



Welcome!



Welcome to Our Termly Newsletter

We are delighted to share all the wonderful things our children have been learning and experiencing this term. From exciting events to proud achievements, there's so much to celebrate. We have included a contents page to help you easily find the stories and updates that matter most to your family. Happy reading!

CONTENTS

PAGE	
2	Letter from Mrs Reynolds
3	Positive Behaviour, Positive Learning
4	Collective Worship - Justice
5	Attendance Matters
6	Safeguarding
7	Sunshine Room
8	EYFS
10	Yr 1/2
11	Yr 3/4
12	Yr 5/6
13	Outside School Achievements

PAGE	
14	Reading Targets
15	Maths ~ 144 Club
16	Values Crew
18	Kindness Ambassadors
19	Eco Warriors
20	Gardening Club
21	School Council
22	Celebrating Sport
25	Volunteers needed

Welcome to our school family from Mrs Reynolds - School Principal



*Welcome Back!
It has been a
wonderful start to
the new school year,
and I would like to*

*extend a very warm welcome to all of
our pupils, families and staff.*

*It has been fantastic to see the
children returning to school with
such enthusiasm, positivity and a
readiness to learn. The classrooms
and corridors have quickly come alive
with smiling faces, exciting learning
and the sense of community that
makes our school such a special
place.*

*As we begin another busy year
together, our focus remains on
ensuring that every child feels
happy, safe and supported while
achieving their very best. We have
already been incredibly impressed by
the way pupils have settled into
routines, demonstrated excellent
manners and embraced our high
expectations. Their positive attitude
towards learning has been a real
credit to themselves and their
families.*

*This year, we continue to build on our
core school values of **Be Ready, Be
Respectful and Be Safe**. These simple
principles underpin all that we do and
help create a calm, purposeful
environment where everyone can
thrive. We are also continuing to
strengthen our behaviour systems to
ensure consistency across the school
and to support children in taking
responsibility for their choices, helping
them develop the skills and character
they will need throughout their lives.*

*There is much to look forward to this
term, with exciting learning
opportunities, enrichment activities,
educational visits and special events
already planned. We look forward to
working closely with you throughout
the year and would like to thank all
parents and carers for your continued
support. The strong partnership
between home and school plays a vital
role in every child's success.*

*I wish all of our children and families a
happy, successful and enjoyable term
ahead.*

*Mrs Reynolds
Headteacher*

Positive Behaviour, Positive Learning

At our school, we are always looking for ways to help every child thrive. This term, we have taken steps to strengthen and refine our behaviour systems to ensure that all children can learn, play and grow in a calm, safe and respectful environment.

Importantly, our expectations remain the same. We continue to follow our three simple school rules:

Be Ready. Be Respectful. Be Safe.

To help children take even greater ownership of their choices, we have introduced a Behaviour Charter. This charter has been created with our pupils and clearly sets out the behaviours that help everyone succeed. By encouraging children to reflect on and understand their choices, we are helping them develop important life skills such as responsibility, self-discipline and respect for others.

You may have noticed that we are also placing a greater emphasis on how we move around school. Children are being encouraged to demonstrate "wonderful walking" by moving smartly, safely and sensibly through corridors and shared spaces. This helps create a calm atmosphere and ensures everyone can get to where they need to be safely.

*In the classroom, pupils are continuing to develop excellent learning habits. We encourage children to show respect by tracking the person who is speaking, listening carefully and engaging fully in lessons. They are also demonstrating fantastic learning behaviours through **STAR** or **SLANT** sitting positions, which help maximise focus, attention and participation.*

At lunchtime, we have introduced a brief period of three to five minutes of quiet eating at the beginning of lunch. This allows everyone to settle, enjoy their food calmly and ensures that all pupils have the opportunity to eat comfortably. After this short period, children are encouraged to chat and enjoy social time with their friends as normal.

As part of our commitment to providing a broad and ambitious curriculum, we have made a small adjustment to the lunchtime arrangements for our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, reducing lunchtime by 10 minutes. This change remains fully in line with Department for Education guidance and ensures that we can maximise teaching and learning time across the week. The additional curriculum time allows us to give greater focus to key subjects, enrichment opportunities and the wider curriculum, while still providing pupils with sufficient time to eat, socialise and enjoy outdoor play. We have been pleased with how positively our older pupils have adapted to this change and the mature way they continue to manage their lunchtimes.

