



Newsletter

February 2026



Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope you had a great half term week? Thank you for meeting teachers to discuss your child's progress last term. It was wonderful to see you all enjoying looking through the children's books.

St Mary's has enjoyed a wide variety of learning and events in February: Year 1 and Year 5 Fire safety talks, Safer Internet Day and Mental Health week, Diversity week- where the children came to school in cultural clothes. to name just a few events.

There will be lots of events in March too: Y6 will be visiting Delisle to learn some Mandarin and participate in Chinese New Year events on the 6th of March, year 2 will have training on scooters as part of the road safety programme, World book Day, Science Week and Empathy Week and Lent- where there will be holy week collective worships, led by some of our Junior Classes. We warmly invite you to the events in school- please have a look at this newsletter for dates.

Thank you to the FOSM for all the wonderful events in February and for all the parent help on events, particularly the Valentine's disco, which was enjoyed by all. Please have a look further on in the newsletter, where there will be more information about the fundraising and what it is spent on. With brighter days and warmer weather, we look forward to more outdoor learning with the children.



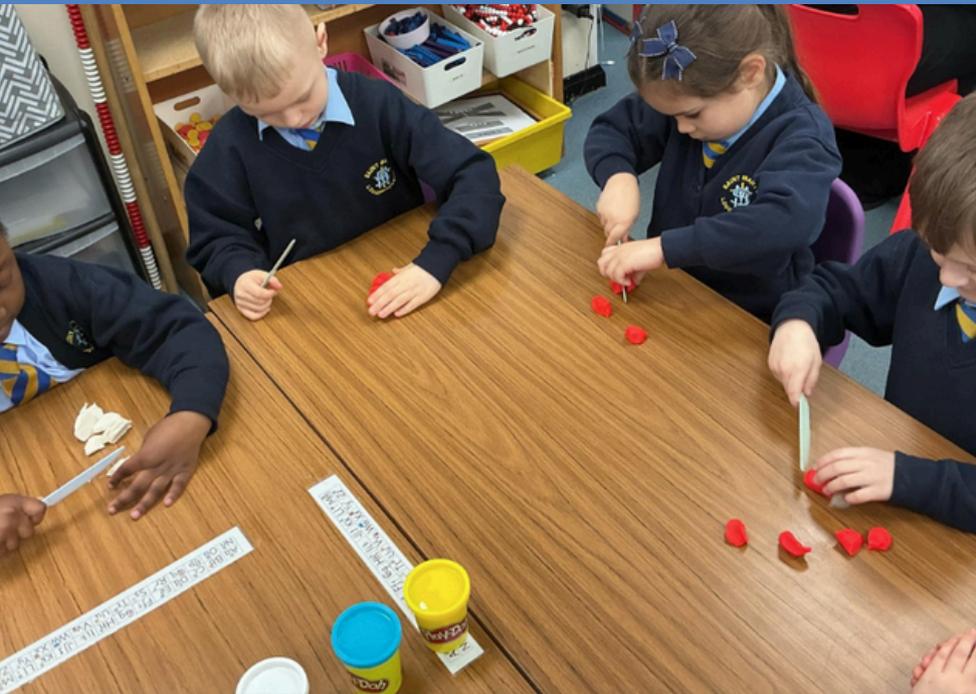
God Bless
Miss Jordan



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Dates for your diary

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

9th- 13th of March- British Science Week and Empathy week at St Mary's

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

26th March: Big Lent walk in the morning- Queen's Park- parents/ carers welcome to join

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

20th March: Talent Show

27th March: Own Clothes Day

Easter holidays begin: 30th March

Summer/ Pentecost Term starts: April 13th

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Staff at St Mary's



Welcome back to Mrs Brown and welcome to Mrs Pyatt, who together will be teaching Year Two, to the end of this Academic year. Mrs Brown will continue with music leadership in the school. We are glad that Mrs De Souza will be continuing to work at St Mary's- this term teaching children in small groups to close gaps in reading, writing and mathematics and teaching classes in the afternoon's, covering the teacher's planning and preparation time. In the Summer term Mrs DeSouza will be teaching Year 5 for Miss Nicholl's maternity leave.

