

St Mary's C of E Primary School

Growing Our Community Together.

'Welcome, Nurture, Grow, Flourish.'

Dear St Mary's Community,

As November draws to a close, we are well and truly preparing for Christmas. There is always such a buzz in the air at this time of year. The children are working hard on all their different productions, as well as carrying on with their learning in class. We are aware that in the midst of the excitement and busyness, it can also feel overwhelming for some people. If you think your child might need some extra support, please do come and speak to us. Below, we have listed the dates that you will need to be aware of in the coming weeks.

The Team at St Mary's.

Christmas Performances in School:



Ticketing information for the EYFS/KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Christmas Concert is now live on Weduc in the payment section. Please note there is no payment required, but you do need to book tickets so that we can manage numbers for each performance.

In order to ensure safe and adequate space in the hall during the performances, tickets are limited to 2 per household.

[EYFS/KS1 Nativity Booking Link](#)

[KS2 Christmas Concert Booking Link](#)

A Message from the PTA:



On Monday 24th November, our wonderful PTA hosted our annual Santa Fun Run. The playground and field were filled with giggles and smiles as the children (and Santa) completed their laps. Not only was it an incredibly enjoyable morning, it was an event that managed to raise **£2712** for the school. We are so thankful for your generosity and grateful to our PTA who work tirelessly to think of ways to support our children. A special thanks must go to Mr Redmond, Mrs F, Matt King and Louise Mooney for giving up their time. We appreciate you!

The PTA would like to invite your child to participate in this year's Secret Santa. The Secret Santa shop returns on **Monday 15th December 2025**. Your child has the opportunity to choose a gift/gifts to take home wrapped and ready for Christmas. Both male and female gifts will be available for £5.00 per gift. We ask that no more than 2 gifts per child are purchased. Please order using the Sum Up link you will have received via Weduc. Orders will close on Wednesday 3rd December, so that the PTA elves can get shopping.



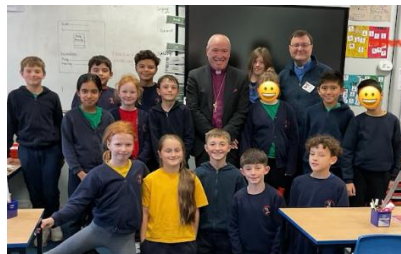
A Visit from Bishop Paul

This week, we welcomed Right Reverend Paul Davies, the Bishop of Dorking to St Mary's. He led an act of Collective Worship based on Matthew 7 v 24-27.

The Wise and Foolish Builders

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. **25** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

We explored the theme of "foundations" to help us celebrate 155 years since St Mary's was founded. Our Head Year 6 Pupils then took Reverend (and our own Reverend Nicholas) on a tour of the school, visiting a number of classes before working with some of the Year 5 students. It was wonderful to meet The Bishop and hear about his time as a crew member of the RNLI and as a minister and Archdeacon in Wales. He talked to the children about the importance of caring for our environment and how they should aspire and explore different vocational paths.



Bishop Paul met with our pupil council during his visit. They had lots of questions for him...

Do you enjoy being a Bishop? *I do. One of the things I like to remind people of is to be thankful for all the blessings we have. Sometimes it's hard when so many things seem to be going wrong, but if we stop and think, there are lots of reasons to say 'thank you'.*

What is your favourite thing about being a Bishop? *My favourite thing is coming to visit schools because I always learn a lot from the pupils and the grown ups.*

Why did you want to become a Bishop? *I didn't really. I was asked to become a Bishop and so I did, but I love it. I love doing anything that helps to make the world more like the world that God wants for us.*

Is it hard to become a Bishop? *Not really, but it takes quite a long time. Bishops are actually appointed by the king. The prime minister sent a letter to the king saying that we need a new bishop of Dorking and the parishioners would like Paul to be the new bishop and the king wrote back saying 'I am content'*

What do you do in your free time? *I love anything to do with water - swimming, sailing, rowing. If it's too cold, or if I am too far from the water, then I like woodwork. My grandad taught me when I was younger and now I like to make things from wood. I've just finished building a new shed.*

"The best thing about our school is that school is the reason that I know about my rights."