We are incredibly proud of how well our pupils have responded to these refinements. Their positive attitudes, excellent manners and commitment to our school values continue to make our school a happy and successful place to learn.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to help all children become respectful, responsible and confident members of our school community.

Celebrating the Value of Friendship Through Collective Worship

This term, our Collective Worship sessions have focused on the important value of Friendship. Throughout the term, children have explored what it means to be a good friend, how we can support one another, and why strong friendships help our school community to thrive.

Through stories, discussions, reflections and prayer, pupils have considered the qualities that make a great friend, including kindness, honesty, respect and forgiveness. They have thought carefully about how their words and actions can help others feel valued and included.

The children have impressed us with their thoughtful contributions during worship, sharing examples of friendship both in school and beyond. Many pupils reflected on the importance of welcoming others, showing compassion when someone is feeling upset, and celebrating each other's successes.

As a school, we are proud of the way our children demonstrate friendship every day through their kindness, teamwork and support for one another. By living out this value, they help make our school a happy, caring and inclusive place for everyone.



Well done to all our pupils for showing such wonderful examples of friendship throughout the term. We look forward to continuing to build on this important value as the year progresses. 🌟👉💙



Attendance Matters

The Importance of Attendance and Being on Time for School

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for every child's success at school. Every school day is carefully planned to support children's learning, confidence and wellbeing. When children miss school or arrive late, they miss valuable learning time that cannot easily be replaced.

Working Together

We understand that occasional illness is unavoidable. However, wherever possible, children should attend school every day and arrive on time, ready to learn. Establishing good routines—such as preparing school bags the night before and having a consistent bedtime—can make mornings smoother and less stressful.

By ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time, we are giving them the very best opportunity to succeed.

Together, we can make every minute count.

Class	Present: Marks (%)
Kindness	98.42%
Friendship	97.56%
Justice	97.45%
Respect	97.25%
Hope	96.75%
Peace	96.61%
Perseverance	96.41%
Trust	94.50%
Acceptance	96.27%
Wisdom	95.49%
Forgiveness	94.64%



Winning class for this term:
Kindness 98.42%

Safeguarding

Online Safety: A Shared Responsibility

As a school, one of the biggest causes of safeguarding concerns we deal with now originates online. Whilst technology offers many benefits, children can sometimes be exposed to risks through social media, online games, messaging apps and video-sharing platforms.

A particular concern is the use of WhatsApp and similar messaging apps by primary-aged children. These platforms have a minimum age requirement of 13, yet we are increasingly dealing with issues arising from group chats. Concerns include children using inappropriate or unkind language, excluding others from groups, sharing upsetting messages, and adding people they do not know to chats. These situations can quickly escalate and often spill into school, affecting friendships, wellbeing and learning.

Common online safety concerns include:

- Access to age-inappropriate content.
- Unkind or hurtful online behaviour.
- Contact from strangers.
- Sharing personal information.
- Being added to or participating in group chats with people they do not know.
- Exposure to harmful or upsetting content.



How Parents Can Help

- Know which apps, games and websites your child is using.
- Check age ratings before allowing access.
- Regularly monitor group chats and online interactions.
- Keep devices in family areas where possible.
- Use parental controls on devices and home broadband.
- Have regular conversations about staying safe online.
- Encourage your child to tell you if anything online worries them.

The most effective online safety tool is an open and supportive conversation. By working together, we can help children enjoy the benefits of technology while staying safe and treating others with kindness and respect online.

If you would like advice or support regarding online safety, please speak to a member of staff. Together, we can ensure our children are safe, responsible and confident digital citizens.

Sunshine Room

Our amazing Sunshine children have loved 'The Colour Monster' story this week. Thinking about our emotions and feelings. We particularly enjoyed colour mixing with paint, spinning monsters around the room and thinking about the meaning of the colours. Mrs Bolton's favourite is yellow because he is super happy and the colour of Sunshine!



A Wonderful Start to EYFS!

What a fantastic start to the year our EYFS children have had! We are so proud of how well the children have settled into school life and embraced all the exciting opportunities that Early Years has to offer. They have quickly become familiar with our daily routines and expectations, and our classrooms have been filled with laughter, curiosity and lots of lovely learning!

