



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

*"I can do all things"*

*Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation*

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Newsletter 01

Our core Christian Values: Compassion, Koinonia (Community), Courage, Creativity, Service, Truthfulness

## Headteacher's Message

Welcome back to the start of another year at St Mary's - and a special welcome to all those new children who have joined us for the first time. Our new Reception children have started their primary school education in Duckling Class - some were with us in Hedgehog Nursery and others have come to us from elsewhere - but you all look very smart in your St Mary's uniforms and it's a privilege to see you embark on the start of your journey with us.

At St Mary's, our Christian Values are at the core of everything we do.

We all recognise how our children learn from the examples they see around them, and with this in mind, we encourage all of our staff to look for opportunities to model good manners, from simple activities like holding a door open for each other or saying good morning.

Mutual respect, manners and courtesy are fundamental in our communication and a building block for developing strong relationships throughout our lives.

To support our efforts we ask parents to assist us, modelling good behaviour and praising your child whenever you catch them using good manners or demonstrating an act of kindness.

I look forward to seeing you all grow throughout the year with kindness and compassion for everyone. Keep our Christian Values in your mind at all times.

Mrs Parsons

## Gardening Club

The children enjoyed the gardening club this week. We are very grateful for all the donations we received in the spring and summer term last year, including: seed packets, tomato plants, pumpkin plants, cucumber plants, sunflower plants, lettuce plants and many more. Gardening club were amazed at the amount we harvested this week!

Thank you again for supporting the gardening club with donations.



## House Points Winners



Well done to our House Point Winners last week with **Rubies** taking the lead the first week of term.

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations - we had a fantastic first week back with 99.9% attendance throughout the school. It would be great if we hit that 100% milestone!

This week, both **Rabbits** and **Badgers** have 100% attendance - what a start Key Stage 1.

# The Space Race

Our new reading challenge has been welcomed with lots of enthusiasm. This is our third year and we are seeing huge improvements in home reading year on year. The children are excited and motivated to earn their first certificate which will be awarded in our celebration assembly on a Friday.

Children are expected to read a minimum of 4 times per week and to bring their reading record and book to and from school daily.

Every time your child reads at home, they will get a tick on their classroom chart. The aim is to make it back to Neptune (although additional challenges will be provided for children who make it this far).

