

Welcome

from your Co Headteachers,

Dear St Mary's Families,

As we reach the last week of the half term, we want to take a moment to wish all our families a wonderful and restful break. It has been a busy and enriching few weeks, and we are so proud of everything our children have achieved this term.

Today is Valentine's Day, and our school has been filled with joy and colour as children came dressed in red to support a fantastic cause - the British Red Cross. This vital charity provides emergency relief, support, and care to people in crisis around the world, from natural disasters to conflict zones and communities in need. Through our fundraising, we are helping to make a difference to those who need it most.

In the spirit of love, we reflect on the words of 1 Corinthians 13:13—
"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." At St Mary's, we strive to live by Christ's example, showing kindness, compassion, and love in our daily lives, both in school and beyond.

We hope everyone enjoys a well-earned half-term break and look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for another exciting term ahead!

God Bless,
Mrs Wayland and Mrs Woodier

Excellence Award:

One Monday we presented seven children with the Excellence Award for this half of term. This special award is given to children who always try their best, show a great attitude, and work hard in everything they do. It could be for making big improvements in their work, being kind and helpful to others, or showing strength and determination when things are tough. The award celebrates those who always aim to be the best version of themselves. It's not just about getting top marks, but about showing a positive attitude, working hard, and being a great friend and classmate. The Excellence Award encourages all children to do their best and be proud of their achievements!

Our excellence award winners were: Anastasia (Reception), Enzo (Year 1), Elizabeth (Year 2), Rafi (Year 3), Tabitha (Year 4), Rosanna (Year 5) and Xavier (Year 6)



Safer Internet Day

This week, we celebrated Safer Internet Day at St Mary's Hampton, joining thousands of schools across the UK in promoting online safety. Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety, highlighting important themes that young people encounter in the digital world.

This year's theme, 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online', encouraged our pupils to think critically about the content they see online and to learn how to spot and avoid potential scams.



As part of our activities, we watched a live lesson from the BBC, which provided engaging and interactive discussions on how to stay safe online. The session helped our children understand the importance of questioning what they see online, recognising misleading information, and taking steps to protect themselves and others from online risks.

At St Mary's, we are committed to helping our children develop the skills they need to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Safer Internet Day was a fantastic opportunity to reinforce these important messages, and we encourage parents to continue these conversations at home.

For more resources and information about Safer Internet Day, visit www.saferinternet.org.uk.



Swimming Gala

On Thursday, we sent a team to take part in the local Richmond school's swimming gala. We were proud to represent our school as the only small school in the competition. While we'll have to wait until all the small-school scores are finalised to find out exactly which medals and ribbons we've earned, our team performed exceptionally well!

Even against much larger schools, we placed impressively across the board and held our own in our heats. We are so proud of our children for their determination and effort. Stay tuned for more updates as the final scores come in! We are grateful to our parents for getting their children to and from the event.

Online school uniform shop

Just a reminder you can shop online for all your uniform needs - the link is included below. We also have a large range of second hand uniform available for purchase - please let the school office know if you need anything. There is also a number of items in the lost property box by the school gate - please do check for any missing items.



OPAL Play update

St Mary's Hampton is about to start a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.

In what ways, if any, do you think you benefited from playtime? Thinking about your own childhood, what did you like playing at school or at home? Children today don't have the same freedoms we once did, so we want to give children back time to really enjoy and learn from play. After all, it's a child's basic human right.



The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools and has been used in Spain, Canada, France and New Zealand. The programme has also been adapted and used in schools in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Austria under the Play Friendly Schools project. In 2018, OPAL won first prize in an EU-funded award for the best active school's programme in Europe and two UK national playwork awards. In 2019, OPAL was awarded a quarter of a million pounds by Sport England to bring the programme to many more schools.

OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.

- Average screen time per day is six hours.
- Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
- Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.

There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour. Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children **must** have in order to be able to play.

These include:

- Having clothes that they can play in.
- Having things to play with.
- Having a certain amount of freedom.



OPAL Play update continued.....



As we improve play opportunities for your children, you may find the school is asking you for resources and is making changes about how the children use the school grounds. They may use more of the grounds, for more of the year. Your children may get a bit messier, be exposed to more challenges and have greater freedoms to play where, with whom and how they like. The experiences the school is fostering are essential for children's physical and mental wellbeing and are in line with all current good practice advice on health and safety, wellbeing and development.

The school will be supported by OPAL for 18 months and there will be an opportunity to come and talk to the OPAL mentor at your child's school. If you would like to learn more about the OPAL Primary Programme, please have a look at the OPAL website (www.outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk), where you will find lots of useful information and several videos about the programme.

In the coming 18 months you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.



Mrs Rowlandson in Year 6 writes.....

It's been an action-packed few weeks in Year 6! Last week, we had an incredible time immersing ourselves in *Arts Week*. From a high-energy drama workshop with Tammy to an inspiring poetry performance session with Rufus Hound, creativity was in full swing. We also had the privilege of a live Zoom Q&A with the remarkable artist Alison Lapper, who left us feeling truly inspired.

