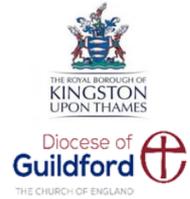




Spring Term Newsletter 5

Friday 13th March 2026



St Mary's C of E Primary School Growing our community together *'Welcome, Nurture, Grow, Flourish'*

Dear St Mary's Community,

It has been another busy couple of weeks at St Mary's, full of the joy of experiencing something different and the pride of achieving something new. From dressing up for World Book Day to working collaboratively during Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths week the children impress us on a daily basis with their creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm for life. These are skills and attitudes which will stand them in good stead throughout their life and we thank you for your ongoing support with this at home and school.

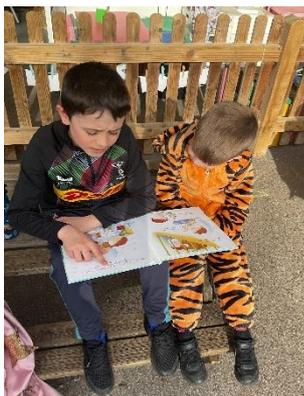
As the Easter Break approaches, we will be busy over the next couple of weeks learning more about Easter and preparing for church services as well as looking forward to welcoming as many parents as possible to our Spring Term parent-teacher meetings in the last week of term.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy weekend

Mrs Quinn and the team at St Mary's

World Book Day

We enjoyed an incredible World Book Day, organised by our English Lead, Mrs Hadley. To celebrate the National Year of Reading, staff and pupils came to school dressed as a word, either a noun or an adjective, with one pupil from each class winning a prize for the most creative costume. We started the day with a reading focussed whole school worship and spent the rest of the day reading for pleasure, writing and sharing stories and comic books, drawing illustrations and designing



book marks.

We ended the day by inviting our families to our 'Reading Cafe' in the school hall with books, cakes and hot chocolate. It was the perfect opportunity for the whole school community to share the love of reading and books. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.



Y3 & 5 Class Assembly



On Monday 2nd March, Year 3 presented their class assembly to their parents. They showed off their knowledge of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages confidently, using a mixture of drama, song and spoken presentations.

Monday 9th March was the turn of Year 5 to present their learning about The Vikings in their class assembly. As you can see, the costumes were fantastic and the children's confidence, drama and singing was just as good.



Well done to Year 3 and Year 5. We are very proud of you all!

STEM Week

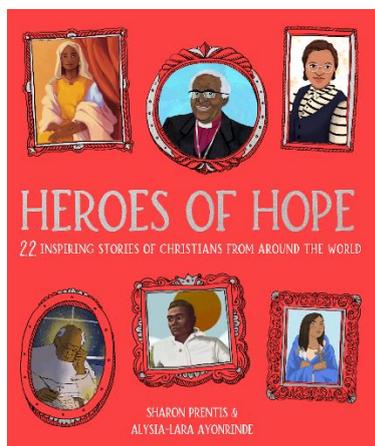
Monday 9th-Friday 13th March is British Science week and to mark this we had a fantastic week of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) at St Mary's. We started the week with a talk about inventors, researchers and scientists and were able to explore the world of STEM throughout the week through visitors to school, class activities, a bridge building competition, parent & pupil maths sessions and ending the week with a fabulous workshop from Kapla. Enormous thanks go to our incredible, dedicated staff who worked so hard to organise the week as well as to our wonderfully supportive families who gave up their time to make the week such a



success. The looks of excitement, curiosity and wonder on the faces of the children really says it all.



Collective Worship



This half term, we have used the book 'Heroes of Hope' within our collective worship time. The 'heroes' in this book lived in challenging times, and demonstrated in their actions how to 'shine like stars', standing up for what is right and good in a world that often didn't reflect this. In our world today, we want to inspire our children to be confident in who they are and what they stand for, just like these heroes, and to be positive role models in our school community, even when it might be difficult.

Last week we heard about St Monica from North Africa. We thought about what St Monica teaches us about what love is, how we might follow her example and which people in our lives are like St Monica. We also pondered how we might show what love is in our actions throughout the day and during the season of Lent.