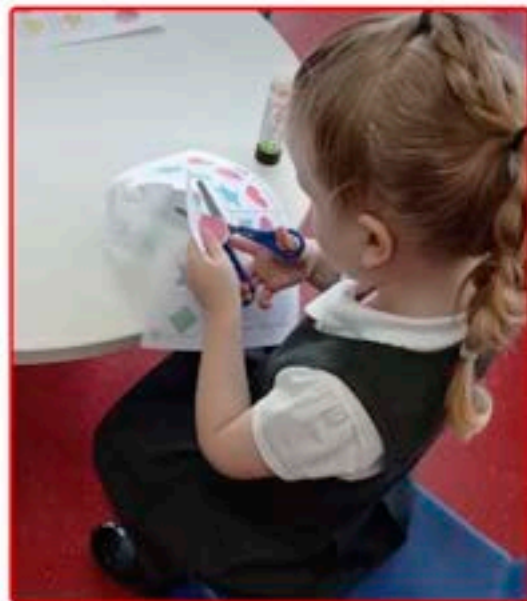


The children have been busy exploring our provision, discovering new interests and developing their independence through play. A particularly exciting milestone has been beginning their journey into reading through our daily phonics sessions. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence as they learn new sounds and begin to apply these to their early reading.



We have also been learning all about our emotions, exploring how we might feel when we are happy, sad or angry and developing strategies to help us manage these feelings. Alongside this, we have been strengthening our fine motor skills through a range of fun, hands-on activities to help prepare our little hands for writing.

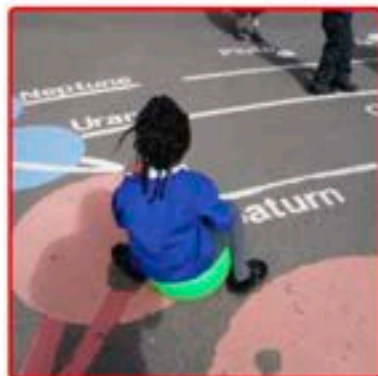
EYFS



Our outdoor learning has provided some wonderful experiences too! From creating beautiful leaf prints to combining maths with nature, the children have enjoyed discovering what can be found in the world around them. During our nature scavenger hunts, we collected natural treasures and used them to sort, group and compare objects, developing our mathematical thinking in a practical and exciting way.

Perhaps most importantly, it has been lovely to watch new friendships blossom. The children are becoming increasingly confident in their play, communicating with one another, sharing ideas and learning how to work together. Seeing them grow in confidence, independence and happiness has been a real highlight of the term.

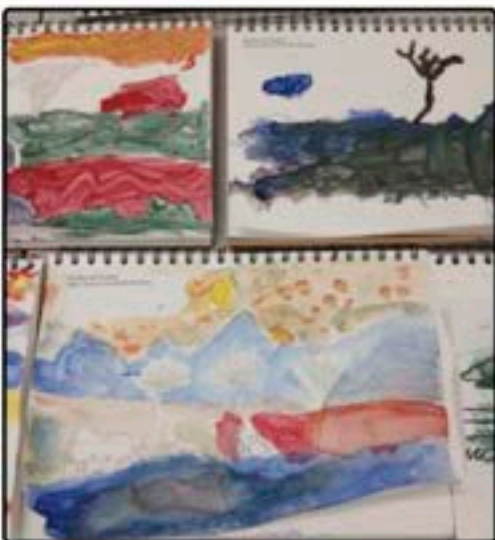
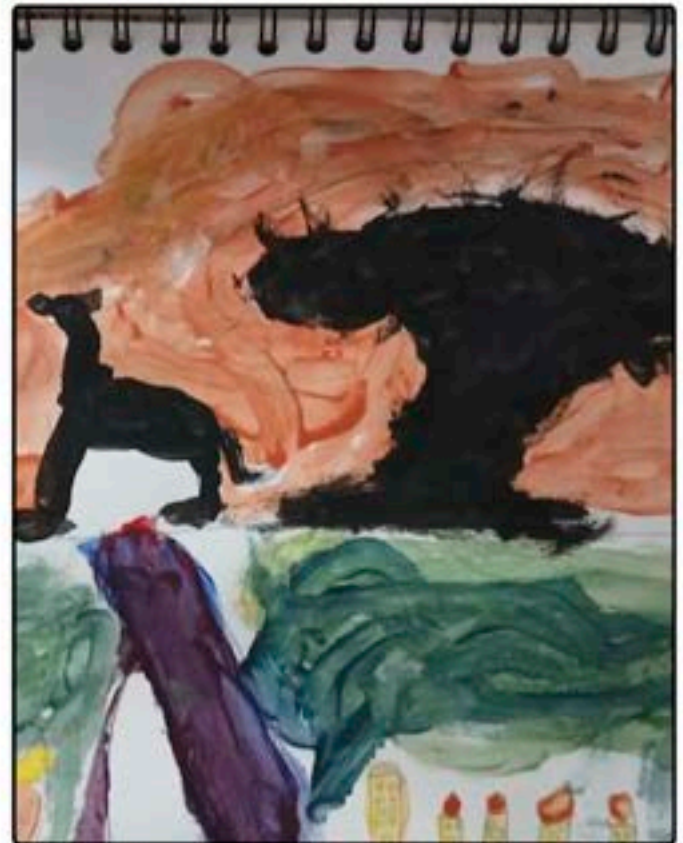
We are incredibly proud of how far our EYFS children have come already and look forward to seeing their confidence continue to grow as they embark on the next part of their Reception journey. What a wonderful start!