**1st step - The Sun (20 reads)** - certificate

**2nd step - Mercury (40 reads)** - certificate

**3rd step - Venus (60 reads)** - certificate

**4th step - Earth (80 reads)** - certificate

**5th step - Mars (100 reads)** - certificate + an additional prize

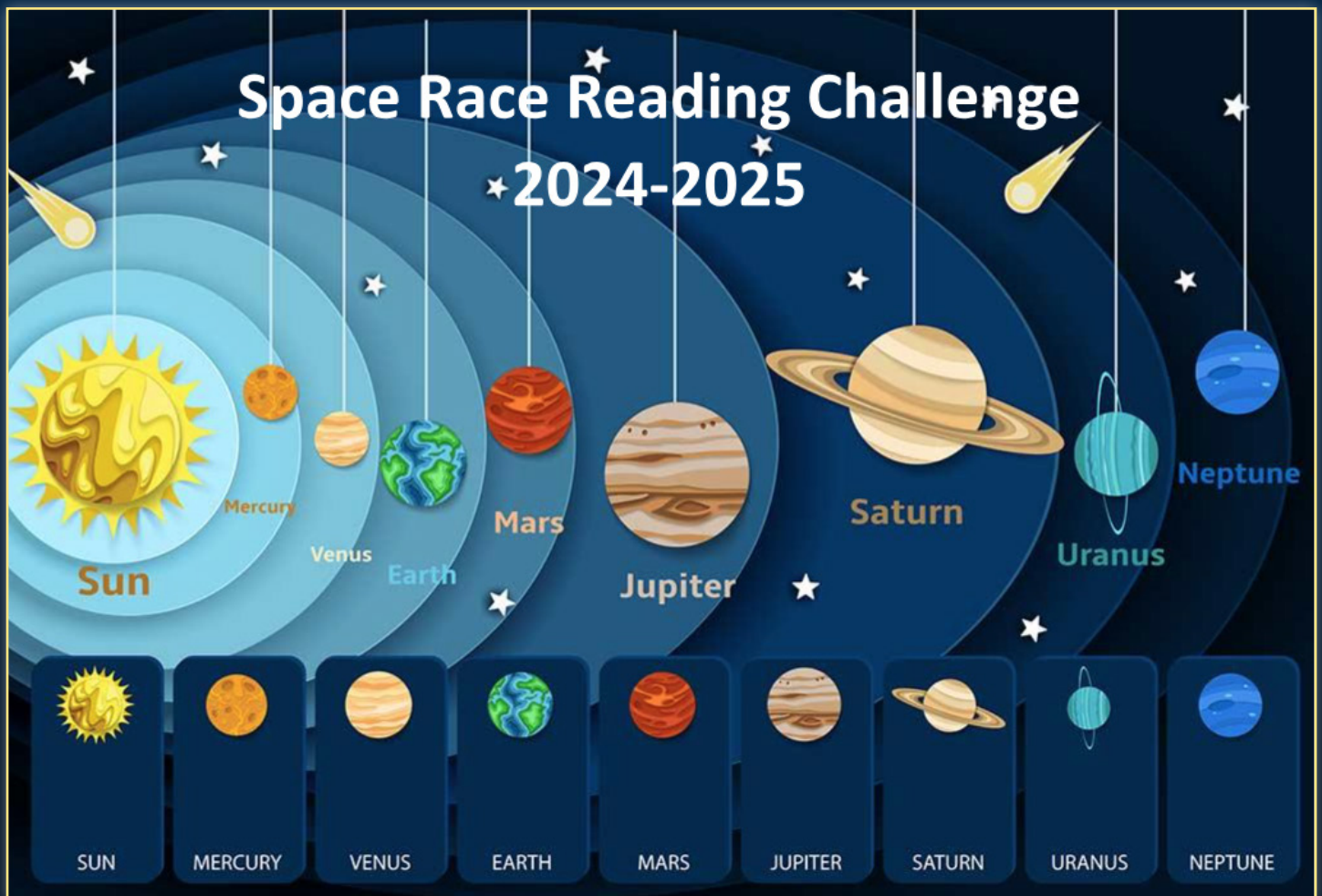
**6th step - Jupiter (120 reads)** - certificate

**7th step - Saturn (140 reads)** - certificate

**8th step - Uranus (170 reads)** - certificate

**9th step - Neptune (200 reads)** - certificate and invite to the coveted 'Party at the Pavillion'.

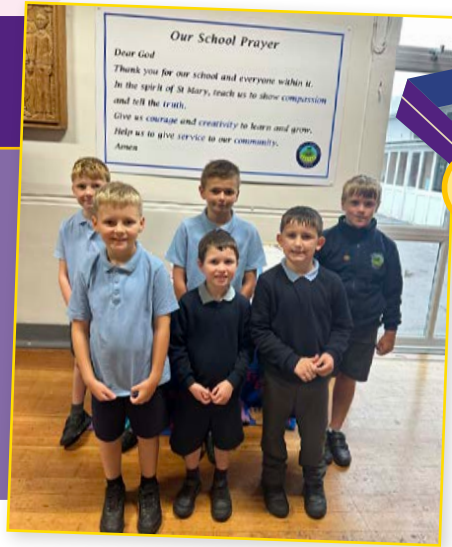
Please remember to sign your child's reading record each time you hear them read and encourage them to complete this year's challenge.



# Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to all the children who received a Headteacher Award - keep up the great work!

- Rabbits** Arthur
- Badgers** Albie
- Foxes** Teddy & Max
- Lions** Casper
- Eagles** Charlie



## Outside Achievements



Wow, we have some superstar readers to celebrate as well as sports achievements -what a pleasure to see!



## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

We have had a wonderful start to the term in Hedgehogs! Although our preschool children moved up to Reception we have lots of familiar faces return and many new children have started with us already. All of the children have settled brilliantly and it's lovely to see them all making new friends and playing so nicely together. The children have enjoyed sharing with each other all about themselves, their families and what they have been up to over the holidays.

Our focus books for the last two weeks have been *'The Enormous Turnip'* and *'We are going on a bear hunt'*, and our focus words have been 'enormous' and 'narrow'. Try asking your older nursery children if they can remember what the words mean! They have enjoyed the books, particularly *'We are going on a bear hunt,'* which they almost know by heart.

What a great start to the school year Hedgehogs!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



# Ducklings



## Class News:

What a fantastic start to school life for Ducklings Class!