Our artistic adventures didn't stop there! We explored light and shadow through chalk and charcoal illustrations inspired by *The Highwayman*, designed immersive art installation lightboxes, and experimented with cyanotype paper to create stunning compositions using natural objects and sunlight. The highlight for many, though, was using UV paint to craft 'invisible' graffiti—such a fun and unique experience! We can't wait to showcase our creations soon!

This week, Year 6 have been working hard on their end-of-half-term assessments, and we couldn't be prouder of the progress they are making! Their dedication and resilience have been fantastic to see.

A particularly exciting moment came on Tuesday when the children met their new teacher, Mrs Maddens, who will be joining St. Mary's after half term. They had a wonderful time getting to know her, and we're confident she'll be a fantastic addition to our school community.

As we head into the half-term break, I want to send my best wishes to you all. If baby doesn't decide to make an early appearance, I plan to return for one more week after the break. Mrs Maddens and I will be working together in class to ensure a smooth and supportive transition for the children.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for sharing such wonderful children with us! I'll definitely be keeping in touch and can't wait to hear about all the fantastic things they achieve in the future.



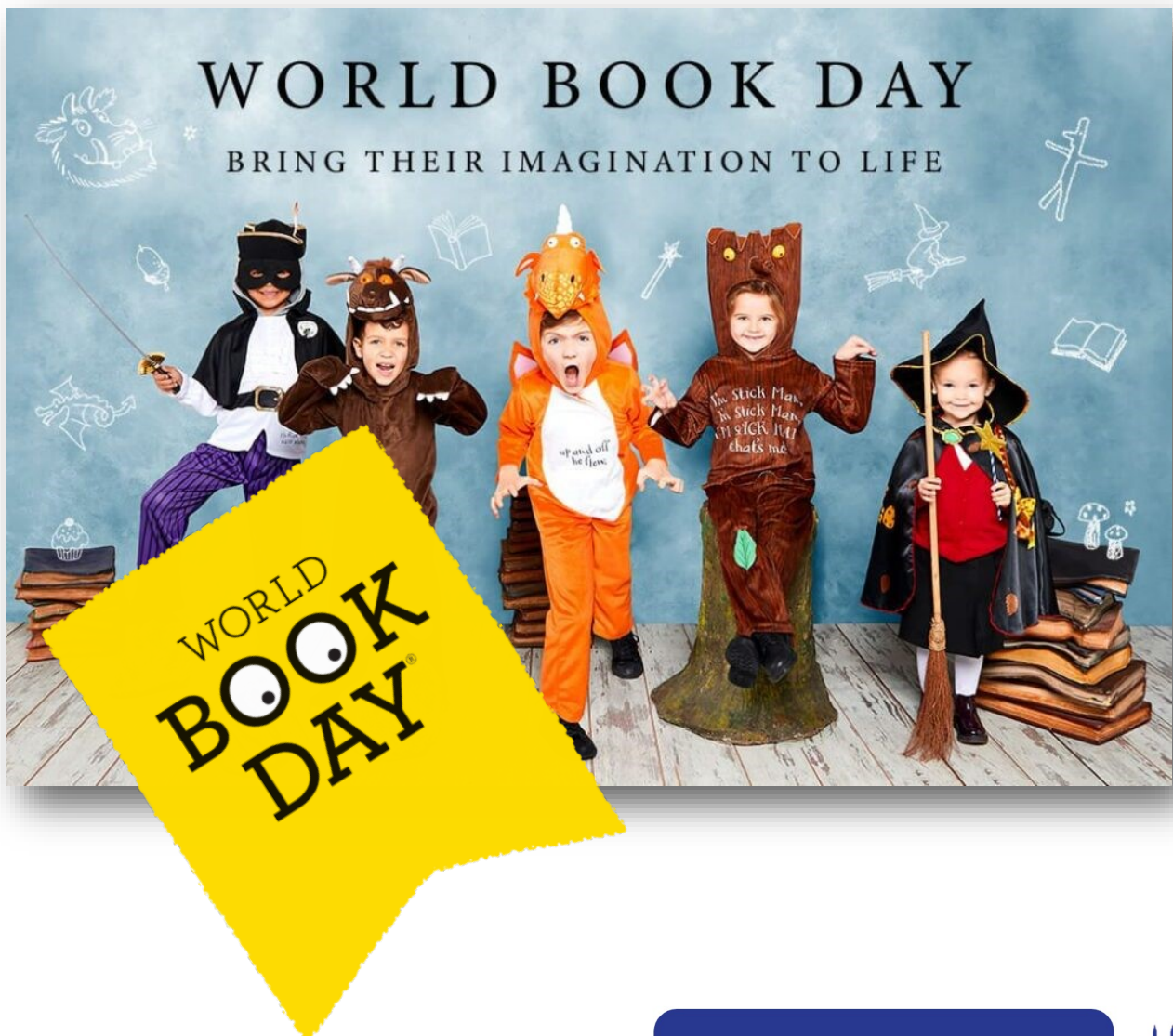
World Book Day - Thursday, 6th March

Get ready for a magical World Book Week 2025! Over the next few weeks, we'll be building up to some very special treats for the children during this exciting week. One of the highlights will be our National Dress-Up Day on Thursday, 6th March, where children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. It's always a fun and vibrant tradition that gets everyone excited and helps spark a love for reading.

