



St Mary's CofE Primary School

"I can do all things"

Living Together, Learning Forever, Loving God's Creation

Friday 5th July 2024

Newsletter 17

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



The School Election



This week, we held our own School General Election. We decided to do this because at St Mary's we think one of the most important British Values is Democracy.

We had children in Year Six representing each party to try and convince all of the people in our school community to vote for them. The actual General Election was on the 4th of July but we had ours a day earlier on the 3rd of July because our Year Six candidates were visiting their secondary schools on that day.

Earlier in the week, each of the parties did an assembly, explaining who their party is and what they would do to help the country if they did win the election. The parties that were represented were: Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats (also known as the Lib Dems) and the Green Party. Two of the real candidates were also kind enough to visit us: Dan Norris (Labour) and Edmund Cannon (Green Party). They spoke to the Year 6 representatives and gave them advice on what they could do to get people to vote for them.

On the day of our School Election, our candidates went round the classes canvassing, trying one last time to convince their constituents to vote for them! We set up a Polling Station in the School Library where there were booths for people to vote privately before posting their ballot paper in the ballot box.

We really enjoyed this opportunity to vote just like adults were doing on the 4th of July and we hope we will be able to do more things like this in the future.

Written by: Ben, Elsie, Mog and Lily.

St Mary's News Team

House Points Winners



Well done to our House Point Winners this week **Emerald**... not long until the end of term reward who will be next weeks champions!

Attendance Winners



Congratulations to **Ducklings** and **Rabbits** Class for having the highest attendance last week. This week's champions are **Badgers** Class.

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:

Service	Dexter M
Courage	Oliver W, Bobby E
Compassion	Florence C, Eddie S

Sports Day



We all enjoyed a very warm Sports Day this year. On the hottest day of the year so far, the water station ended up being the most popular! All the children enjoyed the full range of activities on offer during Sports Day. It was lovely to see so many children with smiles on their faces as they tried their hardest. It was wonderful to see so many family members coming to cheer the children on and staying for the picnic. Thank you to the PTA for providing gazebos and refreshments.

Well done to everyone.

Congratulations to Ruby House who won overall.



Joseph Elliott

We were so lucky to have *Joseph Elliott*, author and actor, visit us recently. During an assembly, he shared his journey from actor to author and discussed why he loves writing so much. He told us about the different books he has written and read us some of his brand new book *'Nora and the Map of Mayhem'*. It was very funny and we didn't want him to stop reading! Well done if you were lucky enough to grab a signed copy of his book after school.

Geography Fieldwork Day

This year, we took part in the Geographical Association's National **Festival of Fieldwork**. This aims to encourage children to develop curiosity and a sense of wonder about their local area. Each class enjoyed practical activities and practised their observation, questioning and investigation skills. Activities ranged from measuring wind speed, an investigation into the condition of our local park, comparing nature in the local vicinity to elsewhere in the world and assessing our environment against World Heritage Site criteria. It was great to get out of the classroom and conduct some fieldwork whilst developing our Geographical skills.



Outside Achievements

Some great achievements outside of school - well done to everyone!



Headteacher's Award

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

Ducklings:	Joey , Ella, Harry
Rabbits:	Spencer, Rowan
Badgers:	Jayden, Max
Foxes:	Freddie, Florence
Lions:	Joe, Eliza
Eagles:	Edith, Felix B, Imogen & Craig



Office Reminders:



ParentPay - We will be finalising our ParentPay ledger over the next week or so, please can we ask parents to check their accounts and pay any outstanding monies owed? We will follow up on any unpaid sums in the last week of the term.

If you have any problems or need help to access your account please contact the school office.

Hedgehogs



Class News:

We have had a wonderful couple of weeks in Hedgehogs. The children loved visiting the rest of the school for their **Sports Day**. We spotted lots of the children's older siblings and cheered them on in their races. It was exciting visiting the big field and it was a lovely sunny and warm day to be outside. The children have enjoyed trying out lots of different sports inspired by **Sports Day** this last week. They have done assault courses, running races, kicking the ball, passing and throwing, jumping and balancing on beams to name just a few! All of the Hedgehogs are very supportive of each and it has been lovely hearing them cheering each other on as they have practised lots of events.

