

St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do <u>all</u> things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 21st March 2025

Newsletter 12

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

Extreme Reader Winners

KS1 Winner: Dylan Congratulations to Dylan for winning the KS1 Extreme Reading Challenge! Dylan took reading to the next level by diving into a pool with his book in hand! What an impressive and creative way to enjoy a story while making a splash. Well done, Dylan, for combining your love of reading with such an adventurous setting!

KS2 Winner: Rachel A huge congratulations to Rachel, our KS2 Extreme Reading Challenge winner! Rachel showed true dedication to reading by hanging out on a tractor while immersed in her book.

Whether it was the hum of the engine or the view of the fields, Rachel found a unique way to enjoy her reading, proving that there's no limit to where a good book can take you. Great job, Rachel!



Journalism Club

Book Week

From 3rd-7th of March, St Mary's had a Book Week. Many classes did book themed activities and other things to celebrate. There were live online lessons with the BBC, activities involving designing book covers for a story read to us without us being able to see the front of it, Book at Bedtime and on Thursday it was World Book Day where you could come dressed as a book character.

Book At Bedtime

On the Tuesday of Book Week, it was Book at Bedtime day. You could come in from 4:30-5:30 and be read to by a different teacher. There was hot chocolate and you could bring a cuddly toy. Many children said that they enjoyed this event and would highly recommend it.

Book Week Bingo Challenge

The Book Week Bingo Challenge was a booklet of different reading activities for people to complete over the week. There were 9 different challenges like: Read a book with a number in the title or read to someone who

is younger than you. There were 4 different awards you would get for the amount of challenges you completed: 4 challenges completed = Bronze Reading Award, 6 challenges completed = Silver Reading Award, all 9 challenges completed = Gold Reading Award and if you went to the library, picked out a book and got your booklet signed by the adult in there you would get the Platinum Reading Award.

Children's Opinions

Ruby: I thought Book Week was amazing. I really enjoyed making book covers.

Matilda: I also enjoyed designing book covers.

Edith: I loved the live lesson, it was really fun when thousands of people read together all over the UK.

Charlie and Stanley: We enjoyed dressing up as book characters.

Imogen: I loved the bingo challenge because there were so many different fun things to do.

Report by the Journalist Team: Willow, Pippi, Emily, Aidan and Charlie.

Headteacher's Award

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

DucklingsCleo, HenryRabbitsShah, EvieBadgersOlivia, JulietteFoxesEvie & Joe, Evie

(2 weeks in a row!) & Evelyn

Lions Pippi, Eddie Eagles Matilda, Ben



PARKING

Thank you to most parents / carers who have observed the parking bollards as the front of the school. We have been working with our neighbours in the community to ensure the disabled parking space is available for those with a disabled badge.

The bollards and the cones are there to prevent vehicles parking on the zig zag lines - this is for the safety of all the children and adults who visit / attend St. Mary's.

Please do not park between the bollards or alongside the bollards.

Hedgehogs





Class News:

Last week was Science Week and the Hedgehogs enjoyed taking part in a range of fun experiments. They enjoyed adding food colouring to milk and then watching as it 'ran' away from the soap when it was dropped into the mixture. We also enjoyed our gummy bear experiment which included putting gummy bears into different liquids and watching how they changed. The older Hedgehogs were able to tell us their hypothesis, with some predicting the bears would get smaller, some thinking they would melt and some suggesting they would get bigger! This experiment explored osmosis and we were amazed at how big the gummy bears got in plain water and how tiny they shrivelled up in the salt water. We also enjoyed watching the reaction to fizzy sweets that were put in water compared to fizzy drinks. The sweets in fizzy/sugary drinks broke

down very quickly unlike the sweets in water and this led on to us discussing the effect of different liquids on our teeth and the importance of drinking water. Some of the children were inspired to then create their own experiments in the garden mixing up different materials and telling us what they thought would happen next.

As we approach Spring we have enjoyed reading 'Our First Book of Seasons' and discussing how the weather has changed from cold and icy to lovely sunshine- even if it has still been very cold at times! We have started to discuss how the environment around us will change during Spring and the things we are looking forward to over the next few months.

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Ducklings



Class News:

We have had a fun fortnight in Ducklings!

We enjoyed all of the different activities during **Book Week**. It was lovely to invite you back in for bedtime stories and for dress up day. The children created their own book covers and we wrote book reviews in Literacy.

