

Welcome from Mrs Reynolds



Welcome to our second newsletter of the term. I have been so impressed with how the children have settled back into school life and on the whole the behaviour is impeccable. We have been working hard on our manners and practising saying thank you using sign language. Next, we will learn to say hello and goodbye. We have welcomed some new volunteers in school and are so grateful for their help. The parent forum has been such a support with ideas to continually improve the school and I would like to give them a great big shout out for all their ideas. Please see information in the newsletter about how you can join the parent forum. Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read the newsletter and our weekly bulletin – it's the best way to know what is happening in school.

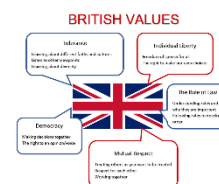
Collective Worship

We have continued our value of Wisdom this term and the children have been reflecting on their own choices and identifying areas where they could learn to be wiser. We have read the story of Gideon and talked about how his faith in God meant that he could achieve anything he put his mind to.



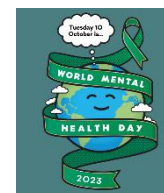
British Values

This term we have been looking at the British Value of Individual Liberty. Individual Liberty means that people can choose how to live and what to do – but it also means that we are accountable for the consequences too. The children have reflected on how Individual Liberty affects them in their daily lives and the choices of those and others around them.



World Mental Health Day

On this year's World Mental Health Day (Tuesday 10th October), we chose to link into the campaign being run by Young Minds, #HelloYellow.



Their aim is to see a world where no young person feels alone with their mental health, and that all young people get the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what.

The Young Minds campaign #HelloYellow encouraged people to wear yellow this World Mental Health Day to stand out, stand up and show other young people that we are with them, that they matter and that they deserve the support.

Our Kindness Ambassadors delivered a presentation in collective worship all about the campaign and its importance. They then delivered a yellow wristband to all our KS1 and KS2 children, and all teaching staff, so they too could show their support for their friends and classmates and be reminded that we can always reach out for help with our feelings.

Thank you to all the children who chose to wear their wristbands, and for all the continuing care, support, and kindness they deliver to everyone in our St Mary's family.

Year 5 Peterborough Cathedral visit

After we had eaten our lunch, we headed to the coach for a long journey to the cathedral. When we arrived, we placed our coats on the seats and looked around in groups. It was very fascinating. Soon after it started, and we had to be very respectful. In not time whatsoever, the service started, and we sang some beautiful hymns. The new headteachers were blessed (including Mrs. Reynolds). Later in the service we listened to some songs by the choir and then there was a procession going out. We had one last look at the cathedral before heading back to school.



By Madeline Jekyll

Year 3 and 4 trip to the Museum

My School Trip

On Wednesday 11th October Year 3 and 4 went on a school trip to the Northampton Shoe Museum. We saw many amazing shoes from Egyptians to Modern Day. We talked about shoes then we made a shoe timeline (Egyptians to Modern Day). After that we went to the shoe gallery (that was my favourite part). Then we had lunch. In the afternoon, we made an Anglo-Saxon shoe. Then unfortunately, we had to leave but to be honest that was the best school trip ever. Hopefully we can go there again.



By Georgia Sanders

My School Trip

On Wednesday 11th October we went to a shoe museum in Northampton. While we were in the shoe gallery, we found many different shoes. Then we went to find out when and how we made them. We even got to make our very own shoes. My favourite thing was seeing the shoes in the shoe gallery. We put the shoes in different categories - we loved it. It was so interesting learning about the shoes.

By Georgia Hearn

Year 6 Secondary School Applications

The closing date for you to submit your application on the North Northamptonshire website for a place at secondary school is 31st October 2023. <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/secondary-school-places/apply-secondary-school-place>



Communication

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we are always reflecting on how best to communicate with you our parents and ensure that all information is given out in a timely manner. Thank you to those parents who expressed ideas on how to make communication better without increasing the number of emails. We are going to try our best to send as much information as we can with the weekly bulletin each Friday. (Please let the office know if you are not receiving the Weekly Bulletin email each Friday). Parent Forum will then be reviewing how this is working over the coming weeks/months.