Our two focus books the last couple of weeks have been *'Billy Goats Gruff' Retold by Mary Finch and Roberta Arenson* and *'A Quiet Night In' by Jill Murphy*. These two stories have been especially popular in the nursery. When we introduce a new text we talk about all the different parts of the book including; the author, the blurb, and the front and back cover. We have been amazed at how quickly the children have remembered this and even our littlest learners have been able to talk about the blurb and remember the different parts that make up a book! We also talk about what happened in the story and it's always lovely to see the children incorporating parts of the books we read them in their imaginary play.

We can not believe we only have two weeks left of term before our preschool children head up to Reception. They are all very ready and have shared with us stories from their visits to their new classes which they are all excited about.

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



Ducklings



Class News:

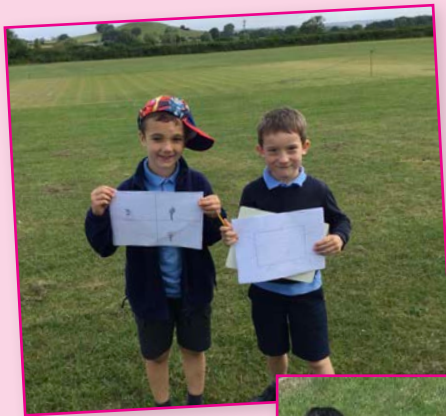
We have enjoyed the last 2 weeks in Ducklings Class. The children enjoyed **Sports Day** and it was lovely to have so many parents and carers coming to watch. Thank you for supporting the children, it was great to be part of such a fantastic team atmosphere.

We have been reading the stories 'Dear Zoo and Handa's Surprise'. The children have written recounts of their trip to **Noah's Ark Zoo Farm** and have retold the stories in Literacy. We are looking forward to tasting lots of the delicious fruits next week.

In Maths, we have been completing lots of recap and review games in preparation for Year One. We held a Geography **Fieldwork Day**. The children created observational drawings of St Mary's field. They then compared this environment with the African Plains and Kenya. We noticed the colours in the environment were very different.

On Thursday the Ducklings went up to Rabbits Class to meet their new teacher. It was lots of fun and the children are excited for their new challenges next academic year.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



Rabbits



Class News:

Another two weeks have whizzed by in Rabbits and there is some much to share.

In Maths, we have been learning about *money*. We have been identifying coins and notes and have used pre-money counters to help us understand the value of each of the coins. We have enjoyed using coins to practise buying and selling items in the role-play shop.

Over the last two weeks in English, we have been writing recounts all about our trip to **Noah's Ark Zoo Farm**. We tried to make our writing descriptive and we used time connective to help us sequence our recounts.

We especially enjoyed having our parents join us for our Geography fieldwork workshop this Tuesday. It was great to see so many parents and to share our learning from the **Festival of Fieldwork** day with them. We created some super observational drawings of our local area.

Finally, we all had a fantastic time at **Sports Day**. Despite the heat, the children seemed to have had a great time, Rabbit Class loved all the **Sports Day** activities but most thought the water activity was their favourite.

Miss Tolfree

Badgers



Class News:

There has been lots going on over the last 2 weeks in Badgers Class!

Firstly, we had an amazing **Sports Day!** The children were enthusiastic and encouraging of one another and gave everything their best shot. The water challenge was a favourite and we had some very wet children by the end of it!

Also, we have been building up to our big St Mary's election. We knew how important our individual vote was and enjoyed listening to the different parties' pitches. The polling station and cards were very realistic and we enjoyed putting out ballot paper into the box. We can't believe we have to wait to find out the result though!

Thank you to everyone who came to our parent workshop. We enjoyed sharing our PE lesson with you and hope you didn't get too cold watching us. We enjoyed showing you the Book Burrow too - it's our new favourite place!

In English, we have been writing letters to our new teacher to introduce ourselves. We had to think carefully about our hidden talents and think about some interesting facts that make us stand out from the crowd. For example, did you know Florence is a Swiftie?

With only 2 weeks left to go we still have lots of learning to fit in including our school trip to the **SS Great Britain** next week, we can't wait!

Mrs Newman



Foxes



Class News:

What an amazing fortnight!

We had a fantastic **Sports Day.** I was impressed by how supportive the children were of each other. They all had a go at every activity and persevered when things were challenging. A huge shout out to Oliver and Bella - they only had two members in their team and they kept on going - well done!