Last week we took part in **Science Week**. We carried out a different investigation or experiment every day. Our favorites were making bread and the forces experiment when the shaving foam ended up on the ceiling! In Literacy we have written our own bread recipes and thought carefully about following the instructions.

In Maths we have been developing our understanding of shapes. We have considered what 2D shapes can be found in 3D shapes and what shapes are useful for different tasks. We have continued our seasonal watch and are beginning to notice the different signs of Spring. Thank you for donating some plants for the outside area. If anyone would like to bring us any more, we will happily plant them in our garden.

This week we have had some visitors for our *people who help us* topic. We enjoyed finding out about the hospitality industry and also were able to ask lots of questions about what it is like to work in a busy airport. We have also been reading about the Emergency Services and are excited to be meeting a real Police Officer next week!

Please come along on Thursday for our termly Parent Workshop to celebrate **Mothers Day**.

Mrs Gillard









Rabbits have had lots of fun over these past two weeks with our new learning and celebrating **Science Week**.

In English, we have been preparing to write our stories. We have been learning to write using words that end with the suffix -est and -er. We have also planned and orally rehearsed our stories that we will start writing next week.

In Maths, we have continued our learning of volume and capacity. We have been using measuring cylinders, water and cubes to measure the volume and capacity. We have also been working on comparing volume and capacity.

Finally, this term we celebrated **Science Week** by carrying out experiments each day. We planted seeds, made soap powered boats, explored oobleck and had a go at using microscopes. We also investigated the whole school question 'does having bigger feet mean that you are taller'. To find out the answer, we measured our feet and height and created live charts. We then compared our findings to write a conclusion.

We look forward to sharing some of our learning with you at our Parent Workshop next week on Wednesday 26th of March.

Miss Tolfree



Badgers





Badgers have had an exciting couple of weeks with **Book Week, Science Week** and beginning to practice for our class assembly.

We enjoyed all of the different activities during **Book Week**. It was brilliant to see so many faces back for a book at bedtime, and to see everyone's costumes. The children created their own book covers for a mystery book and we wrote book reviews of our favourite books in English.

During **Science Week** Badgers enjoyed investigating whether oobleck is a solid or a liquid, and how the state of the matter changed depending on how much force was exerted on the oobleck. Badger's also had a great time participating in the Egg Drop Challenge, exploring how well different materials were able to protect their breakable

egg when dropped from different heights. Lastly, Badgers took part in a school wide experiment, exploring 'does having bigger feet mean that you are taller', we each measured our feet and how tall we are, finishing by plotting our results in a scatter graph.

Badgers enjoyed a visit from a Gymnastics coach who gave us a special lesson on different ways to move our bodies and perform different rolls. We are looking forward to our next visit.

In Art, we have been developing our skills with clay. Badges have made a pinch pot and a tile over the last two weeks, practicing scoring and working in the negative. They are all getting very good at attaching new pieces of clay using a slip.

Miss Heath



Foxes Class News:





It's been an action packed couple of weeks in Foxes. In Maths we have been learning how to accurately measure the perimeter of an object and to work out missing lengths. This has required us to be able to understand the difference in units of measurement such as millimeters, centimeters and meters.

We really enjoyed **Science Week** and took part in some fun experiments such as exploring what would happen if we pushed a pencil through a bag of water without spilling anything. We also made our own paper hovercrafts which were able to glide over the surface of the table. We had to understand the impact of friction to see why this worked so well.

It was lovely to be joined by so many parents and family for our "Sound" themed Science Parent Workshop this week. The children did various sound related activities such as going on a sound walk and making and testing out a telephone made from cups and string. The general consensus was that the string telephone did make the sound louder. We also imagined what it would be like not to have the ability to hear sounds and we tried to communicate using British Sign Language. Lots of the children enjoyed this challenge and have continued to practise afterwards.

Finally, in RE, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Reverend Blewett who came to Foxes and shared the Easter story with us. He then did a Q&A session with the children, who had thought up a list of extremely interesting and insightful questions to ask him, all about what it is like to be a vicar and also some questions about the Easter Story.

Well done for a great few weeks Foxes! Mrs Brown

Lions



Class News:

Over the last couple of weeks, we have continued with our DT projects where we are designing and making stuffed toys. We have enjoyed creating interesting ideas for our toys and then deciding how these will be manufactured. We drew templates on paper, attached them to fabric using safety pins and then carefully cut out these shapes. Recently, we enjoyed a session where we learnt how to do blanket stitch and then practised this technique, which will be our method of assembling our final products.

