



# St Mary's CofE Primary School

*"I can do all things"*

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

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Newsletter 09

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

## Wraparound Clubs

Wraparound Clubs provide a warm and friendly environment where children can come before and after school.

They enjoy various activities, such as playing board games, reading books, being creative, and having outdoor fun in the playground. In the morning, before school, they are offered a healthy breakfast with cereals, crumpets, toast, sandwiches, and a selection of fruit. The children sit together to start their day in a relaxed manner, preparing them for the school day ahead.

Seeing the children becoming more confident and forming a great team is wonderful. They support one another and are developing into excellent role models.

Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Purnell, Miss Thatcher, Mr Smart & Miss Lay



## House Points Winners



Well done to our House Point Winners this week **Super Sapphire**, but all the other houses are very close behind!

## Attendance Winners



Congratulations to **Badgers** for having **100%** attendance last week - that's outstanding!

This week's champions are **Ducklings**, who, for the first time, have achieved **100%** attendance - keep up the great work Ducklings.

We also celebrated **100% whole school attendance on Tuesday**, and the children were rewarded with extra playtime!

Thank you parents for helping us to achieve this.

## Wish list

We have a wishlist of books to help pupils, particularly in EYFS, with their Maths knowledge. If you would like to purchase a book for the school, your support would be greatly appreciated, and it would make a valuable difference in the education of our youngest pupils.

Thank you to those who have already contributed.

<https://amzn.eu/9IXEron>

## 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 or Mrs Purnell.

# Headteacher's Award



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

<b>Ducklings</b>	George
<b>Rabbits</b>	Shay
<b>Badgers</b>	Rosie
<b>Foxes</b>	Dexter M & Rafe
<b>Lions</b>	Eliza
<b>Eagles</b>	Willow



## 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.

## Outside Achievements



**Zach** showed the school his magnificent medal, which he was awarded for completing the "Jesus Trail", an impressive 40 miles. What an outstanding medal it was.

**Ruby C** was awarded not one but two outside achievements; firstly, she was named "Gymnast of the Day" at Baskervilles. Ruby also received a rosette for riding and caring for horses. What a superstar!



## Hedgehogs



### Class News:

Wow, the last two weeks have flown by in Hedgehogs! We are all very happy to be back and all of the children have settled happily and enjoyed welcoming some new children. We have spent time talking about what we did over the Christmas break, sharing what traditions we do at home with our families and also what we are looking forward to doing this year.

Last week, our focus book was 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears'; this week, it was 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson. We like to use rhyming stories in class to help children explore the fun of language and predict what is coming next. Stickman is such a fun story that the children have been engaged with all the activities we have been doing this week. You could try reading Stickman at home and see if your child can tell you what is coming next!

The children enjoy learning about the seasons and exploring how the weather and environment change. Even though it feels like we have been learning about winter for ages, the children are still enjoying the odd spell of snow and ice we have been having. We learn by being hands-on in Hedgehogs, so please ensure all children have warm layers, hats, gloves and an appropriate coat so we can always get outside to play!

Mrs Harrison & Miss James



# Ducklings



## Class News:

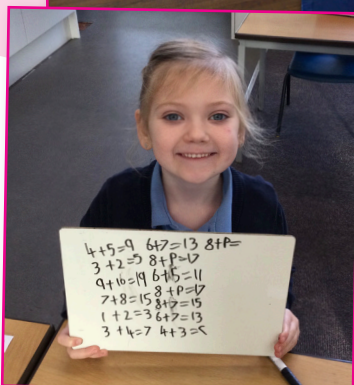
The past two weeks have been full of learning and exploration about *Space*. The children were fascinated by watching the first moon landing and loved all the role-play opportunities the topic had.

In Maths, we enjoyed learning about *Mass and Capacity*. We worked together to make a colourful Planet Earth marble cake using the balance baking method. We are learning different facts about 6, 7 and 8 and have been exploring the patterns created when looking at 1 more than and 1 less than a given number.

This week is the beginning of the *Lunar New Year*. Happy New Year from Ducklings!

The Ducklings have been designing, making and decorating 4 fantastic Chinese dragons in their team colours. We were joined by Hedgehogs Nursery children on Wednesday to perform a Dragon Dance in the hall. We added to the dance we have been creating in PE and took our parade around the school. The children celebrated the *Year of the Snake* and have continued to talk about their dreams and goals for this year during our PSHE lessons.

Mrs Gillard & Mrs Munro



$4+5=9$   $6+7=13$   $8+9=$   
 $3+2=5$   $8+5=$   
 $9+10=19$   $6+5=11$   
 $7+8=15$   $8+2=10$   
 $1+2=3$   $6+7=13$   
 $3+4=7$   $4+3=7$

# Rabbits



## Class News:

Rabbits have had a very busy two weeks!

In English, we have finished writing our innovative stories based on the book *'The Storm Whale'* by Benji Davies. We have been working on writing independently and I have been very impressed with the quality and quantity of their work.