The children have settled and responded well to our class rules and routines. We have been getting to know the children and hearing about their summer time news. We have started our topic, 'All about me' and the children have met Jigsaw Jenie during circle time. The Ducklings have been having lunch in the hall and have joined their Year 6 buddies on the playground at break and lunchtime. The children have begun to learn the pictures and actions during phonics time. I wonder if they can remember them at home?

We look forward to seeing everyone in school full-time next week. We will be holding a Phonics workshop next Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. Please come to the hall. Following the workshop, we will invite the parents and carers into the classroom to play with the children.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



# Rabbits



## Class News:

What an amazing two weeks we have had in Rabbits Class! I have been super impressed with how well they have all settled into Year 1. Despite the significant changes from Reception to Year 1, Rabbit Class has handled this so well and all have a great attitude to learning.

We started the year by studying the story 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' in English. We enjoyed our hook lesson, where we built bridges for the three goats. We also practiced and performed a puppet show of this story for the class. I was amazed by their fantastic performances.

In Maths, we have been learning all about *place value up to 10* by grouping, counting and sorting objects. We have also been learning to recognise numbers as words.

In History, we have started our new topic all about *toys*. Over the next two terms, we will explore how toys have changed over time. This week, we learned what an artifact is by exploring objects from 100 years ago.

We have also had our first Forest School sessions, during which we explored our wonderful Forest School area with Mrs Munro.

Well done for an excellent start to the year Rabbits!

Miss Tolfree

# Badgers



## Class News:

What a brilliant start to the year for Badgers! Everyone has made fantastic progress settling into the new class room and routines of being in Year 2. Well done everyone.

We have begun our new DT project testing the stability of *different shapes* in preparation of making our own model chairs. We explored which 3D shapes were the most stable and discovered that a cylinder could hold the most weight before collapsing.

In English, we have begun looking at the story '*Tuesday*' and have enjoyed imagining what the 'silly levitating frogs' have been getting up to. We have begun looking at building noun phrases in preparation of writing our own letters describing the events of Tuesday night.

In Geography, we have been looking at different types of *maps* and their uses. We have used maps to give directions using the points on the compass and designed a map of our classroom to help us get to know our new space.

We also had our first (very wet) Forest School session, during which we reacquainted ourselves with our lovely Forest School area.

What an impressive start to the year, Badgers!

Miss Heath



# Foxes



## Class News:

It's been a fabulous start to the year with our Year 3 and 4 Foxes settling into their new classroom and new routines brilliantly. Their positive attitude and enquiring minds have meant that we have had a great start to the school year, and we have started our learning by introducing various new and interesting topics.

In Geography, we have started learning about *Antarctica*, and the Foxes have already shown that they have a great deal of knowledge about this fascinating continent. Did you know Antarctica is actually classified as a desert because there is minimal precipitation?

In Maths, we have been getting our hands on lots of practical resources to help with our understanding of the *place value of numbers to 10,000* and the

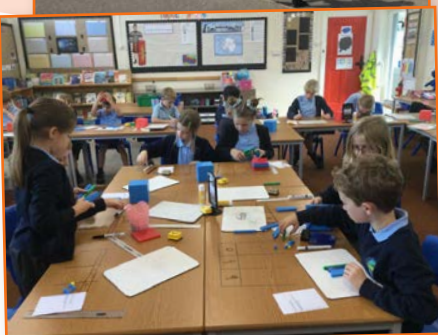
children have enjoyed getting started with regular times tables learning too.

In PE, we have made the most of the space we have outside to develop our ball skills and we have also started weekly swimming lessons - definitely a highlight of the week for the children!

Finally, we are very much enjoying our Class Reader at the end of the day which is "*A Monster Ate My Packed Lunch*" by Pamela Buchart. There are groans when we have to stop reading because it's time to go home! That's definitely the sign of a good book!

Well done on a super start Foxes - I think it's going to be a good year!

Mrs Brown



# Lions



## Class News:

It's great to be teaching in Year 5 again and especially to be lucky enough to work with this particular group of children who have immediately adapted brilliantly to the step up in expectations that comes with transitioning into Upper Key Stage 2. Well done to all of our Lions for starting the new academic year off in fine style with your super work and behaviour.