In PE, we have continued to enjoy our sessions led by Jack, the Bath Rugby coach. This week, we tried out tackling using the soft shields for the first time which was a lot of fun. Our indoor sessions have seen us creating dance routines in a Rock 'n' Roll style. We have



been learning some particular steps and also a hand jive section to insert into our routines. This is linked brilliantly with our work with Mrs Munro in Music where we are currently learning how to play 'Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley on the ukulele.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome Reverend Blewett and Jane from St Mary's Church to help us with our learning about the crucifixion. It was a really fun session involving several activities which helped us to understand fully and reflect on this part of the Easter story. We made a large prayer cross which we will be carrying down to the church when our class leads the Easter Service at the beginning of April.

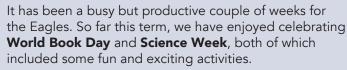
Mr Daniels





Eagles Class News:





During **Book Week**, we celebrated our love for reading by participating in a 'Live Lesson,' where thousands of schools around the country took part in a live reading event. We also designed book covers and wrote excellent book reviews, it was great to see Eagles creative side come out. They had to use their listening skills and imagination to design the front cover of a book they had never seen before, which was especially tricky since the cover was hidden. Additionally, Eagles spent time writing high-quality book reviews based on books they'd read in Guided Reading. Not only were these reviews well-written, but the children also showcased their excellent subject knowledge by using sophisticated grammar and punctuation.

For **Science Week**, the children took part in several science-based lessons, kicking off the week with the



dissection of a pig heart. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the main functions of the heart and identifying its parts. They then had the opportunity to dissect the heart themselves, locating its parts and labeling a diagram of what they had explored. We also conducted a pattern-seeking experiment where we asked the question: Does height affect shoe size? Eagles produced a scientific report to answer this question, which included writing a hypothesis, making predictions, collecting data, creating graphs and drawing conclusions. At the end of the week, the Eagles participated in a fun experiment where they dropped eggs from different heights and predicted whether they would crack- they had great fun doing this and so did !!

Although the Eagles have enjoyed celebrating reading and science, they have also worked hard to complete their final assessments before SATs week in May. They all worked extremely hard to demonstrate their learning and, most importantly, to do their very best.

Miss Woods

Outside Achievements



What a fortnight for achieving great success outside of school, we love to see so many children getting involved in all sorts of extra curricular activities. This edition sees Football Trophies, Amatuer Dramatics, Gymnastics and Blue Peter Badges! Well done to Spencer, Harrison, Ben, Bea and Olivia.



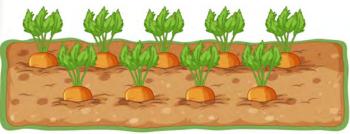
House Points

Winners

House point winners, it's very close at the top with just two points separating Topaz & Ruby, with Ruby just taking the lead. With two weeks until the end of term there's plenty of time for a change at the top of the leaderboard.

Attendance Winners

Well done **Badgers 100% attendance** last week and this week's attendance winners are Lions with 99.26% so close!



St. Mary's Vegetable Patch -**Request for Assistance**

We are excited to announce our plans to repair and expand the vegetable patch at the front of St. Mary's School. Our goal is to create a more vibrant and sustainable space where students and the local community can engage in gardening, learn about food production, and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

To make this possible, we are looking to purchase

additional railway sleepers to repair and hopefully expand the existing raised beds. If you are interested in supporting this initiative by helping us fund the purchase of these materials or volunteering your time, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact the school office for more information on how you can get involved and contribute to this exciting project.

Thank you for your support in making our vegetable patch bigger and better!

Spring Tidy - Forest School Area-Wednesday 2nd April 2025

We would like to request some help from our parents, older siblings, grandparents and carers.

Our Forest School area needs a Spring Tidy and we need some help to do this - it will include: planting trees, cutting back brambles and assisting with the upkeep of the forest area.

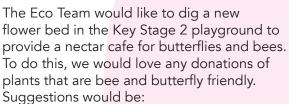
Please bring your own tools!

This is a one off event that will take place on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 1:30pm-3:30pm.

Children are welcome to join in and help. Please complete the form if you are able to help us!

Spring Tidy Sign Up Form

Eco Team -Request for Help!



Hardy herbs, lavender, primroses, grape hyacinth, salvia, bluebells - but any other plants that attract insect life would be very welcome. If you have anything spare, it would be greatly received by the Eco Team members!







A note about safeguarding...