Walk in Wednesday

Our last Walk in Wednesday on 4/10/23 was all about Google Classroom, Spelling Shed, Purple Mash, TT Rockstars and more. The Year 6 teachers also talked about Govilon and SATS. If you missed it and have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.



Book and Biscuit

Instead of our usual Walk in Wednesday after school, our next one (Wednesday 1st November) will be before school. This will be a 'book and biscuit' session. We would like to invite parents to spend some time reading with their child whilst enjoying a biscuit treat. Adults will be able to stay and read in the classrooms between 8:45 – 9am. If you have siblings in different classes, please feel free to all stay together and read in one of their classrooms or alternatively move between them.



Parent Forum

Our next Parent Forum meeting will be 7/11/23 at 9am. We would love more parents to come and join us in working together to share ideas and help to improve our school. If you would like to join us please come to the office after dropping your child off.



What is the Parent Forum?

Parent Forum is a partnership between parents/carers and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvements. Schools work best when they work in partnership with parents/carers.

Odd socks day

Odd socks day is part of Anti Bullying Week. We will be celebrating how unique we are by asking all children to wear odd socks on Monday 13th November. This day sends an important message to children that they should be allowed to be themselves and free from bullying. We can't wait to see everyone's odd socks!



November is Kindness month at St Mary's!

Our Kindness Ambassadors have been meeting every week since late September to work out a plan of action on how they can help to inspire and promote kindness across our school.



They have decided that, because November is a very important month with lots of chances to link in with different projects, it will officially be St Mary's School Kindness Month!

The key focus during this month is Anti-Bullying Week, which not only focuses on how we can address unkind behaviour and promote acts of kindness, but also incorporates Odd Sock Day AND Friendship Friday!

Not only this, but our Kindness Ambassadors are officially signed up to the School of Kindness project, through the charity 52 lives, whose aim is to empower children by helping them realise that the little choices they make every day have the power to change lives and change the world, while also improving their own physical and mental health.

The School of Kindness project has set our Ambassadors the mission of not only spreading kindness within their class and school, but also across our whole community. There will be some activities throughout the whole year for everyone to take part in, and we will soon be sending out the details of all the wonderful ways our children can engage with our kindness challenges, but in the meantime, please put the following dates in your diaries:

Monday 13th – Friday 17th November – Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 13th November – Odd Socks Day – come into school in odd socks to support the message that everyone should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying.

Friday 17th November – Friendship Friday

We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful ways you can spread kindness everywhere!

Harvest festival

Thank you to all the parents who attend our Harvest Festival. We are amazed at how much food we donated to our local foodbank. We are (as always) very proud of our children for their reminder of what Harvest means and in helping us to remember those less fortunate than ourselves.



Goodbye to Google Classroom

We have been notified that as an Academy we are no longer using Google Classroom from October half term. We are delighted to announce we will be using a new platform via Microsoft Teams from half term, and we look forward to sharing and demonstrating it to you in the coming weeks. Staff emails will also be affected so please email into the school office if you need to speak to a member of staff.
reception@stmarys.pdet.org.uk



Sport and PE

PE Kit

As you are aware children are now required to attend school wearing PE kit on their designated PE days for Years 1-6. This includes plimsolls/trainers, royal/navy blue shorts, royal/navy blue joggers, navy leggings (if preferred to joggers), plain white t-shirt (school badge optional) and a sky-blue PE jumper (school badge optional). *If you are unsure which days your child will be completing their PE lessons, please contact their class teacher.*

Earrings must be removed, and long hair tied back, children need to be able to do this themselves or arrive at school prepared.

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.

Healthy School Ethos

Year 6 leaders have begun their leadership training this week in preparation to assist Mrs Patrick in planning and delivering active lunchtime activities for their younger peers.