Year 1/2

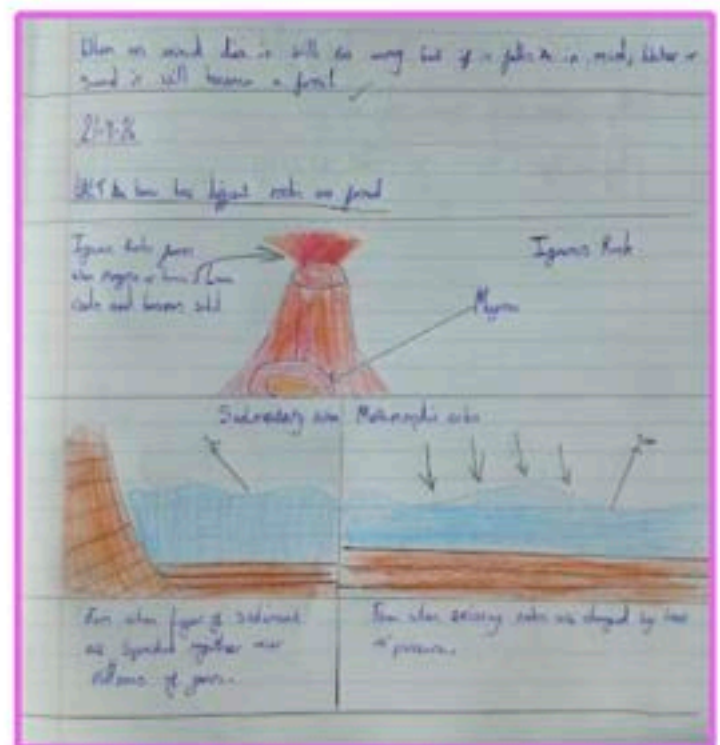
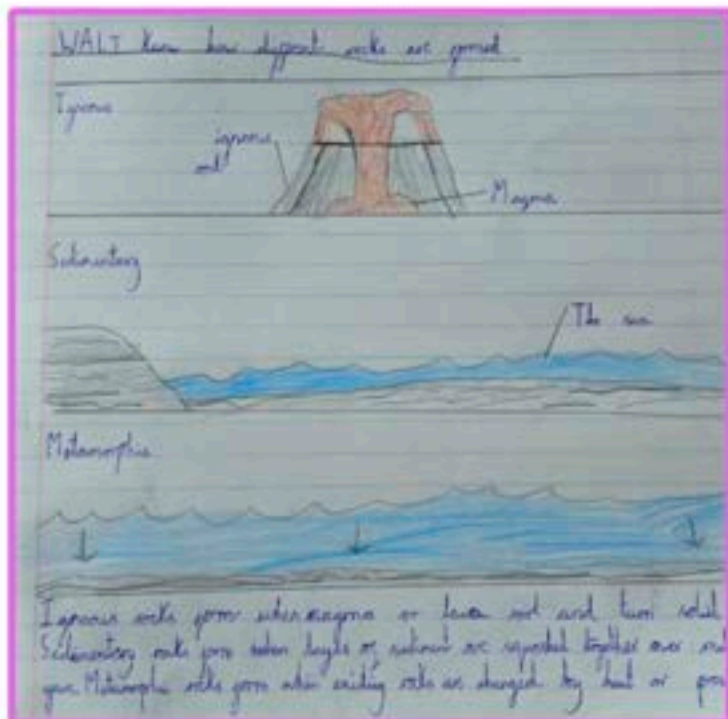


Year 1 and 2 have been working super hard on their art skills this term. We have been exploring African landscapes. We looked at the artists Van Gogh and Isabel De Roux. We then created our own pieces of art work.