Mrs D'Arcy will be in the school office for Mrs Fox, office manager for four weeks. Mrs Buccheri will be the teaching assistant in Year Four, during that time.

Lent at St Mary's

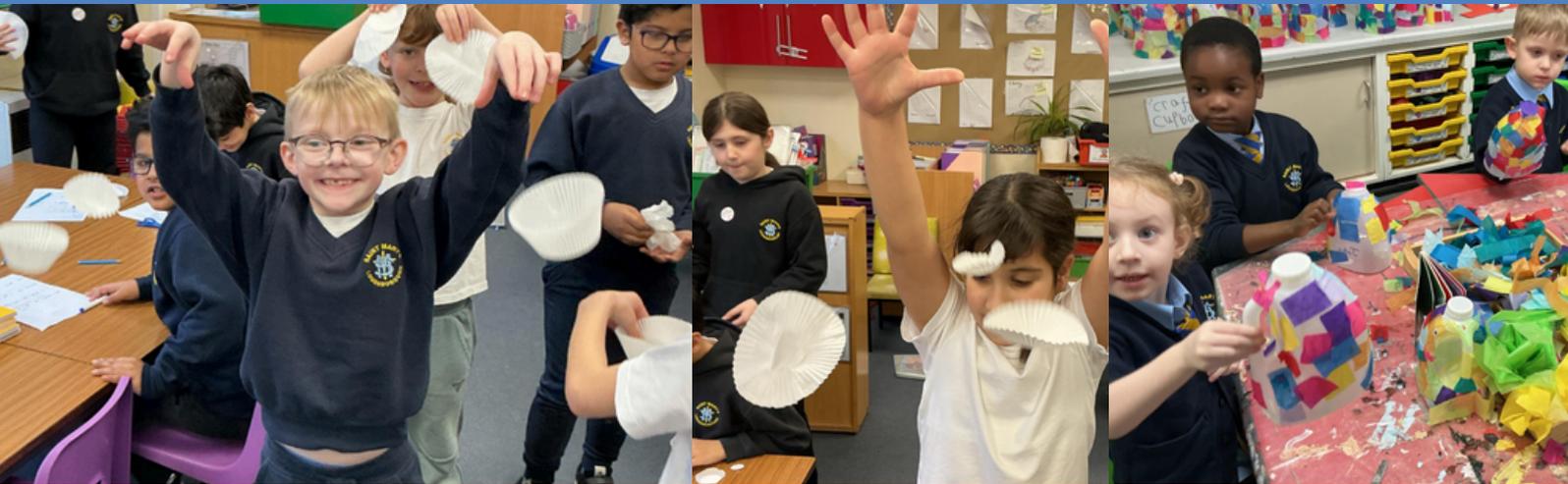
Sunday 15th March: 11.15a.m mass at St Mary's: children invited to read and welcome
(Please let Miss Jordan know, if your child would like to volunteer for reading on the Sunday mass.)
17th March: 9.15a.m: y3 class mass in the classroom.
Monday 23 March -9a.m celebration of the word led by Y6 on Palm Sunday
Tuesday 24 March - 9a.m celebration of the word led by Y4 Last Supper and Garden of Gethsemane.
Wednesday 25th March - Mass - Feast of the Annunciation in St Mary's church 9.15a.m
Thursday 26th March - Big Lent Walk (whole school) a.m to Queen's Park from 9a.m
Thursday 26th March: opportunity for year 3,4 and 5 confessions.
Friday 27th March - 9a.m celebration of the word led by Y3 on Good Friday
Families all welcome to join us for all the events.

The School's Chaplaincy team have placed the stations of the cross around the school hall and they lead the children on this, on Friday lunchtimes. They also use the outdoor stations for prayer and have set up adoration stations in the studio (St Mary's grotto). There has been a celebration of the word on prayer and the next celebration of the word is on fasting on Tuesday the 3rd of March- some of the junior children leading it have linked the fasting in Lent, with the fasting in Ramadan. With the joy of spring, we will also be learning and linking in the celebrations of Holi and Purim.