School Sports Competitions

Cross Country

Last week we attended our first inter school sports competition of the year.

34 children in years 3-6 participated in a cross-country competition in Desborough.

Our children did fantastic and encouraged each other throughout.

There was between 30-40 runners in each race.

5 children finished in the top 10, 10 children finished in the top 20.

Most importantly our runners never gave up when they began became tired.

The top 20 children in year 5/6 progress to district cross country race, congratulations to Evalyn, Ruby and Frankie who all qualified for the next round.

Many thanks to Kylie, Dione, Jennie, and Mrs Campbell for giving up their time to attend and support.

For anyone that wishes to continue participating in running there are several registered park runs locally (including Desborough, and Kettering's Wicksteed Park) that take place on Saturday or Sunday morning FREE, ask Mrs Patrick for more information.

Tag Rugby

This week some Year 3/4 children attended a Tag Rugby competition at Kettering Rugby Club. After only a few practice sessions to prepare the team travelled to Kettering Rugby club with a basic understanding. The children's confidence matured and within a few minutes of the first game found greater understanding, with almost all children coming away scoring at least one try.

Results: Lost 7-6 / Won 7-1 / Lost 5-3 / Lost 4-2 - finishing 6th overall.

Their speed, agility and teamwork was great throughout and they were unlucky not to finish the competition more victorious. If anyone would like to start/continue participating in Rugby, Kettering Town Rugby Club have teams for junior age groups, please speak to Mrs Patrick for more information.

Many thanks to Mr Laughton for running before school practice sessions this term.

Forthcoming Competitions

Next term we will be attending Year 3/4 Indoor Athletics, 5/6 Indoor Athletics, 3/4 Gymnastics, 5/6 Gymnastics, Boccia competitions and a Net and Wall festival.

All KS2 pupils have been asked to express their interest in any competitions they would like to be invited to attend. Children who have put their names forward may now be invited to attend 'squad practice sessions' in the mornings to help them to learn the rules of the sport and develop their understanding and key skills required. Attendance of practice sessions will then aid us in selecting/inviting pupils to attend the competitions. We hope this will help to allow pupils to feel more confident, prepared, and knowledgeable when attending competitions.

Sports Clubs

These will be back on ParentMail to book for next half term. They can be found in the Accounts section and will be live by the end of Friday 20th October.

Previously school has subsidised clubs to ensure they can run regardless of the amount of children, however this is no longer viable. To ensure that clubs can run we need a minimum of 8 children in each club. If we do not have this number the club will be unable to run. Once we have a larger intake of children in the club we will be able to increase the amount of clubs we can have.

You can pay for clubs with childcare vouchers once again.

After School Clubs

This term the following clubs are taking place:

Sport Club	Day	Year Groups
Dodgeball	Tuesdays 3:15-4:15pm	Years 3, 4, 5 & 6
Gymnastics	Wednesdays 3:15-4:15pm	All years
Football	Fridays 3:15-4:15pm	Years EYFS, 1, 2 & 3

Clubs are £4 per session; bookings can be made via Parent Mail

As mentioned earlier, before school clubs will invite only and will be used as practice for competitions. Your child will be invited via email/ParentMail.

Poems from Esme and Finley

Esme and Finley wrote these poems and gave them to me – I was so impressed that I begged them to let me share them with you all. I think they have summed up St. Mary's perfectly.

St. Mary's can do anything!
St. Mary's comes in all different shapes and sizes.
They delight and amaze us. They're full of surprises.
And if you are a part of St. Mary's, you can do these things too.
You can have long hair or short hair or hair with spikes.
You can be neat or make wonderful messes.
You can be a person on telly.
But one thing is true – there is no school like you!
Some people like numbers and some people are fantastic writers.
Some are whizzes with pom poms and glue.
So shout it out loud – I'm fantastically strong and brave and proud.
I am St. Mary's
By Esme

St Mary's – sometimes we make mistakes and that's okay
Together we can make this school a better place
Miracles happen every day
Amazing friends and teachers
Rain is blue, the sun is bright but together we make a rainbow of love
Young people have big dreams
St Mary's is the place where I feel safe
By Finley

Madeline's row for WWF

Madeline asked me if she could write an article about her recent endeavour – I was so proud to hear about what she had been doing in her own time.