Year 3/4

Year 3 and 4 have been learning all about rocks and fossils. The children have loved sharing their discoveries and identifying what rocks they have found! We have been so impressed with their diagrams and labelling too!



We know that:

Sedimentary rocks form in layers over time as tiny pieces of other rocks, minerals, and organic material are compacted and cemented together.

Igneous rocks are created when molten magma or lava cools and solidifies, forming strong, crystal-rich rocks.

Metamorphic rocks begin as existing rocks that are transformed deep underground by intense heat and pressure into something new.

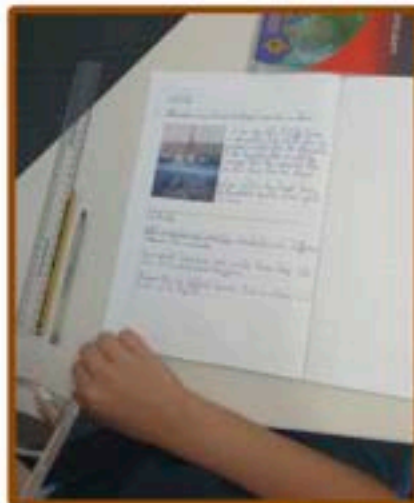
Year 5/6

The children have had great fun exploring maps during their current geography unit. They have been learning all about the human and physical features of Paris and then compared the city with London.



Some of the children had the opportunity to complete their bikeability course. They were able to go out in the community to practice how to signal and safely take a u-turn. Congratulations to all the children who took part.

They were particularly astounded when they found out that London has a population of 9.1 million compared to Paris with a population of 2.1 million.



Outside School Achievements

Well done Scarlett for your and thank you for sharing your achievements with us.

Peter Pan pantomime



I previously auditioned for beauty and the beast at the derngate but didn't get in. I then auditioned for Peter Pan at the Lighthouse Theatre in Kettering.

There was roughly 80 people auditioning for 16 roles. We practised a dance routine by Lady Gaga and I had to use expressions like the lost boys. A week later we found out I had got in, in team tinks team of the lost boys. I have to do 18 shows in December.

County Netball

We did lots of matches for county trials over 2 separate trials. In the 2nd trial I played against people that got into the county last year and I worked so hard. About a week later we got an e-mail saying I had made it through. I was so happy, proud and excited.



Reading Targets

Children have been encouraged to read regularly throughout the first half of the autumn term, and it has been wonderful to see the positive impact this is having across the school.

Our reading data shows some fantastic results, with **Hope** achieving an average of **5.8 reads per week**, followed by **Kindness** with **5.5** and **Perseverance** with **5.2**. These results reflect the children's growing enthusiasm for reading and the commitment of families in supporting reading at home.



Did you know....

Just 10 minutes of reading a day can make a real difference! Regular reading helps children to develop their vocabulary, improve their fluency, strengthen their comprehension and build confidence as readers. Over time, these small daily moments add up to significant progress, while also giving children the opportunity to discover new worlds, ideas and stories.



Thank you for your continued support in encouraging children to read regularly at home. By working together, we can continue to develop confident, enthusiastic readers and nurture a love of reading that will last a lifetime!





Who will be lifting
the TTRS trophy
next?



We are delighted to see so many of our children becoming members of the 144 Club! This special club celebrates children who are working hard to develop their times tables knowledge and build confidence in their maths.

We are delighted to see so many of our children becoming members of the 144 Club! This special club celebrates children who are working hard to develop their times tables knowledge and build confidence in their maths.

The 144 Club has four levels of achievement: **Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum (Masters)**. To achieve each level, children are challenged to answer a range of times tables questions within five minutes, with the questions presented in a mixed order. This encourages children to develop quick, secure recall and become increasingly fluent with their multiplication facts.

A huge well done to our Platinum 144 Club members, who have demonstrated fantastic dedication and commitment to their times tables practice!

- **Wisdom: Letty and Esme**
- **Justice: Mason**
- **Respect: Isla, Jordel, Rory, Oscar and Abbie**
- **Trust: Daniel**

We are incredibly proud of all our children who are working towards their next award. Keep practising - your hard work is paying off!

Alongside the 144 Club, we have also been building excitement around Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) through our weekly inter-class competitions. Each week, classes compete to win the trophy by demonstrating the highest levels of participation and practice. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm growing as children challenge themselves and support their classes.