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

Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 4

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.



| Date | Event |
|----------|--|
| 21.03.25 | Comic Relief & Down's Syndrome Day |
| 24.03.25 | Year 5 Girls Netball Tournament at Downside School |
| 25.03.25 | Badgers Yr 2 Assembly, followed by Parent Workshop 9am |
| 25.03.25 | Dance Umbrella Foxes |
| 26.03.25 | Rabbits Yr 1 Parent Workshop 2.15pm |
| 27.03.25 | Ducklings Reception Parent Workshop 9am |
| 31.03.25 | Parent / Teacher Meetings from 3.30pm |
| 01.04.25 | Parent / Teacher Meetings from 3.30pm |
| 02.04.25 | Lions Parent Workshop 9am |
| 02.04.25 | Spring Tidy 1:30pm - 3:30pm |
| 02.04.25 | Eagles Parent Workshop 2pm |
| 03.04.25 | Lions Easter Service at St. Mary's Church 9.30am |
| 04.04.25 | Sponsored Events (fundraising afternoon) |
| 04.04.25 | PTA Easter Disco |
| 04.04.25 | Last day of Term 4 |
| 22.04.25 | Start of Term 5 |



Are you interested in special educational needs and disability services?

Passionate about good governance and advice services that make a real impact and help improve people's lives?

Able to lead, influence and challenge?

Sendias Bathnes is recruiting for a

Volunteer Independent Chair

to guide and manage our Advisory Group, ensuring we meet Minimum **Standards for Delivery**

sendiasbathnes.org.uk/volunteer-us

For an informal discussion call Jo Daglish, Service Manager, on 01225 394177









Supporting youth charity Mentoring Plus and young people in Bath & North East Somerset





PTA NEWS

The PTA are always looking for volunteers to help us run different events for the children and school/village community.

Can you spare just an hour during events to help us run them successfully?

Are you interested in joining the PTA or are keen to help when you can as a 'friend of the PTA'? We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have any skills that we could utilise? Do we have any amateur DJ's who would like to help with school discos? Any gardeners who can help tidy the forest school area? All suggestions for ways you can help will be gratefully received!



Contact Stef Mills if you can help: 07790778453

Recently things we have funded for the school include lots of books for the library and book burrow, prizes for the best costumes during World Book Day, History & Geography Respurces, prizes for the Great Timsbury Bake-Off and much more!

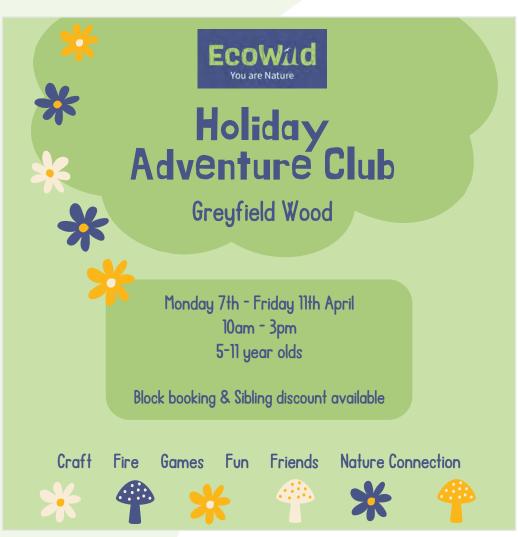
You are invited to join us at the St Mary's School, Timsbury PTA (Parent and Teacher Association) AGM (Annual General Meeting) Change of date and location: Monday 17th March 7pm-8pm St Mary's School

St Mary's

If vou...

- · Are interested in how the PTA charity is run
- · Would like to know how we spend our funds
- · Have suggestions for fundraisers
- · Are keen to get involved in fundraising
- · Have skills that might help support the PTA or our events
 - ...then we would love to see you



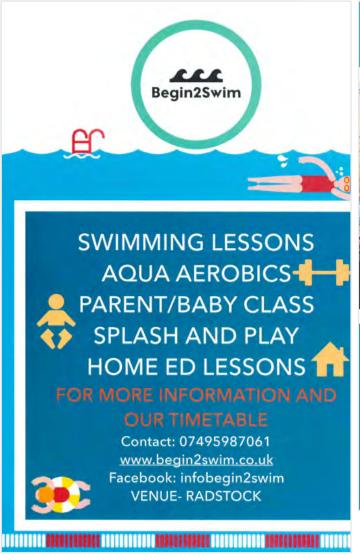












Improving People's Lives







For paid places

Limited free places available for children on benefit related free school meals

Happy Healthy Holidays FREE Places

- Register for our community now
- Booking goes live at 10.00am on Monday 17th March