We have enjoyed a variety of tasks across a range of subjects so far. Our topic in Geography is *Tropical Rainforests* and we have researched where in the world we would find this particular biome. We were interested to learn that they occur near the Equator between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Our text we are focussing on in English links perfectly with this topic. It is *'Where The Forest Meets The Sea'* by Jeannie Baker, a story about the Daintree Rainforest in Australia.

There's been a lot of fun in other areas of the curriculum too as you can see from the photos. In PE, we have been developing our gymnastic skills, particularly focussing on *symmetric and asymmetric balances*. Mrs Munro has been teaching Music this term and the glockenspiels have been out in full force making a quite beautiful sound!

Fun Fact: Did you know that lions live in groups called prides which can include up to thirty animals? Our twenty-nine Year 5 Lions are very proud to be representing our class so well around the school. It's going to be a brilliant year!

Mr Daniels



# Eagles



## Class News:

We've had a great start to the school year as the new role models for the school.

Our first responsibility was to meet our new buddies in Ducklings Class. We made them feel at ease right away and enjoyed playing with them in our old Reception classroom. They were really pleased to see us again when we took them out for their first play time!

We have started our first Art unit based on our History topic: *The Ancient Egyptians*. We investigated the patterns and colours found in Egyptian art and mimicked them in our sketchbooks.

In Maths, we have started our new unit on *Place Value* and we have really impressed Mrs Newman with our understanding of numbers to 10 million. We are tackling some really challenging word problems with resilience and positivity.

We are enjoying our first class text, *'Holes'*, which is also Mr Thomson's favourite book. We have been learning about summarising this week and we're looking forward to finding out what happens next.

Eagles have begun learning the violin and are keen to progress to using the bow! They have done so well so far, learning how to hold the violin and pluck each string accurately. This week, they have enjoyed playing their first tune. We are learning how to read music and we have enjoyed reading rhythms this week. There are new string groups starting in September within BANES music (WEMA music). Please see the information below for more details.

Well done on a super start to the year Eagles.

Mrs Newman



## Wellies

Please can all children have a pair of named wellies in school at all times please. We have lots of storage to keep them safe and this means that the children can use our fabulous grounds year round without ruining their lovely new school shoes!

If you have any unwanted wellies that your children have grown out of, we would really appreciate donations for spares.



## SEND Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a parents coffee morning on Thursday 10th October. We are starting with a SEND coffee morning. All parents are welcome to join us to ask any questions about SEND, our approach at St. Marys and specific time to talk to the SEND team. This will be an informal event around a cup of coffee and some cake with time to chat and mingle. It would be great to see lots of you at this event.

## Reminders

A few reminders at the beginning of the academic year:

- Lunches - please can all school-provided lunches be booked via the ParentPay app by the end of Thursday (11.59 pm). If you miss the deadline, we ask you to provide your child with a home-packed lunch. In exceptional circumstances, the school office can book on your behalf. Please speak to Isobel in the school office.
- Absence - please report all absences using one of the following methods:
- In-person to the member of SLT in the morning on the gate
- Telephone message on the answering machine - 01761 470245 and press 1 for student absence. Please state the child's full name, class and the reason for the absence. Just saying they won't be isn't enough information.
- Seesaw or email the school office office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk.
- Medical Appointment in the school day. Please let the office know and provide proof of the appointment so that we can add it to the school office diary.

## Jeans for genes

We will be taking part in this year's 'Jeans for Genes' 2024 on **Friday 27th of September**. Jeans for Genes works with schools, companies and individuals all over the UK to provide services and support for the children and their families affected by genetic conditions. 1 in 25 children – on average one child per classroom - has a genetic condition that makes their life very challenging. Together, through fund and awareness raising, we can help make a real difference to their lives. All children and staff are invited to wear their jeans on Friday 27th September. We'd really love to see as many classes and students as possible in their jeans, so please encourage your child to come into school on the day wearing their jeans and with their £1 donation. You will be able to donate on Parentpay from Monday afternoon.



- Requesting time off during term time. Please complete a form available from the office.
- Medicines in school. All medicines must be booked into the office and a form completed before the medicines can be administered. We are only able to administer prescription only medicine, in exceptional circumstances we can administer non prescription medicine, with authorisation from Mrs Parsons along with the completed paperwork.
- Seesaw and Parentpay access. These are our main sources of communication with you, if you aren't registered or need assistance to register please contact the school office. We are happy to help you set up the apps on your device and help you navigate them. We want to help, please don't be worried about asking.
- Change of details Inc permissions, allergies, dietary preferences and contact details. Please let us know using any of the methods above.