A special congratulations goes to: **Justice**

They are currently leading the way and are our winners so far this term! **Joshua, Toby and Mason** have been fantastic role models for their class, helping to drive participation and showing just how valuable regular practice can be. **Well done, Justice!**

We are keen to encourage all children to make the most of Times Tables Rock Stars, both in school and at home. Even a few minutes of regular practice can make a real difference to children's speed, accuracy and confidence. We would love parents and carers to support us by encouraging children to log in and practise at home as often as possible.

Thank you for helping us make times tables practice fun, engaging and rewarding.

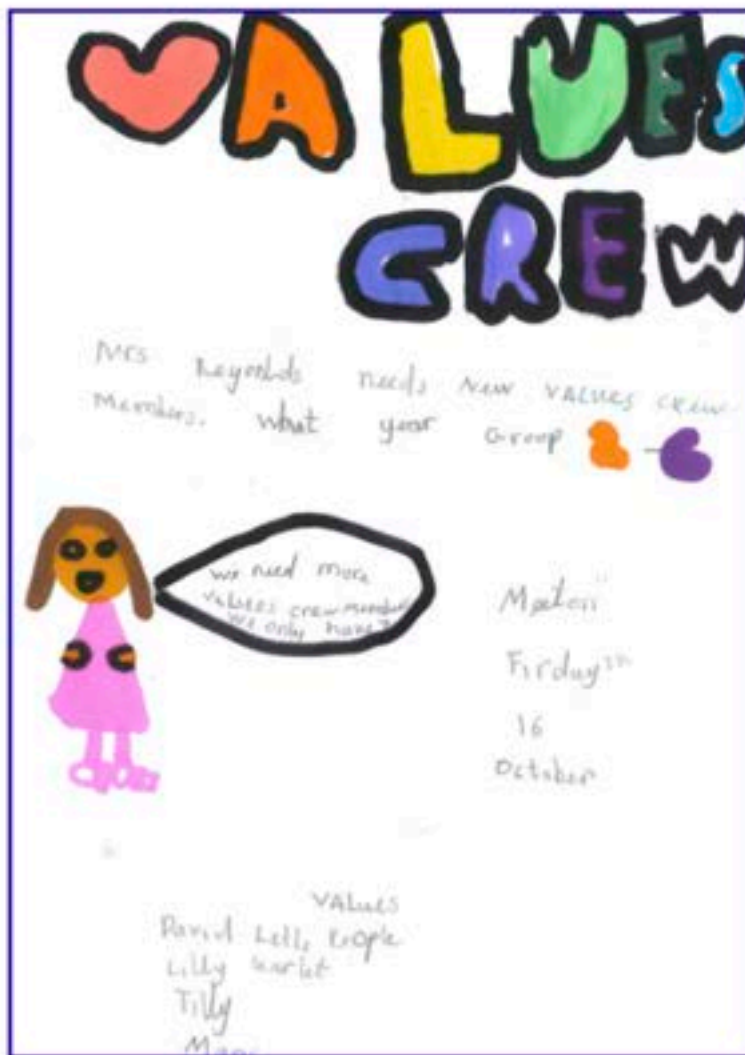
$3 \times 7 = 21$

$4 \times 10 = 40$

$2 \times 5 = 10$

$6 \times 8 = 48$

Values Crew



Values Crew Making a Difference

Our Values Crew have been working incredibly hard over the past few weeks as they prepare to welcome new members to their team.

The group has taken a leading role in promoting the Values Crew across the school, designing eye-catching posters and speaking to other children about the many benefits of getting involved. Their enthusiasm and passion for our school values have encouraged lots of pupils to express an interest in joining.



As part of the recruitment process, the children have carefully thought about what qualities make a great Values Crew member and have created some thoughtful interview questions for applicants. They are looking forward to meeting with interested pupils and helping to select the next group of representatives.

Values Crew



The Values Crew have also begun working alongside Mrs Reynolds to plan collective worship for next term, focusing on our school value of Respect.

The children have shared some fantastic ideas and are already showing great leadership skills as they help shape worship experiences for the whole school community.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, teamwork and responsibility shown by our Values Crew. Their commitment to promoting our school values continues to make a positive difference across the school.

Well done, everyone! 🌟🌟

VALUES CREW...

We need YOU... to join us.

Year 2, 3/4 & 5/6 only.