Why did you want to visit our school today? *Because I've heard lots of lovely things about your school. People tell me that St Mary's school is a special place and I wanted to come and see for myself.*

There is a chess piece called a Bishop. Do you like to play chess? *Yes I do, but I'm not very good at winning! I play with my son and he usually beats me.*

Where do Bishops live? *I live in Guildford because it is in the centre of Surrey which is the area that I serve. Sometimes I feel like I live in the car because I do a lot of travelling around the diocese!*

Do you have a garden or a playground? *I have a lovely garden. We use it to sit out and eat in the summer and my son likes to play football in the garden.*

Is it fun being a Bishop? *It's really fun. I get to meet lots of people and I love to laugh.*

Bishop Paul had just one question for the Pupil Council – **What makes St Mary's school special?** Here are some of the things the children shared...

"My friends. They are kind and they help me when I hurt myself"

"People make friends at school. They are kind to you and then you are just kind to them too"

"The best thing about our school is that school is the reason that I know about my rights."

"I like it that people are very welcoming. If new people come we talk to them and play with them so that they can make friends"

"I like that we do assembly together and we have special days and events that we do together like when we did Children in Need and we did the Santa Run. I think we're really lucky because not all schools get to do this."

Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your support for this year's British Legion Poppy Appeal which raised nearly £120. Our thanks also go to Mrs Hadley and her Year 6 helpers who stood at the gate each morning come rain or shine!



The Christmas Journey

Last week, our Year 2 class made a trip over to the Kings' Centre to take part in Insight's "Christmas Journey". Insight is a Christian organisation who come into school to deliver . They deliver lessons and Collective Worship in our school, but today was a day for us to come out to them! The children were taken on an immersive journey of what life would have been like at the time



Sport at St Mary's

This week, children from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 joined 16 primary schools to participate in the borough Sports hall athletics competition at the Kingston Academy. As ever, the children showed great determination, commitment and effort. We are very proud of them all.



Year 4 Assembly

We thoroughly enjoyed watching Year 4's assembly about the Roman Empire. It was clear how much the class has been captivated by the topic, and it was a pleasure to watch them share their knowledge with us. It was apparent how hard they, and Mr Charlton, had worked in order to put this together for us. Thank you very much Year Four!



Autumn 2 Key Dates:

Sunday 30th December (4pm) - St Mary's Christingle Celebration (see information below)

Tuesday 9th December - Key Stage One and EYFS nativity

Wednesday 10th December - Key Stage One and EYFS nativity

Thursday 11th December (6pm) - Key Stage Two Carol Concert

Friday 12th December (2pm) - Key Stage Two Carol Concert

Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day (Bring in £1 for Save the children)

Monday 15th December - Choir singing at Star and Garter

Monday 15th December – Year 1 & 2 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

Monday 15th December - PTA Secret Santa room

Tuesday 16th December – Year 3&4 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 17th December – Year 5 & 6 Christmas Service at St Mary's Church

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Lunch in school

Wednesday 17th December – Parent Book Look (3.20-4pm)

Thursday 18th December - Choir singing at Chessington Community Centre

Thursday 18th December - Year 3 trip to Yorda Adventures

Friday 19th December - School finishes at 1:15pm

Monday 5th January - School closed for Inset

Tuesday 6th January - Pupils return to school

Monday 22nd December – Monday 5th January CHRISTMAS BREAK.
Pupils return on Tuesday 6th January 2026

Click here for school
term dates:

[2025-2026](#)



This Sunday (30th November), St Mary's Church will be hosting a Christingle Celebration at St Mary's Primary School at 4pm.

You do not need to be a regular church attendee to come along to this service.

It is suitable for all ages and will be a time to celebrate Jesus, the light, coming into the world at Christmas.

MONDAY 15TH DECEMBER
2025

St Mary's PTA
presents

SECRET SANTA 2025



GIFTS £5.00 each

Maximum 2 gifts
per child



*Shop Secret Santa using
Sum Up Link*