For Geography **Fieldwork Day,** we had enormous fun calculating wind speed. We measured ten metres in the playground and timed how long it took one of the bubbles to travel across our finishing line.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Music Parent Workshop. The children enjoyed showing their learning about technique and rhythm using the djembe drums. I know the parents enjoyed joining our lesson too!

In Computing, we have been learning how to *Code using Scratch.* The children have worked hard to program their Sprite to move in different directions using the arrow keys. This was challenging but fun.

Finally, the sun came out long enough to enable us to create some interesting shadows in our Science lesson. We enjoyed learning about what shadows are and how they are formed. It is great to see the children enthusiastic about their learning.

Mrs Hayward



Lions



Class News:

We had a great **Sports Day** with lots of fantastic effort and achievement from all the children. It was lovely to see everyone cheering their teammates on and enjoying the activities and races. The children continued their brilliant effort by putting on a class assembly for the rest of the school which showcased their recent Science work on *Living Things and Their Habitats* and also shared lots of memories from their trip to **Folly Farm**. They wrote the assembly themselves and put a lot of effort into researching facts and writing their own memories of **Folly Farm**. We then enjoyed a parent workshop looking at branching databases and food chains. Thank you to those of you who came along, we hope you enjoyed it.

In Maths we have been learning about money, ensuring that we are counting accurately and understanding how to convert between pounds and pence. In Music we have been practising our Samba drumming, working hard to keep the Samba beat going whilst listening to each other and working together to create a rhythm.

Finally, in Geography, we enjoyed getting out of the classroom and engaging in some fieldwork activities. We went to the local park and investigated the facilities there. Lots of us noticed things we had never seen before, like who manages the park, what designated parking spaces there are and the facilities nearby.

Well done for a great fortnight Lions!

Mrs Brown



Eagles



Class News:

It's been another busy fortnight for our Eagles with lots of different, exciting projects taking place.

First of all, thank you to all parents who have helped our Eagle Entrepreneurs to establish such successful businesses. It has been a remarkable success and we didn't believe we could ever reach our target of £850 so easily. We are very very close to this figure already and we would like to send a huge thanks to everyone in the parent community from across the school who has supported this venture. It will ensure that all of our Eagles have an enjoyable final day of the school year and also that our Year 6 pupils get the send off they deserve on their last day at St Mary's.

Our Y6 Eagles have helped to promote the British Value of Democracy recently in running the St Mary's School Election. Our teams of Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates have been on the campaign trail as they have attempted to persuade the St Mary's constituents to vote for them. It was great that Dan Norris and Edmund Cannon were able to take the time to come and visit us and speak to their pupil counterparts ahead of their big day too. We were very keen to find out what our

result was when the whole school community visited our Polling Station this week.

The School-O-Vision Song Contest takes place on the evening of Wednesday 10th July and the afternoon of Thursday 11th July for those parents wishing to come along and be entertained by our Y6 Eagles. A lot of work has been going on during rehearsals and we hope you will be wowed by the production. It's almost of West End quality if we do say so ourselves! Again, our thanks to all of the parents who have supported us with costumes and props. We are very grateful for your help with this.

We have finished our photography unit in Art with the task of recreating famous paintings from history. Using an array of different resources, groups had to think creatively about how they were going to position themselves and build the same effect created from the original painting, using a selection of different props and fabric. In DT, we have begun cooking our 'Come Dine With Me' experience. Eagles worked brilliantly making their starters, stuffed peppers, and a brave few even tried them at the end!

Mr Daniels & Miss Heath



Head Lice

We seem to have several classes who have had some unwanted visitors - please can you check your child's hair over the weekend and treat the nits if necessary. We have added a leaflet at the back of the newsletter with helpful tips.



HCRG Care Group

Are you concerned about your child's weight?

Do you struggle with your child eating healthy meals?

Are you able to ensure an active lifestyle for your child?

Would like any support, and be interested in 1-2-1 free sessions for you and your child?

Or would you be interested in attending a fun, free, after school group, covering healthy eating, activity, emotional eating, and challenges?

If you would like to discuss this, please contact Chrissie from the Children's Healthy Weight Team on 07443660890 or email

Chrissie.kay@hcrccaregroup.com

Or please, express an interest to the school.