★ If you would like to join, come and find, ★
Maisy Elmore 5/6
or
Mrs Reynolds, or Lily Eddy ♥

Values Crew is where we show our values and we plan things for our school throughout the year.

Interviews held next week.

Together we can make a difference, if you are interested in joining us come speak to a member of the Values Crew.



KINDNESS AMBASSADORS



Welcome to this year's Kindness Ambassadors and congratulations on being chosen for this very special role! We have gotten this year off to a flying start already and have many things to come!

We started September by celebrating World Gratitude Day, thinking about the people, places and things we are thankful for, and how we can show our gratitude. Reflecting on our gratitude helps us to feel more happy and positive, and increases our sense of wellbeing.

We have also recognised our wonderful teaching staff by sending cards and kind messages for National Teaching Assistant Day and World Teacher Day. We wanted to give thanks and remind them of the awesome job they do every day and how much we appreciate the kindness and support they all give to each of us.

We have taken part in the NSPCC Kindness Challenge. We challenged each child to select a random act of kindness from a box, complete it and reflect on how it made them and the other person feel. We were blown away by how many acts of kindness were carried out and we are proud to announce Hope class as the winning class with the most kind acts carried out! We also selected children at random to receive a prize, so congratulations to the following children: Albie, Lincoln, Pixie, Rhea, Abbie, Alexander S and Toby L.

Well done everyone who got involved!!!

Finally this term, we celebrated **World Mental Health Day**. The day aims to spread awareness about mental health and the importance of looking after it! It is a chance for everybody to talk about mental health and emphasise how important it is to reach out if you're struggling. Looking after our mental health is important. When our mental health is good, we feel good inside. We might feel calm or content, peaceful, hopeful and accepting of ourselves and valued by the people who matter to us.

Having good mental health makes life easier. It helps us to calm and comfort ourselves when we're upset, to cope with the losses, changes, fears and uncertainties in life, to make and keep good relationships with other people and to learn. For us as Kindness Ambassadors, it is a chance to remind everyone to be kind to themselves, and to help people understand there is always someone to talk to. Children were invited to complete a 'Rainbow of Trusted People' and reflect on the people we can talk to when we experience our big feelings.

We are excitedly looking ahead to next term, which will see us taking part in lots of important activities with Anti-Bullying week, as well as some exciting plans for Christmas! Watch this space!



ECO WARRIORS



Eco Team Update

At St Mary's, we use Energy Sparks, an educational programme that helps schools monitor their energy use. By analysing our electricity and gas data, Energy Sparks shows us where we are saving energy and highlights opportunities to reduce waste, save money and lower our carbon footprint.

We're delighted to share some positive news from our latest Energy Sparks report!

✅ **Excellent weekend energy saving** - the school uses little or no gas at the weekends, helping to reduce both costs and carbon emissions. This is due to us all taking responsibility to switch everything off before going home.

✅ **Big improvement during the summer holidays** - our electricity use was 26.8% lower than Summer 2025, saving 1,390 kWh of electricity and preventing around 200kg of CO₂ emissions. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the impact of everyone's efforts to switch off equipment when it is not needed.

⚠️ **Area for improvement** - our overnight electricity use was slightly higher than usual last week. This suggests that some equipment may be being left on when the school is empty. The Eco Team will be encouraging everyone to check that lights, screens and other electrical equipment are switched off at the end of EVERY day.

Thank you to all our staff, pupils and families for supporting our energy-saving initiatives. Together, we are helping to care for God's world while making our school more sustainable.  



A huge thank you to all of our new Gardening Club members who have joined us this term. We have a new group of enthusiastic gardeners ranging from EYFS all the way up to Year 6, and it has been wonderful to see friendships growing through a shared love of gardening and caring for the world around us.

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated materials for our bug hotels. The children have loved sorting and arranging the resources and have shown incredible enthusiasm for exploring nature. We are still collecting suitable items, so if you have any spare plant pots, containers, sticks, bamboo canes, pieces of wood or other natural materials, we would be very grateful for them.

See our inspiration below of the kinds of bug hotels we would like to build:

Our young gardeners have amazed us with their bravery and curiosity. Children have been confidently holding some very large spiders, carefully examining worms and minibeasts, and showing a keen interest in identifying the different creatures they discover. They have also enjoyed helping to look after local wildlife by topping up our bird feeders and learning about how we can support nature in our school grounds.

