

ST MARY'S NEWSLETTER



JANUARY
2024

Key Dates for this term:

Thursday 1st February - Pantomime visit

Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th February - Parent's Evenings - time slots for these will be released this week.

Monday 19th February - INSET DAY

Thursday 29th February School Discos
3:00-4:00 KS1 4:15-5:15 KS2

Thursday 7th March World book Day - further information on this will be sent out nearer to the time.

Friday 15th March - Red Nose Day

Wednesday 27th March Spring Show

Wednesday 27th March Easter Service 2pm at St Mary's Church

Thursday 28th March INSET DAY and start of Easter Holidays

Some of our pupils took part in Discover Farming's very first writing competition, organised by the Melplash Agricultural Society. Pupils were asked to produce an original piece of non-fiction writing that was connected to Food and Farming and focused on one of following topics: Why does farming matter and what does it mean to you? Why is it important to eat healthily and to eat seasonal foods? Why is farming the biggest job on earth? My favourite farming season and why?

Three of our pupils, Joe Cox, Theo Cox and Harry Rhodes won prizes and we were voted the overall winning school – receiving a cheque for £500!

Some of the judges feedback included the following comments:

- A very thorough explanation of why farming is important
- I really enjoyed the fact that this writer captured the enjoyment of food that farmers produce, not just for themselves with the importance of eggs for their birthday cake, but also the enjoyment of others
- Good recognition of how farming can be difficult, but also rewarding



A message from the edible garden at St Mary's..

If you (or a grandparent or carer) enjoy being outside in the fresh air and can spare a couple of hours a week to help us in our amazing edible garden at St Mary's, we would love to hear from you!

The edible garden is a calm space in the school grounds, where children can be somewhere quiet and peaceful, surrounded by nature and of course plants!

We have 2 fantastic polytunnels, which are great for sheltering from the rain, a mud kitchen, pizza oven and a wonderful orchard!

We grow a variety of organic veg and fruit including kale, legumes, potatoes, brassicas onions, salad crops, apples, berries and herbs for the school and surrounding community.

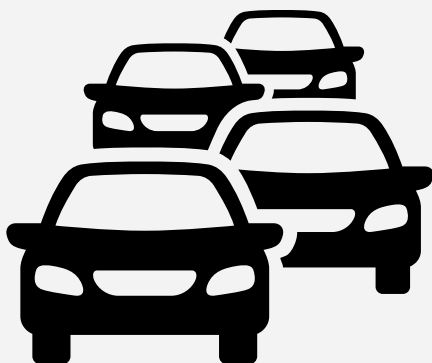
The children learn all about soil, bio diversity and growing food by environmentally friendly and organic methods. It really is a joy to see how much the children get from being in our garden and joining in with our gardening tasks and activities.

If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us show children how to grow food and nurture their school garden, please get in touch sarahwilberforce@gmail.com

Emily & Sarah









A few parents have expressed interest in the songs we are learning in assembly at the moment as their children are enjoying singing them at home. Please click on the icons below to find links to the songs.



We have noticed an increase in cars entering the school car park at drop off and picks ups. Our school caretaker will be manning the gates in the week commencing 5th February to remind people to use the football club car park.

This term we have launched an updated behaviour charter with the pupils. It has three core principles that all staff reference around school. These are to be 'ready', 'respectful' and 'safe'. Children have talked about what this may look like in the classroom, playground and in shared spaces around the school. Each class has its own personalised charter similar to the one below but adapted to their age range. Staff are encouraging pupils when they see these in practice. Everyone now uses the class dojo system to award points for a range of learning behaviours. At the end of each half term, children will be able to spend their points on fun activities. The Junior Leadership team have helped design the new systems and will be reviewing these with classes next half term.

	Always... 	Classroom and Shared areas 	Break and Lunch 
Ready 	Wear school uniform with pride Bring in our book bag and our PE kits. Be ready to engage Put lunch boxes on trolley Coats and PE kits on peg	Agree resources that help you learn and have them with you when needed Be ready with pencil, pen etc. Reading book with you ready to read Accept mistakes help your brain to grow- be ready to correct and edit	Remember lunch time jobs/ clubs and be where you are expected to be Visit the toilet during lunch so you are ready to learn Wash hands, get a drink during lunch and play times Have a snack Play in the right area
Respectful 	Listen and follow instructions Be helpful where you can Share whenever you can Celebrate successes Listen to all Treat others fairly Speak kindly to all Celebrate diversity	Talk and listen with kindness to teachers, TAs, Volunteers, visitors and each other Value and praise other children Respect everyone's uniqueness and individuality Be aware of your noise level- too noisy makes it hard to learn	Talk and listen to all lunch time staff, teachers and TAs with respect Be kind and tolerant of everyone on the playground Treat your friends with respect- banter and jokes can hurt Upstand respectfully if you need to Respect nature
Safe 	Use equipment in the correct way Walk around the school building and in the courtyard Keep feet on the ground unless on a climbing frame or during PE	Use all equipment in the safest way Walk around the area at the right time Tuck in your chairs Keep the classroom tidy and clutter free Keep water bottles in the correct place and use safely Throwing is for outside and PE	Use the equipment in the way you have been shown. Follow the rules around specific areas- monkey bars/treehouse/woodland Sticks should be used safely- no longer than your arm



ClassDojo