Summer Fayre

The **St Mary's PTA Summer Fayre** will be taking place next Friday the 12th of July, straight after school with a variety of stalls, games, and this year, a guess the member of staff from Team Timsbury from their baby/toddler photos - and of course the Rainbow Hamper Raffle!

Please support this worthwhile fundraising event, the PTA does a marvellous job fundraising and without their assistance, there are lots of special events that wouldn't be possible.

BBQ for the Summer Fayre

Please contact the School Office if you have a BBQ you would be willing to lend to the school PTA for the Summer Fayre. Thank you



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 Newman or Mrs Purnell.

Dates for your Calendar 2023-2024 - Term 6

Date	Event
Tuesday 09/07	New Reception Parents - 1 to 1 meeting Badger Class SS Great Britain Trip
Wednesday 10/07	New Reception Parents - 1 to 1 meeting Y6 Performance 6 pm
Thursday 11/07	Yr 6 Performance 2 pm
Friday 12/07	Stay & Play New Reception Sept 24 Class 9 am to 10.30 AM Summer Fayre - straight after school!
Wednesday 17/07	Hedgehogs Leaver's Event
Thursday 18/07	Yr 6 Leaver's Service in the Church 9 am
Friday 19/07	Last day of school & the year!

FREE family cycle training

This Summer B&NES Council is pleased to offer free family cycle training in **Midsomer Norton** at **Free Rangers Forest School Nursery**.

This one to one course is designed to instruct the lead family member how to shepherd the group with road safety tactics. It also aims to improve children's cycle skills and road awareness while having fun with parents! The first hour will introduce basic cycle skills and will take place under a barn. Then, the group will have activities on a cycle lane and carefully selected local junctions under guidance of our instructor.



There is no minimum age but to attend this course, all riders must be able to ride a bike (set off, pedal, slow down and stop). If required, we can offer **bike & helmet loans free of charge**.



To see available dates and book a space,
scan the QR code or email: bikeability@bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

SERVICE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value SERVICE. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Service

Jesus was called the 'servant king'; his mission was to **serve** God and to **serve** all those people he met, through his teaching, his example and the way he led his life.

Who are the unsung heroes who **serve** us?

- at school
- at home
- in our clubs

How do you **serve** others?

- at school
- at home
- in your clubs

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"There is more happiness in giving than receiving"

The words of Jesus recorded in Acts 20.35 - The Good News Bible



READ TOGETHER...

Queen Esther serves her people

When King Xerxes, the ruler of the mighty land of Persia, was looking for a wife, Mordecai immediately thought of his cousin, the wise and beautiful Esther. Mordecai's family was Jewish, but he warned Esther not to tell anyone about this as he knew that there were powerful people in the land who hated Jews. Mordecai took Esther to the palace gates to be presented to the king, and, sure enough, as soon as King Xerxes saw Esther he fell in love with her, and the humble Jewish girl became a queen.

Mordecai often sat by the palace gates hoping to hear snippets of news about his cousin. For some time, all seemed well. But Haman, a wicked and powerful man in the court of King Xerxes, became angry with Mordecai because he would not bow down and honour him. Haman hatched a cunning plan. He began to tell the King bad things about the Jews living in his land and eventually he persuaded Xerxes that all the Jews should be killed. Queen Esther was beside herself with grief. She loved her people very much but felt powerless to help them.

King Xerxes noticed how terribly sad his queen had become, and begged her to tell him why she was so upset. Esther said she would explain if he and Haman would come to a feast that she prepared the following evening. When the grand banquet was over King Xerxes asked once again. "My dear Esther, you promised to tell me the reason for your sorrow." Esther summoned all her courage in what might be her last act of **service**. She told the King about Haman's plan to kill all of the Jews, which would include herself. King Xerxes was furious at the prospect of losing his beloved and beautiful Esther and ordered Haman to be arrested.