One particularly memorable moment came from a Year 4 Gardening Club member who proudly exclaimed:

"This is the best day ever, I achieved my dream of holding a worm!"

The delight and excitement on her face was truly heartwarming and a lovely reminder of the joy that can be found in connecting with nature.



Gardening Club



Thank you too for helping to keep our school grounds looking lovely! Your hard work litter-picking and tidying up makes such a difference to our school environment, and we really appreciate the care and pride you take in looking after our outdoor spaces.

You've also been busy clearing up the squished pears from our pear tree! 🍏 We're sure our Forgiveness Class parents will be especially grateful for that little bit of extra tidying! 😊



Thank you for being such brilliant helpers and for showing such fantastic teamwork. Our school is a better place thanks to you! ❤️



Thank you for your continued support. It is wonderful to see children of all ages learning together, building new friendships and developing a real appreciation for the environment. We look forward to sharing more Gardening Club adventures as our bug hotels take shape and our young gardeners continue to learn, grow and care for the world around them.



STUDENT COUNCIL



This year we are the St Mary's School Councillors! Ever since our first meeting we have loved it! We have had so many laughs, and were excited to see what we are able to help our school with this year.

So far, we have had the chance to get pupil voice where we asked the students in our school "How do you achieve, belong and thrive at St Mary's?" Through this pupil voice we got lots of great answers. To the question "How do you belong?", children answered things like being a part of clubs, being in their classes and wearing their school uniform.

We are just getting started with our work in Student Council, this year we are going to make sure the pupils feel heard. Let's do this!

By Isla Beuttner, Year 5 Councillor.



Celebrating Sport

Football Team

The footballers had a great experience at The Latimer Arts football Open Competition.

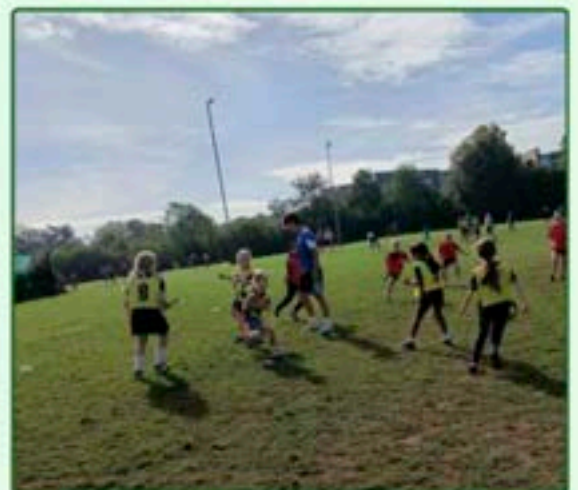
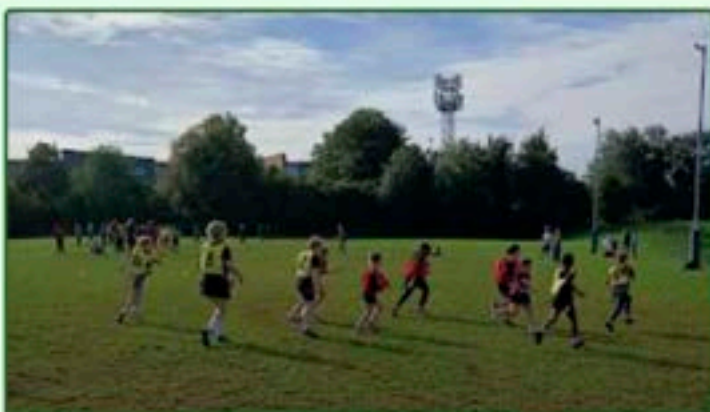
Well done team for your enthusiasm!



Celebrating Sport

Rugby Festival

Our KS2 children enjoyed a Rugby Festival. They had a great time exploring tag rugby activities.



Celebrating Sport

Cross Country



The whole of the Cross Country team should be incredibly proud of themselves. They demonstrated outstanding perseverance, endurance, good behaviour and excellent sportsmanship throughout a challenging day!

The team showed great determination and resilience in completing the cross country race even when it became tiring their perseverance shone from start to finish.



We need you!



Calling all volunteers...

Volunteers Needed - Listen to Children Read

We are looking for volunteers to spend time listening to children read at school. This is a rewarding way to support our children and help build their confidence and literacy skills.

All volunteers will need to complete the school's volunteer approval process before participating.

If you are interested, please contact or visit the school office for more details about the volunteer process and how to get involved.