This week we have heard about Toyohiko Kagawa from Japan who believed that, as a Christian, it was important to take action on behalf of the poor. He wrote a poem called 'Discovery' which ends with the words

**'God, Who dwells in my hand,
Knows this secret plan
Of the things He will do for the world
Using my hand!'**

We wondered together how our hands could be used to support others, how God might dwell in *our* hand?...or how he might reach others through the actions of our hands.

Easter Church Services

Parents and carers are invited to join us for our Easter Church services on Thursday 26th March. Years 1,2 and 3 will be attending church at 9am and Year 4,5 and 6 at 2.30pm. Revd Nicholas will be visiting Reception class in school on Wednesday 25th March for their own special event. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are able to walk with us up to the church. Everyone is welcome. Thank you



Year 6 visit to London Docklands Museum



Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the London Docklands Museum as part of their work on the Victorians. Wandering down the mock Victorian Street in the museum and engaging in an informative hands-on workshop about life on the docks during the Victorian era really brought the learning to life. At the end of the session the staff at the museum commented on how thoughtful, engaged and respectful the children were which made us even more proud of them than ever!



Y5 Easter Experience

Year 5 had a fantastic afternoon at The Kings Centre last week where they took part in the Easter Experience, an immersive theatrical experience led by the Insight team. The event takes the children back in time to meet characters who saw some of the most important events in history! The children met



characters who were at crucial events from the last days before Jesus' death, and those after his resurrection. The children were encouraged to investigate the events and then to examine how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus has affected the lives of so many throughout history.



Parent-teacher meetings

Our Spring Term parent-teacher meetings will take place during the week of 23rd March and parents will be able to book an appointment slot from Monday 16th April. Please see the separate letter that went out earlier this week for further details on how to book an appointment.

Online safety

The guide below offers clear, supportive guidance to help parents and educators feel more confident in navigating the online world with children and young people. It looks at how everyday conversations, simple boundaries, and a bit of digital awareness can make a real difference to young people's online experiences and explores how parents and educators can create an environment where children feel comfortable asking for help when something online unsettles them.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

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Easter Music Explorers (Year 2-6)

KMS is running Music Explorers, a fun, inclusive 4-day holiday music course for children in Years 2–6 at Hook Centre (Mon 30 Mar – Thu 2 Apr 2026). Each day blends hands-on music-making with art and active games. Children can try a variety of instruments (or bring their own). Mid-morning snack and lunch are included.

Times: 10am–2pm (optional extended hours from 9am and/or until 4pm)

Fees: From £0 (FUEL) or from £160 for the core 4-day course

Booking/info/enquiries:

kingstonheritage.org.uk/kmscourses

Also this week: a one-day Youth Folk Ensemble for ages 10+ with at least Grade 2 on their instrument (Thu 2 Apr, 9:30am–2:00pm; brief sharing for parents at ~2pm). Mixed instruments welcome.

Booking/info/enquiries: kingstonheritage.org.uk/kmscourses

Spring Term Dates	
Tuesday 6 th January	Children return to school
Thursday 15 th January	Year 6 Trip to Horniman Museum
Friday 16 th January	Year 3 PTA cake sale
Wednesday 21 st January	PSHE Parent Workshop KS1 8.45-9.30am
Wednesday 28 th January	PSHE Parent Workshop KS2 8.45-9.30am
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 9 th February	Year 2 PTA cake sale
Tuesday 10 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 11 th February	Parent Book Look 3.20-4pm
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	HALF TERM BREAK – SCHOOL IS CLOSED
Monday 2 nd March	Year 3 Fox Class Assembly 2.45pm
Wednesday 4 th March	Year 6 Trip to London Docklands Museum
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Friday 6 th March	Year 1 PTA cake sale
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th March	Science Week
Monday 9 th March	Year 5 Owl Class Assembly 2.45pm
Monday 16 th March	Year 1 Squirrel Class Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 17 th March	School Choir attending Prom Praise at The Royal Albert Hall
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 23 rd March	Whole School Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
Wednesday 25 th March	Whole School Parents Evening 3.30-6pm
Thursday 26 th March	Easter Church Services
Friday 27 th March	Term Ends at 1.15pm
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	EASTER BREAK
Monday 13 th April	INSET staff training day – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 14 th April	Children return to school