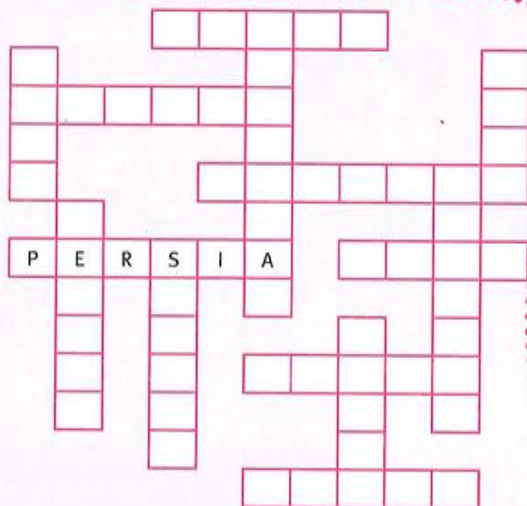
And so it was that Esther's name will be forever be remembered for her willingness to risk everything in the **service** of her people.

Bible story based on Book of Esther



QUIZ Word Fit

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| ESTHER | FEAST |
| XERXES | GATES |
| HAMAN | KING |
| MORDECAI | QUEEN |
| JEWS | SERVICE |
| PERSIA | SORROW |
| CUNNING | WISE |



Bath & North East Somerset Libraries

WRITING COMPETITION

100 Years Writing Competition

To celebrate our 100-year anniversary, we're launching a Centenary Writing Competition!

The competition theme is 'One Hundred Years.'



Who Can Take Part?

The competition has three categories. Children up to the age of 11 years, 12-17 years, and adults.

Prizes include a £20 Mr B's Book Token, with runner up prizes of up to £10 in Book Tokens.

Word Count

There is no minimum, but a maximum of 2,500 words.

The competition runs from 3 June – 31 August 2024.

For full details visit:

<https://baneslibraries.co.uk/100-years-writing-competition/>

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives



Scan for more info

LIBRARY EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

w/c
8 July

Bath Central Library

Centenary Storytime - 1970s The Lorax & There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly

Tuesday 10.30 - 11.00am 9 July

Baby Bounce and Rhyme

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.00am 10 July

Knit Two, Share One - knitting & Crochet group for any age/ability

Thursday 10.00 - 12.00pm 11 July

Board Game Saturdays

Saturday 12.30 - 4.00pm 13 July

Art in the Library: Library Centenary Exhibition

Mon - Sat During opening hours 1 - 31 July

Dressing Up Corner

Mon - Sat During opening hours From 15 July

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

Mon - Sat, Book a Session via Eventbrite

Lego Lab, Family Fun Drop In

Mon - Sat During opening hours

Marvellous Makers - Summer Reading Challenge

Mon - Sat During opening hours 13 July - 14 September

Sign up in any of our libraries for free!



Marvellous Makers logo artwork by Lizzie Everard and © The Reading Agency 2024

Next Thing

TECH CAMP 2024

TWO WEEKS OF TECH FUN AT EACH LOCATION

WEEK 1
ROBOTICS, VR & TECH FUN

WEEK 2
MINECRAFT & LEGO ENGINEERING

HAF
Places Available

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 5-11, 9 AM - 4 PM DAILY

FIND YOUR NEAREST CAMP ON OUR WEBSITE

www.nextthing.education

CHILD CARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2024

JULY - AUGUST

NEW ACTIVITIES THEY'LL LOVE!

ORDER OF WEEKS MAY VARY, PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE

WEEK 1
ROBOTICS, VR + TECH FUN

Program robots, design games, model 3D creations, experience Virtual Reality, learn to mix like a Pro DJ, master Videography and Editing – plus MEGA LASERTAG! A week of inspiration and creation with MAXIMUM excitement. Children will experiment and challenge themselves, whilst learning real-world skills.

WEEK 2
MINECRAFT + LEGO ENGINEERING

Designed for ULTIMATE fun and education! Students can dive into Minecraft Education and design game elements, build Redstone circuits and delve into coding fundamentals. Then take a deeper look into engineering using LEGO bricks combined with sensors and motors, to create cool inventions powered by code.

What to bring to camp?

- Packed Lunch and Snacks (not mandatory)
- Water Bottle
- Medication if Required
- Weather Appropriate Clothing

We are in your area!

We have more than 80 camps running this Summer. Find your local camp on our website: www.nextthing.education

RAVE REVIEWS ★★★★★

"Both my son and daughter had lots of fun, made new friends, learnt new skills and will not stop talking about the Robots!"

Lucy Hart - St. Ebbel's Primary School

Only
£175
for 5 DAYS
or
£299
for 10 DAYS!

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