In Maths, we have almost finished our unit on addition and subtraction within 20. Over the past two weeks, we have learned our doubles up to 20, how to find the difference between two numbers and exploring addition and subtraction fact families.

In PE, we have started our units on *dance and gymnastics*. In Dance, Rabbits have been practising moving in time to a beat of 8. In Gymnastics, we have explored shapes such as pike, tuck and straddle. We have been using these shapes to create sequences.

Finally, Rabbits have loved learning all about programming in Computing with Mrs Roberts. They have been using Beebots to explore commands, algorithms and programming. They have also enjoyed using the Bluebot to explore how the inside of the Beebot works.

Miss Tolfree

# Badgers



## Class News:

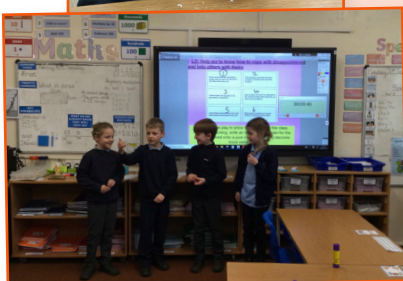
Badgers have had an exciting two weeks.

In Maths, we have moved on to looking at *money*. Badgers are enjoying incorporating this into their daily classroom life with a shared money box and a price list for our everyday routines. Badgers are quickly becoming skilled at recognising the different coins in our currency and calculating totals.

In English, we have moved on to writing a non-chronological report all about *meerkats*! We have learnt so much about their home in the Kalahari Desert and how they hunt. Did you know a group of meerkats is called a mob?

Preparation has begun for our *Moving Monsters* in DT. Badgers have enjoyed practising creating linkages and pivots using split pins and card in preparation for when they build their monster next week. We showcased democracy and voting as they each created two potential designs for their final monster, which were then voted on by the rest of the class, with the favourite being selected for the monster's face.

Miss Heath



# Foxes



## Class News:

Another two weeks have flown by, and the Foxes classroom is busy and productive. In English, we are reading the book '*Podkin One Ear*'. There is a very nasty character called the Gorm that our brave hero, Podkin, has to battle against. The children have enjoyed writing their own character descriptions for Podkin, and they have impressed me with their vocabulary choices and the correct use of all of the grammar features that we have been learning this term.

In Science, we continue to enjoy practical experiments to understand the states of matter better. This week we observed how water turns from solid ice into a liquid through the process of melting. There were some good predictions about our coloured ice cube experiment and the children collected some accurate data to help them with their conclusions.

Our Art topic this term is *sculpture*, the children have turned their hands to soap carving. This was tricky and required careful movements and correctly using sculpting tools. A lot of fun was had and the classroom smelled very fresh for days afterwards!

Finally, in PSHE we are thinking about how we can show resilience in our day-to-day lives and how sometimes, things don't always turn out the way you would want them to. The children put on some good role plays with different scenarios of where someone had faced disappointment and then the rest of the class gave advice about how they could be more resilient and what they could do to overcome that disappointment.

Well done for a fantastic couple of weeks Foxes!

Mrs Brown

# Lions



## Class News:

It's been another couple of weeks of our Year 5 Lions showing that they are enjoying our current topics and continuing to work with their usual enthusiasm for learning.

This week, we began our new theme in History where our work is focussing on British Monarchs. We started with the question: 'What is a monarch?' We created a list of the things a monarch would do and considered how this would have been different in the past, introducing the idea of parliament and how King Charles III is not in charge of everything like monarchs of the past would have been.

Our work in English (inspired by the book 'A Galaxy Of Her Own: Amazing Stories of Women in Space' by Libby Jackson) has continued with us, having written our biographies of our own amazing female astronauts, now creating fictional adventure sci-fi stories with a real suspenseful feel to them. We have also started reading Cosmic by Frank Cottrell Boyce as our class story and are really enjoying it. We are lucky to have a class set of these books in school so everybody has had the chance to take them home and read on ahead! But no spoilers please!

In Maths, our Multiplication and Division unit has come to an end and the aim is for us all to now be able to use formal written methods to multiply 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers, and to divide 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.

Our hockey sessions continue to be a hit and we are developing our tactical skills as we work towards the stage where we are ready for small-sided competitive games. This week, the focus was on use of space and how important it is to keep moving and make yourself available to be passed to.

Finally, in Latin, we were investigating the binomial classification system for naming animals and plants which was created by the Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus. We discovered how all animals and plants have a two-word Latin name (the Genus and the Species). We have already learnt 'equus' as the Latin word for 'horse' so it was interesting to see that the scientific name for a zebra is equus quagga.

Mr Daniels



# Eagles



## Class News:

It has been a successful few weeks in Eagles as the children settle in and get to know their new teacher. Their love for learning and enthusiastic work ethic have been impressive. They've been a joy to teach so far!

In Writing, we've been focusing on researching, planning and drafting balanced arguments on topics such as animal testing and the use of animal organs in human transplants. The children have been busy researching their chosen topics and carefully planning their arguments. We've been focusing on how to make a point, support it with evidence and explore the consequences. So far, their writing has been really impressive!