Thank you for your patience at the start of term when it takes us a little longer to resolve any issues and please remember that we are happy to help with any queries.

# A note about safeguarding...

If you ever have any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, please contact the school to speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Thomson, or our Deputy Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Newman or Mrs Purnell.

The safety of our young people is the responsibility of us all.

During the school holidays if you have a concern about a child, please contact BANES Social Work Services

You can raise your concerns in any of the following ways:

- Call our Children's Social Work Services on 01225 39 61 11 or 01225 47 79 29 (weekdays, 8.30am to 5pm, except Fridays when we're closed from 4.30pm)
- Drop into the **Keynsham One Stop Shop** and ask for the duty children's social worker

- Discuss your concerns with someone who works with children and families:

- Health visitor
- School nurse
- Social worker
- Teacher

- **Out of office hours**

- If you think a child is in immediate danger please BANES Emergency Duty Team on 01454 61 51 65

Tell us immediately about any of the following and open the relevant option for details on how to report your concern:

- A child is suffering significant harm
- You want to protect a child from abuse or serious neglect
- You feel the child requires urgent or short-term care (acute services)

Or you can contact the NSPCC

## **NSPCC Contact Us**

## Christian Values Awards



We have had eight children recognised over the last two weeks for demonstrating our Christian Values in their everyday activities. So congratulations to:

**Compassion** Joey MS

**Service** Merryn H, Casper RR, Dawson C

## Music opportunities

Two complete beginner string groups are available for your child to attend. Y6 children are really enjoying learning the violin in school this term and are keen to progress. We have already played along to our first tune. These groups are open to all KS2 children. If you would like further information please speak to Mrs Munro.

## HELP WANTED!

We are having a bramble clearing and wood processing gardening session in the Forest School next Wednesday afternoon (18 September) from 1.10 to 3.10 p.m.

If anyone is free to help, please come along. You will need to bring your own tools please!



## Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 1

Date	Event
16/09/2024	PGL Trip - Year 6
17/09/2024	Parent Workshop - Reception - 9.00 am
23/09/2024	Pupil Photos
25/09/2024	Parent Workshop - Year 2 - 9.00 am
26/09/2024	Open Morning - 9.30 am to 10.30 am
27/09/2024	Jeans for Genes Day
30/09/2024	Black History Month
01/10/2024	Classics Day at Downside School (Year 5 and 6)
01/10/2024	KS1 Trip to Bath Literary Festival
09/10/2024	Year 6 Assembly
10/10/2024	Coffee Morning SEND
10/10/2024	Parent Workshop - Year 1 - 9.00 am
11/10/2024	Hello Yellow - Mental Health Awareness
17/10/2024	Parent Workshop - Year 3 and 4
18/10/2024	Open Morning - 9.30 am to 10.30 am
23/10/2024	Wear Red - Racism
24/10/2024	Harvest Performance at Church - Lions

# NEW! Starter String Group @Hayesfield Bath

Come and learn violin, viola, cello or  
double bass  
with your friends at low cost!

**Who:** Key Stage 2 complete beginners

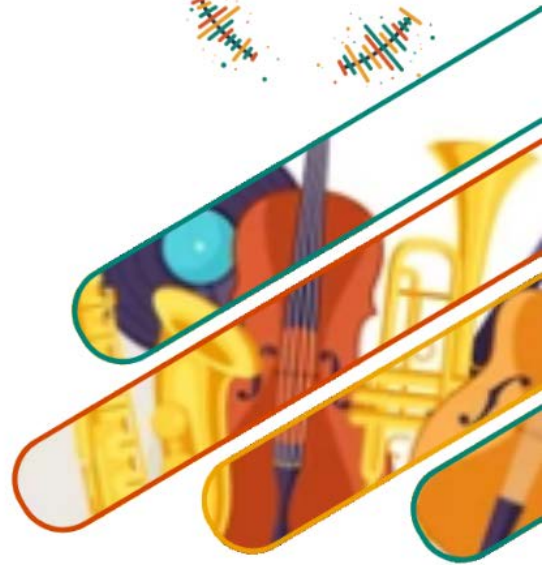
**Where:** Hayesfield School, Bath

**When:** Wednesdays 5.45- 6.45pm

**Start Date:** 21st February

**Cost:** £41.50 per double term  
Free for pupil premium

Instrument hire also available



**To book a space:**  
<https://www.wema.org.uk/register>

For more information: 01454 863147 | [music@wema.org.uk](mailto:music@wema.org.uk)