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FOSM: Friends of St Mary's

FOSM- What is the fundraising used for?

The friends of St Mary's has been active at St Mary's school for over two decades and is a volunteer group of parents, teachers, grandparents and carers supporting the school to raise funds to enhance, enrich and improve the children's learning and play experiences in school. With the involvement of pupil's families, the FOSM foster a strong connection between home and school, uniting the community to champion the children's education and provide exciting events such as discos, fayres and film nights that enrich the wider life and community of the school.

Thanks to your generosity from past events, the FOSM have funded a heart defibrillator visible in the reception, large bean bags for the studio and magic room, rainbow benches for all the playgrounds, iPads, classroom fans, sensory items for pupils with SEND and in July 2024 a new trim trail and bark for the junior playground. Every penny raised goes towards the school, with the parents and teachers agreeing on the projects that will benefit every child. This year money raised in events, have funded new library books, the EYFS outdoor kitchen, class novel books for each of the junior classes and phonics display boards. Funds are now being collected to enhance the year 1 and 2 playground, with activities, mini trim trail and floor markings, with the plan almost being complete. This can be over £3000- so funds need to be collected from several events. £130 was raised from the last own clothes day and £291 from the Valentine's discos. Thank you.

Once your child joins St Mary's school, you automatically become a member of FOSM. Regular meetings are held throughout the year- details are shared on class dojo and on the FOSM Facebook page. Its a great way to share ideas and meet other parents-please consider coming along to the meetings. Thank you for all the volunteering.

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British Science Week and Science at St Mary's

British Science Week (March 6–15, 2026) offers primary schools free, themed activity packs to promote STEM, focusing on "Curiosity: what's your question?". Resources include hands-on experiments, assembly plans, and poster competitions designed for KS1 and KS2.

Activities often cover sustainability, engineering, and digital skills, with options for CREST Awards to encourage real-world scientific thinking. The children at St Mary's will be having blocked science lessons during this time and parents/ carers are invited to a science afternoon on Wednesday the 11th of March, from 1p.m to 3p.m to participate with the children on some science activities in their classrooms.

A few reminders...



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
MONDAY 23RD FEB – 27TH MAR 2026
5 WEEKS OF SPORTING ACTION

REGISTER NOW



MONDAY	KS2 FOOTBALL
TUESDAY	KS1/KS2 DODGEBALL
WEDNESDAY	EYFS – YR1&2 FOOTBALL
THURSDAY	KS2 NETBALL & BASKETBALL
FRIDAY	KS1/KS2 MULTI-SPORTS CLUB

- Remember ties with school uniform and tracksuits on PE days should be plain black or blue.
- Do not stop on the zig zag lines with your engines running when dropping children on Hastings Street.
- Reading to parents and x tables for homework.



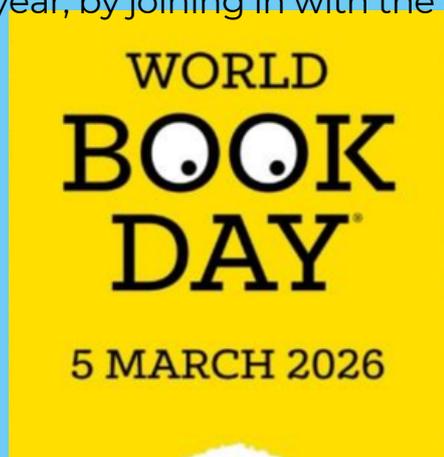
National year of Reading

World Book Day and reading at St Mary's

The National Year of Reading 2026 is a campaign to address the steep decline in reading amongst children, young people and adults.

The National Year of Reading is a Department for Education initiative, delivered by the National Literacy Trust in collaboration with core delivery leads The Reading Agency, BookTrust, World Book Day, Bookmark and the Queen's Reading Room. St Mary's has signed up for the National Year of Reading and will promote reading events in school this year.