Read on to find out more.

Recently, I raised £170. I did this by completing a sponsored row. I rowed 10 miles. I rowed each day, for 10 days in a row. After I raised this money, I sent it all to WWF. I did this so endangered animals may feel a bit better. I wanted to help endangered animals in the UK.

By, Madeline Jekyll

We are so proud of your courageous advocacy Madeline!



PTFA

PTFA News

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

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk



❖ Christmas Fair

• **Santa will be back at St Mary's on Friday 24th November!!!**

Details to follow soon, look out for posters and banners. We will try and run a Christmas fair along with a bar and games. If you can help for an hour or 2 on the night (5-8pm) please let us know!!!

❖ Wreath Making – Sunday 26th November 7-9pm

- After the huge success of the Wreath Making Workshop last year, we are very lucky to have the fabulous Michelle from Eden to demonstrate and assist in making a beautiful festive creation for your front door!
www.flowersfromeden.co.uk
- Tickets are £35, include mulled wine and mince pies, and everything you need to create a beautiful wreath on the night!
- Email stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk and we will send you payment details. Places are limited so book ASAP!
- [Can't make the date? You can purchase a take home kit \(same as what is used on the night\) to make your own at home. Email us at \[stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk\]\(mailto:stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk\) and we'll arrange collection for 27th November.](#)

❖ Rags2Riches

- Next collection is Thursday 2nd November. We welcome all clothing and accessories donations from Monday 30th October until 9am Thursday 2nd November.

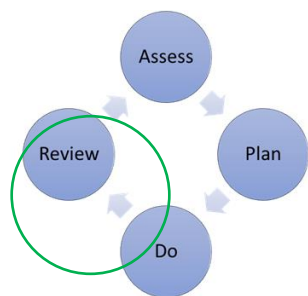
❖ Uniform Click & Collect

- Uniform is available anytime, just send an email to stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk with what you need.

Next Meeting - AGM - Wednesday 1st November 7pm

We love to welcome new people, just come to reception. As well as our normal meeting, we will be voting in a new committee, presenting the accounts for the last year, and celebrating our achievements! Please join us!

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



This term, we have been holding review meetings for your children who have Individual Support Plans (ISPs). These meetings focus on what is going well and any further support we feel needs to be put in place. These are the targets that were set in June and have followed the children through to the new academic year. Thank you for your continued support and engagement with these meetings. We hope you find them as helpful as we do!

These reviews will then inform your child's next ISP which will be sent home on **Monday 20th November 2023.**

SEND Information Report

Our SEND Information Report has now been updated for this year. You can find this on our website at stmaryscebl.info under 'about us' and then 'SEND'.



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...Half Term

We are so pleased with how well the children have settled back into the routines and expectations of school. We know that half terms can be tricky as they are more unstructured. Have a look at some activities happening in the local area this half term, to give you something to plan for!

Castle Theatre Cinderella-themed Free Family Day on Tue 24 Oct 2023!

Join us for an amazing day of fun workshops at Castle Theatre in Wellingborough. From dance to drama to crafts, there's really something exciting for everyone. And it's all completely FREE!

Please visit [Castle Family Day 2023 - Castle Theatre | Parkwood Theatres](https://www.castletheatre.co.uk/family-day) to book your tickets!

~~Explorer half term events for 5 to 14~~ that is educational and fun and gives

Explorer half term events for 5 – 14 year olds

A family friendly navigation challenge that is educational and fun and gives children a sense of adventure as they explore the park to find markers.

Prizes for best Halloween fancy dress.