Supported using public funding by  
Department for Education  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

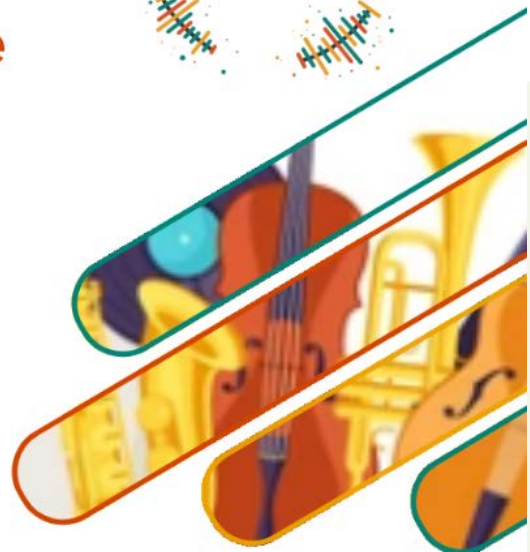
# Now taking bookings for Beginner Strings at Little Warmley Music Centre for September

For children in primary  
school to learn violin or  
cello in a fun group

**Where:** Sir Bernard Lovell Academy

**When:** Saturdays 9.30am - 10.30am

**How:** Sign up below



**Book a space:** <https://www.wema.org.uk/register>

For more information: [music@wema.org.uk](mailto:music@wema.org.uk)



\*Membership is free for students entitled to Pupil Premium

Supported using public funding by  
Department for Education  
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

## **LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**w/c 16 September**

### **Bath Central Library**

#### **Storytime**

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 17 September

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#### **Board Game Saturdays**

Saturday 12.30 - 4.00pm 21 September

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#### **Art in the Library: Usha Pearce, Montse Asensio, Kiran Pearce**

Mon - Sat During opening hours 6 September - 3 Oct

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#### **Roald Dahl Story Day Celebrations**

A Phizz - Whizzing Roald Dahl picture trail to find ten Roald Dahl book covers in our core libraries. Plus, draw and display your own BFG dream jar display.

Mon - Sat During opening hours 9- 21 September

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#### **Sensory Space, for families with children and young adults with sensory needs**

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

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#### **Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In**

Mon - Sat During opening hours

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#### **Baby Bounce and Rhyme**

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 18 September

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#### **Storytime - Jane Austen themed**

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 17 September

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## Keynsham Library

### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Tuesday 9.30 - 10.00am 17 September  
10.30 - 11.00am

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### Sensory Space, for families with children & young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

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### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday 12.30 - 4.00pm 21 September

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### Storytime

Thursday 10.30 - 11am 19 September

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### Lace Making Group

Thursday 2.00 - 4pm 19 September

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### Roald Dahl Story Day Celebrations

A Phizz - Whizzing Roald Dahl picture trail to find ten Roald Dahl book covers in our core libraries. Plus, draw and display your own BFG dream jar display.

Mon - Sat During opening hours 9- 21 September

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## Midsomer Norton Library

### Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Monday 11.00 - 11.30am 16 September

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### Sensory Space, for families with children & young adults with sensory needs

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

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### Board Game Saturdays

Saturday 10.00 - 12.30pm 21 September

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### Storytime

Wednesday 10.30- 11.00pm 11 September

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For any ticketed events, the link will be online via the blog.  
Visit [baneslibraries.co.uk/events](https://baneslibraries.co.uk/events)



Incorporating Hedgehogs Nursery



**St Mary's**  
C of E Primary School

## Open Mornings

Thursday 26th September at 9:30 am

Friday 18th October at 9:30am

Thursday 14th November at 9:30 am

Friday 6th December at 9:30am

### Are you looking for a school place for September 2025?

We would be delighted to welcome you and your child to St Mary's Primary School to tell you more about our school, our wonderful children and what we have to offer.

To book your place, please email [office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk) with your name, telephone number and email address, stating which session you wish to attend.

We look forward to meeting you and your child very soon!



**“I can do all things”**

**Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation**

Lansdown View, Timsbury, Bath, BA2 OJR

Tel: 01761 470 245 Email: [office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarystimsbury.co.uk)