



Newsletter

January 2026



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

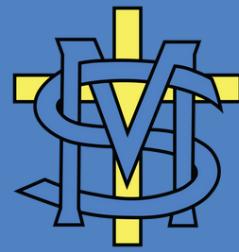
I hope you have had a wonderful start to the year, as we have at St Mary's school. Please have a look through this newsletter, to see photographs of excellent events in January: the Year 4 class mass, Y6 bike-ability training and the build up to the Feast Day of the Patron Saint of our Academy-St Thomas Aquinas. Year 5 and 6 enjoyed making the videos on minutes of hope and these can be found on Class Dojo. The pupils are an inspiration and if we work hard for the things they are hoping for, the world would be in such a better place.

A small request- please can you ring the office to make appointments or message on class dojo to see myself or Mrs Clarke- the Deputy Head teacher, for any chats. We do endeavour to speak to you to discuss issues, as soon as we can but in a small school, it can be difficult to speak to parents immediately on the day, due to commitments, training and weekly teaching of classes. On Mondays, straight after school, there is a staff meeting and on Wednesdays/ Thursdays before school starts- whole staff briefings. We are also very grateful that you try to make medical appointments out of school time, or at the end of the day, as we know how difficult this can be to organise. Please show proof of the appointment to the office staff. Thank you for your understanding.

Thank you to the FOSM for all the wonderful events in December and this term. We appreciate all the time and effort from parent volunteers. We are blessed to have such a fantastic association.

God Bless

Miss Jordan



Contact Info

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Email: office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk Website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk



Dates for your diary

JANUARY

30th January- Film Night

FEBRUARY

2nd Feb: 9.15a.m mass in church Candlemas (all welcome)

5th Feb: Parent teacher meetings 1.30p.m- 6p.m

9th Feb: Diversity themed week: diversity day- children can come to school in their home cultural clothes

10th Feb: Safer internet Day- parents welcome to attend the assemblies.

11th Feb: Years 5 and 6 seeing the production in Delisle.

12th February: Y5 and Y1: fire service visit in school

13th February: Own Clothes day and Valentine's Disco

Half term holiday: 16th-20th of February

23rd February: start of the Lent 2 term.

27th February: Fridays- rehearsals start for the talent show



MARCH

2nd March: Y2 scootability session

5th March: World Book Day

12th March: individual school photographs

13th March: PE/ fitness afternoon with an Athlete visit

19th March: 2.15p.m: Rock Steady Concert

20th March: Talent Show

27th March: Own Clothes Day



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Staff at St Mary's

Welcome back to Mrs Brown, who will be returning from her maternity leave, after the half term holiday to teach year two. Mrs Brown will be teaching 3 days a week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Pyatt (a very experienced teacher) will be teaching on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Brown will be returning to teaching full time in the next academic year.

We are happy that Mrs DeSouza will be staying on at St Mary's and thank her for her wonderful teaching in Year Two. Mrs DeSouza will be teaching Year 5, after the Easter holidays, covering maternity leave for Miss Nicholls.

It is with great sadness, that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Allen at the end of this half term, who has covered the higher level teaching assistant post. Thank you to Mrs Allen for her positivity, kindness and enthusiasm. We will be recruiting a new higher level teaching assistant to start after the Easter holidays.

Mr Saxton (the school senco) continues his brilliant work at St Mary's. As Mr Saxton is the Academy Senco, he also works in other schools and the Academy Educational Psychologist Mr Dawson works across the 23 schools in the Academy. Mr Saxton spends a day at St Mary's on his Senco work each week. Every effort is made to assess children on the Send list, but due to time constraints and County response, there may be a delay.



E safety, safer internet day and Mobile Phone policy in school

Safer internet Day

10th February- All families welcome to the Assemblies.

This year's theme is 'Smart Tech- safe choices.'

The children learn about safer internet choices each computing lesson, which is taught in their weekly computing lessons.

St Mary's Mobile Phone policy

The UK Department for Education (DfE) guidance strongly advises that schools in England act as mobile-phone-free environments to reduce disruption, bullying, and improve behaviour.

Policies should ensure phones are not used, seen, or heard from arrival to departure.

Implementation methods include handing in phones on arrival, secure storage, or enforcing "out of sight" rules.

St Mary's mobile phone and e safety policy (which can be found on the school website) endorses the guidance and does not allow pupils to use mobile phones or any smart watches on school premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school gates. Only year 6 pupils are permitted to walk to and from school by themselves and are allowed to bring phones for their safety, but their phones must be handed in to the school office on arrival, where they are locked in the office drawer and only returned to the pupil at the end of the day. The policy also covers staff use of mobile phones. Staff are not permitted to use their mobile phones in classes or around pupils and can only use it in their break time in the staff room for urgent messages. From the start of the next Academic year, parents will be consulted on the type of phones Y6 who walk to school on their own will be allowed to bring, which will not include smart phones. Please support the school's policy, by not using your mobile phones on the school premises when collecting or dropping children off at school or when in the school hall for events, unless permitted to take photographs of your child only- thank you.



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A few reminders...

Arrival Time



I would like to ask for your continued support in ensuring all children arrive on time for the start of the school day.

We aim to have every child at their desk and ready to learn by 8:45 a.m. These first few minutes of the day are vital; whether the class is doing retrieval practice, handwriting, or reading for pleasure, these activities set a calm and purposeful tone for the rest of the day. Arriving on time also allows our staff to complete registers and meal orders efficiently. Thank you for helping your child start their day with success!

Parents Evening

Thursday 5th February 1.30p.m-6p.m. Please book on Arbor. A wonderful opportunity to see your children's books. Please arrive and wait at the Parish Hall and your child's teacher will call you into the hall for the meeting.

FRIENDS OF ST MARYS
VOLUNTEER TEAM PRESENT



Valentine's DAY Dance



Friday 13th February

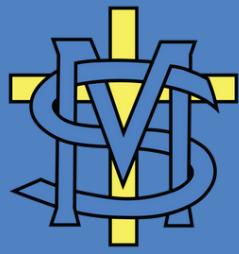
EYFS, Y1 & Y2 Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6
3:30pm-4:30pm 4:40pm-5:40pm



If you'd like your infant to stay after school, please sign up via the office. Staff will take them to the disco and supervise. You can also pre-pay for a hotdog and drink as we know little ones can get hungry straight after school.

**£3.00 Entry on the door
entrance via parish hall**

Hired DJ, sweet treats, yummy hotdogs, cool refreshments, temporary tattoos and a fidget-fun stall
Grab your friends and come make some memories!



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January 26 Highlights