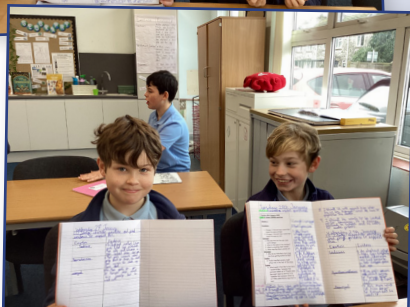
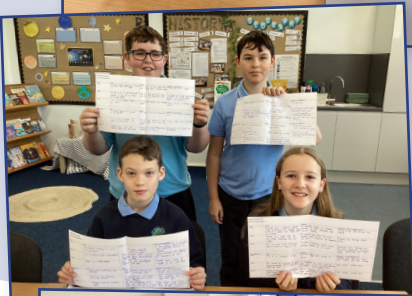
In guided reading, we've started a new chapter book called 'Warrior Boy'. It's an exciting adventure story about a boy who visits his family in Kenya and faces the challenges of becoming a warrior like his relatives. The children have been excited about

the book, and although we're only a few chapters in, they've already made some great predictions about where the story might take us, using evidence from the text.

In Maths, we've started a new unit focused on *fractions, decimals and percentages*. Eagles have exceptional subject knowledge regarding fractions and decimals. Still, they're eager to improve their understanding of calculating percentages of amounts, which has become one of our class targets.

This term, PE has been a hit with the children. We're learning how to play *handball* and have made connections to other attacking sports like netball, basketball, and football. We've learned the rules of the game and have started putting them into practise through a series of mini inter-class matches.

Miss Woods



## KS2 Girls football match



This week, the KS2 girls football team faced the defending champions and county finalists, Trinity Church School, in the knockout round of the Cup. Despite their tremendous effort and determination, the team was defeated 8-0 by their more experienced opponents. However, the game was played in great spirit, and the team showed impressive resilience. I have no doubt they will bounce back stronger in future matches and competitions.

**A big well done to Edith, Merryn, Matilda, Tilly, Tavie, Bella, Pippi, Evie, Emily R, Emily H, Maggie, Olivia, and Violet.**

## Eco Team News - Layer Up, Power Down Day - Friday 14th February

On Friday 14th February, the Eco Team will be telling people to Layer Up Power Down so we can save the environment by wearing extra layers whilst the heating is turned down. Saving energy is one of our Eco Team priorities for this year.

Please ensure everyone comes into school wearing an extra layer with their uniform as the heating will be turned down before it gets switched off over half term.

**By Ben and Spike (Eco Team members)**

## Mid-Somerset Festival

We have had a super response for the **'MidSomerset Festival Verse Speaking Competition'** St.Mary's will be entering 37 children from year 1 to year 6 into the event on Tuesday 4th March 2025. The children taking part will need to memorise and perform a short passage or poem from a children's book. This event aims to promote speaking and give pupils the opportunity to develop the skills and self-confidence associated with public speaking. It is a fantastic event and we are excited to see so many children stepping outside their comfort zones to take part. Please help your children to memorise their chosen poem as soon as possible! Well done to those who have already memorised their poem!

**Safer Internet Day 2025** will take place on the 11th of February 2025, with celebrations and learning based around the theme *'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'*

Top Tips for parents and carers:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2025/tips-for-parents-and-carers>

Safer  
Internet  
Day 2025 | Tuesday  
11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

[saferinternetday.org.uk](https://saferinternet.org.uk)

## Netball Match

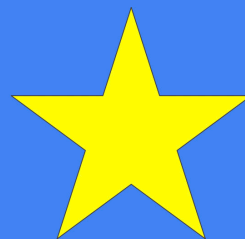
St Mary's netball team continued their progress in the B&NES Netball Cup by winning their second round draw against St Johns. The team put on an impressive display and won their match 14-0. They are now looking forward to finding out who their next opponents will be.

**A huge well done to the team; Willow, Matilda, Jude, Ben, Phoebe, Pippi and Tilly.**



## Dates for your Calendar 2024/2025 - Term 3/4

Date	Event
04.02.25	Badgers parent workshop - 2 PM
06.02.25	Ducklings parent workshop - 9 AM
07.02.25	<i>Foxes parent workshop - 9 AM</i>
07.02.25	NSPCC Number Day
10.02.25	Internet Safety Week
11.02.25	Eagles parent workshop - 2 PM
11.02.25	Speak Out Competition (Year 6)
12.02.25	Rabbits parent workshop - 9 AM
13.02.25	Lions parent workshop - 9 AM
14.02.25	Last day of Term 3 and Layer Up - Power Down Day



# Congratulations, St Mary's School!

WE HAVE ACHIEVED 100% ATTENDANCE TODAY ACROSS THE WHOLE  
SCHOOL! OUTSTANDING!

Every child in every class from Reception right up to year 6 is in school, engaged and learning – let's keep it up!