We are starting with World Book Day on the 5th of March- next Thursday. Please join us for an assembly led by Year 6 and join us and the children in dressing up as book characters for the day. We hope your child enjoys using the book tokens. There are many facets to reading: decoding, expression, comprehension and reading for pleasure. All areas of reading are explored during the school week. At 3p.m every class stops for an enjoyable story. The library is the central area of our school, where the children can come to enjoy books, newspapers and magazines. The school librarians read with groups of children at lunchtimes. The children also read in every curriculum area and have daily phonics or whole class shared reading lessons. Please help St Mary's to raise the importance of reading this year, by joining in with the activities and reading with your child at home.



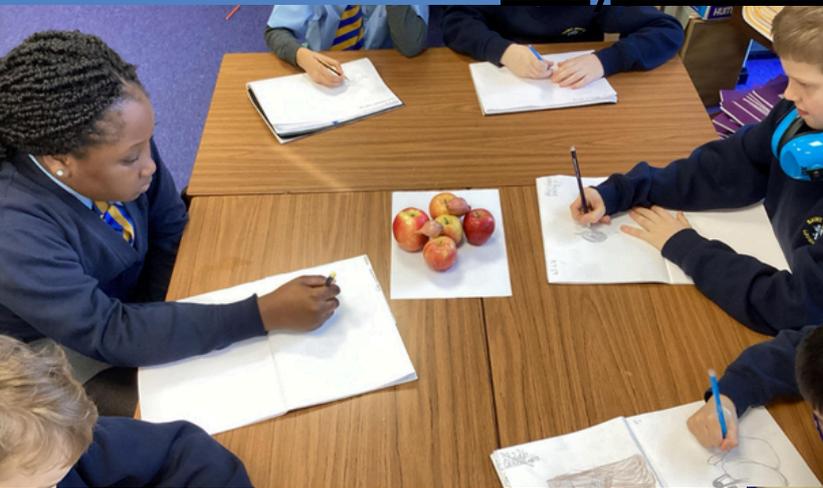
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February 26 Highlights: art/ design and tech lessons/ fire safety/ internet safety day/ diversity day



Athlete Visit: 13th March 2026: 1-3p.m

We're excited to be welcoming a top GB athlete Joel Fearon to the school soon with Great Athletes! The date will be the 13th of March 1-3p.m. The athlete is Joel Fearon.

All pupils will take part in a sponsored fitness circuit led by the athlete, and come home with some important and inspiring lessons learned during a motivational assembly and Q&A session. This will also be part of our learning for British Science week.

Not only will the visit connect the pupils with an extraordinary athlete role model but will also help to raise money for new sports equipment that will improve levels of physical activity in our school!

You can sponsor your child by visiting:

<https://sportal.greatathletes.org/events/landing>. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code to go directly to the online sponsorship page. Please put in the school postcode: LE115AX, as there will be other St Mary's schools.

As a thank you, pupils will receive the following thank-you gifts for meeting these milestones:

Raise anything: A5 sheet of motivational stickers

Raise £10 or more: sheet of stickers, plus a blue Great Athletes wristband

Raise £25 or more: all of the above, plus a red wristband with the athlete's signature

Raise £50 or more: all of the above, plus a signed athlete poster

Please ensure that the sponsorship form and money are returned to the school office 1 week after the event has taken place. Please also make sure that your children come to school on the event day 13th of March with their PE Kits!

Pupils will be sent home with a sponsorship form or the link can be used.

Thank you in anticipation of creating a terrific and memorable event.

Families are welcome to join us for the assembly at the end of the afternoon.

Joel's top tip for life

"Perseverance is the start of success."

About Joel

Starting as a track sprinter with a 100m time of 9.96 seconds, Joel Fearon ranked as the 3rd fastest Briton. Seeking new challenges, he transitioned to bobsledding, joining the GB Team for the Winter Olympics and achieving Britain's best result in bobsleigh since 1998.



JOEL FEARON

Have you heard?

Team GB Bobsled & Sprinter

JOEL FEARON

is coming to our school

Scan to sponsor
Search our school



🏃 Get the children moving in a fun fitness circuit

🏆 Witness the strength, talent & resilience of a top athlete

💰 Raise money for new sports equipment