive cheer, making your own Christmas Wreath or Centre piece
- ❖ 24th November 7-9pm
- ❖ Bookings can be made via the ticketsource link: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/smptfa>

❖ **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
- ❖ Volunteers to help run this event welcome - please contact the PTFA if you can spare any time

❖ **Christmas Card Shop**

- ❖ Will open again 15th – 25th November for any last minute orders, which we hope will arrive before Christmas

❖ **Break the rules mufti**

- ❖ 15th November
- ❖ More details to follow...

❖ **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 – 18th November 7pm to include AGM

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

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

Thank you for your continued engagement with our ISP review meetings this half term. It has been great to meet with so many of you to discuss what is working well and the progress your children are making towards their targets. These reviews will then inform your child's next ISP which will be sent home the week commencing **Monday 25th November 2024**.

Parent's Evening

Next half term we will be holding our Parent's Evening sessions. This time around, I will be offering SEND sessions, which will be bookable for one of the evenings and will be on a first come first serve basis. These sessions are completely voluntary and are for if you have any concerns or require any further support or referrals, which were not discussed at the ISP review meeting. More information will be sent out about this in due course.

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...Local Services

There are a number of services, events and activities in the local area to support families with children who have additional needs. For more information about local service available, please head to [North Northamptonshire October 2024 Stay Connected \(cloud.microsoft\)](#)

SHOUT – Mental health text support for free

Shout has now been launched in Northamptonshire – anyone in Northamptonshire can text the word 'IMATTER' to 85258 to be connected to a trained Shout Volunteer. The service is open to all – adults and children, 24/7, and can help with issues such as anxiety, stress, loneliness, depression, and suicidal thoughts. The conversation, which takes place entirely by text message, aims to help the texter reach a calmer place with a plan to move forward. It will also signpost them to further support available locally.



How are we learning Maths? Supporting SEND learners at home.

Join the online webinar, led by a SEND specialist maths tutor, to learn techniques that support SEND children with their maths skills outside of school. Each session will have a different theme and there will be a chance to ask questions too. **Thursday 24 October SEND session – Focus on Time. 6pm to 6.45pm.**

Session will take place on Zoom. Links will be emailed once registration is complete.

Complete the booking form to register: if you can't scan the QR code please email multiply@northampton.ac.uk

Chester House SEND Halloween Passports - Saturday 26th October - Thursday 31st October 2024 9:30am-11am Every Day

This year, [The Chester House Estate HALLOWEEN](#) half term event is coming to you with a **TWIST**... the half term week will be packed full of fun with lots of different activities for all the family to enjoy! Everyday throughout the half term, they will be running their very popular activity of Pumpkin **PAINTING** and **CARVING**, and every morning the session will be smaller to accommodate **SEND** needs. Then take part in their **brand new** experience of a **GIANT** scarecrow hunt! Dust off your best Halloween costumes ready for our daily costume contests.

Halloween Activities Passport Includes:

Choose your favourite pumpkin, carve the best jack o lantern at our carving station with help from our friendly team, paint your best design at our pumpkin decorating station, hunt the estate for scarecrows in our giant scarecrow trail, wear your best costume and enter our daily competition. Enjoy ALL of this for £6.99 per passport. Each passport includes 1 pumpkin, a pass must be purchased for all guests that would like a pumpkin. Accompanying guests that don't need a pumpkin are FREE. Please note that any additional activities that are going on throughout the week will need an additional ticket, details of which events we are holding and tickets for these can be found on their website.

Chester House Estate, Irchester, Wellingborough, NN8 2DH



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Free Autism Kids Club

Starts 22nd October at the Victoria Centre, Palk Road, Wellingborough. Every Tuesday 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Reserve Your Spot for children aged 5 -8 years. We're excited to invite you and your children to a fun and engaging hour of games and activities to support and enhance social and communication skills.

This event provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to interact in a friendly and fun environment, promoting their development in a supportive setting. This will be a great chance for you to connect with other parents who share the unique experiences of raising a child with autism. We'd like to encourage you to take this time to mingle, share insights, and build connections with others who understand your journey. In addition, we will have a designated area with valuable information about local autism support services and activities. We look forward to seeing you there and creating a positive and useful experience for both you and your children.

Scan the QR code on the poster or visit [Autism Kids Club Tickets, Tue 22 Oct 2024 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)

No adult ticket just one for the child is required but a parent/carer must attend with the child.



Wellingborough Library SEN Play Session

This is a group for parents/carers with children who have SEN (diagnosed or not) a great opportunity for children to explore crafts, activities and socialise with others to support their learning and development.

There are a maximum of 10 places per session, so booking is essential.

To book email wellingborough.libraryplus@northnorthants.gov.uk or pop into the library.

[Wellingborough Library](#) | [Wellingborough](#) | [Facebook](#)
Wellingborough Library, Pebble Lane, Wellingborough

Join the Super 1s

All disabilities welcome. Open for ages 8 to 25. Challenge yourself, be more active, improve your skills and make new friends. Free inclusive cricket sessions. When: Wednesdays 5.15pm to 6.15pm

(From 4 September to 27 November 2024) Where: Tresham College (Sports Hall) Windmill Avenue, Kettering, NN15 6ER. Please contact: Pratik Rachh Pratik.rachh@nccc.co.uk



SWIMMING

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

Or telephone 01536 234409

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

SEN sessions @ Corby East Midlands International Pool

The Saturday SEN session is held outside of our normal opening hours to the public, this will allow a more relaxed and less hectic environment for individuals to come along and enjoy a fun swimming session with their family. The session will take place in the 20m pool by the window, which is a warmer pool sitting at around 30degrees, the Aqua Tube and Pirate Pool will also be available as and when required during the session. All bookings must be made via Corby Pool's reception desk, pre booking your session in advance is always recommended as our pools operate on a maximum bather load and we staff accordingly. The session times are 17:30-18:45. If you require further information about the session, please don't hesitate to get in touch via email; corbyswimmingpool@northnorthants.gov.uk or 01536 464643. Normal Charges Apply.

Saturday 2nd November 24 and Saturday 7th December 24