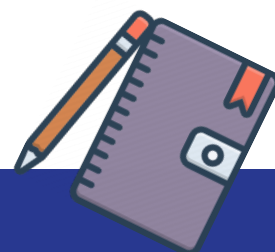
This year, we encourage children to choose a book character to dress up as, and maybe even bring along a book to share with their classmates. Whether it's a full costume, a prop, or a little hint in their outfit, we want each child to feel proud of their choice and be ready to recommend their book to others. It's a fantastic way to discover new stories and authors!

We also understand that times can be tough, so please feel free to get creative with costumes using things you already have at home. Homemade and imaginative outfits are always a hit!

Plus, every child will receive a World Book Day token to exchange for a free £1/€1.50 book or to get £1/ €1.50 off any book or audiobook priced at £2.99/€3.99 or more. Check out participating booksellers at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers. Stay tuned for more exciting updates and fun surprises as we approach World Book Week. It's going to be a celebration of reading you won't want to miss!



Reminders...



Date	Event
17th February - 21st February 2025	Half Term
Monday 24th February	Pupils return for Spring term 2
Wednesday 26th February	Orchestra starts (8am-8.45am)
Friday 28th February	Open Classroom from 2.30pm for all classes
Tuesday 4th March	Year 2 Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day (Non—uniform day. Dress as your favourite book character)
Wednesday 12th March and Thursday 13th March 2025	Parents Evening
Friday 14th March	Inset day: School Closed for Staff Training
Tuesday 18th March	Year 1 Trip to Brooklands Museum
Thursday 20th March	Art Exhibition from Arts Week (All welcome afterschool hours)
Tuesday 25th March	Year 4 Class Assembly at 2.30pm
Friday 28th March	Rocksteady Concert 2.30pm
Friday 4th April	9am - MHST: Coffee morning for all parents across the school for managing anxiety for children – SATs prep
Friday 4th April	Easter Service at 1.30pm
Friday 4th April 2025	End of Spring Term
Thursday 24th April 2025	Year 2 Trip to Wisley Gardens Reception Trip to Bockett's Farm



It's official:

St Mary's Orchestra starts after **half term!** Time is every Wednesday 8am-8.45am.

We're very excited to announce a new initiative to start St Mary's very own music group for instrumentalists with the aim of

- developing their musical skills in a group setting
- experience the fun and discipline of making music together
- taking part in the Christmas, Easter and end of year assemblies at St Mary's church
- lead collective worship on a regular basis
- be forefront in promoting music to their peers

If your child is playing any instrument, come and try for orchestra! For more information and to sign up, email the school at admin@stmaryshampton.school.org.uk



St Mary's Hampton
School Presents

ST MARY'S SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Play an instrument?
Come and play with us!

**WEDNESDAYS 8AM-
8.45AM**

Sign up here
admin@stmaryshampton.school.org.uk



PTFA updates:

<h1>SAVE</h1>	<h1>ST MARYS PTFA</h1>
<p>SPRING FLING DISCO</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY</p>	<h1>THE</h1>
<h1>DATE</h1>	<p>Infants 4:00pm- 5:00pm</p> <p>Juniors-5:15pm- 6:15pm</p>



A poster for a colour run event. It features a silhouette of a runner in mid-stride against a dark purple background with colorful paint splatters. The text is white and slanted.

**St Mary's School
PTFA COLOUR RUN**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday 14th June
2025
11:00am-3:00pm

Safeguarding Team: DSL

safeguarding@stmaryshampton.school.org.uk

			
Mrs Wayland	Mrs Woodier	Mrs Nesbit	Mrs Das –Mahon
DSL	DSL	DDSL	DDSL

Richmond.gov.uk

Services

[Home](#) / [Services](#) / [Children's services](#)

Single Point of Access

If you think a child or young person is in immediate danger call 999.

You can contact us to request support, or to report a concern about a child or young person.

- If you are a parent, carer or professional, you can make a report online by selecting the relevant option below
- You can also phone 020 8547 5008 from 8am to 5.15pm, Monday to Thursday, and 8am to 5pm on Friday
- Out of hours, phone 020 8770 5000



Adverts:



Our theme is Love!

God is love, love one another

Tuesday 18th February

10:30am -12:00pm



**Come on over and join the fun celebrating God's love
with crafting love heart people, love birds and
decorating heart shaped cakes!**

Will you win at our raffle...

Hampton Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Hampton
messy@hamptonmissionpartnership.org.uk



Join in the fun - no need to book - it's free!

Adverts:

Woodcraft Folk

Youth club for children aged 6-9 years



Spaces available!

**Come along for a free taster
Teddington, Thursdays 5.30-7pm**

£35 per term

Contact: pippabutterfield@hotmail.co.uk

www.woodcraft.org