- Peace Park, Thrapston, NN14 4JU:
Monday 23 October, 1pm to 3pm.
- Hall Park, Rushden, NN10 9NG:
Tuesday 24 October, 10am to 12pm.
- Hills and Dales, Twywell, NN14 4AW: Wednesday 25 October,
1pm to 3pm.

For more information please email Wesley.neville@freedom-leisure.co.uk £1 per child. Any enquiries call 01933 352981.



Spotlight on...Half Term

Join us for our SEN Halloween Party!

Saturday 28 October 2023. 1pm to 3pm.

- Low level disco in the sensory room
- Gruesome mocktails
- Horrible games & crafts
- Lunch provided with ticket
- Fancy dress optional

Message us to book your tickets or purchase them through the Eventbrite link below, any age welcome as long as they are accompanied by parents. £5 per person

To purchase tickets please visit [Halloween Disco Tickets, Sat 28 Oct 2023 at 13:00 | Eventbrite](#)

The Lawver & The Nurse - The Yards, 10 Market Street Kettering NN16 0AH.



Under Fives Activities at Kettering Library

Tuesday

9.30-10.00am Rhymetime

Friday

2.00-3.00pm Explore a Story for under 5s

Kettering Library, Sheep Street, Kettering, Northants, NN16 0AY

Contact us:

Phone: 0300 126 3000 option 5

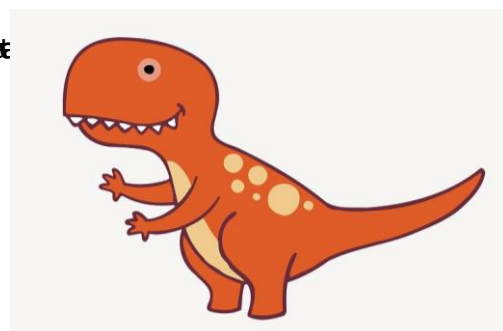
Email: Kettering.libraryplus@northnorthants.gov.uk

Love Explore Dinosaur Safari & Corby

Love Explore Dinosaur Safari & Corby Heritage Trail

Have you ever visited somewhere and wished there was more to do with the family?

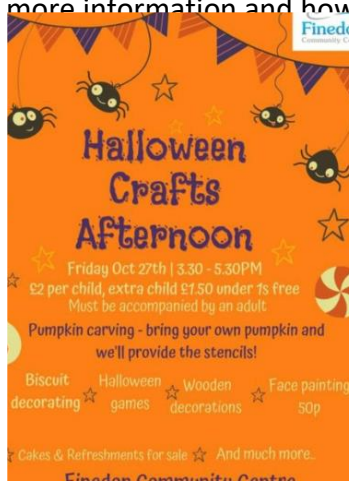
Or maybe you like exploring on your own and you are always on the lookout for ways to find out more about the place you are visiting. Love Exploring puts the power of discovery in your hands by providing a range of discovery games and guided tours that are fun to do and free to use.



Open: Every day during daylight hours. Age group: All. Cost: Free of charge

West Glebe Park and East Carlton Countryside Park

For more information and how to download the app please visit [Love Exploring -Love Exploring](#)



Finedon Halloween Crafts Afternoon

Friday October 27 2023. 3.30 to 5.30pm.

£2 per child, extra child £1.50 under 1 are free.

Must be accompanied by an adult.

Together, we can make a difference!

Abbie Price

School Inclusion Leader

North Northamptonshire Council would like to invite you to a SENDCo Conference to Meet the SEND Team.

These meetings are free to attend. Although these meetings are listed by locality, if another date is more suitable and parents & carers are happy to travel to another venue, you would be very welcome.

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions in person because of childcare or for any other reason, please contact us. If you would like to participate, we are able to arrange virtual groups over Teams.

Corby			
Kettering			
East Northants			
Wellingborough	Tuesday 31st October	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Wellingborough Museum

To book the Wellingborough event, [please click here.](#)