



Spring Term Newsletter 3

Friday 6th February 2026



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

Dear St Mary's Community

Our school values of courage, love and community are at the heart of everything that we do at St Mary's. We regularly talk to the children about being brave in their learning, what it means to show kindness, standing up for their beliefs, including others and helping everyone feel that they belong. Small daily actions such as checking in on a friend, welcoming others into their games, listening carefully, trying something new and showing empathy, demonstrate how courage, love and community are lived out in our school every day. As we approach the end of this half term, we are incredibly proud of the way that the children care and support each other, engage in their learning and welcome people to our school community. We know that these values are something we want all our children to carry with them as they grow, so thank you for continuing to model and reinforce them at home too.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy weekend
Mrs Quinn and the team at St Mary's



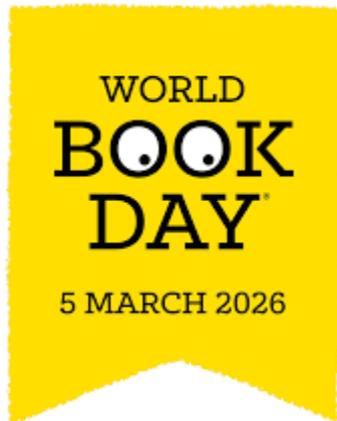
As I am sure the children have told you, the SPARK! Book Awards are back! This week, we introduced the shortlist for this year's awards. The aim is for children across the UK to read four shortlisted books in their age category over the next few months. Children will hear from authors, take part in competitions and, finally, vote for their favourite book, which will

be announced in an online awards ceremony in June. The PTA have very kindly purchased several copies of the shortlisted books for school – thank you so much. The children are already very excited to start reading them.

You can find out more about the SPARK! Book Awards here, as well as the titles of the shortlisted books:

<https://www.sparkbookawards.co.uk/>





World Book Day is just around the corner and is a perfect opportunity to further promote a love of reading. Mrs Hadley has written separately this week to share our plans to celebrate World Book Day next month.

In school this week we have been thinking about the importance of reading and how we promote reading for pleasure. We really want to encourage children to enjoy recommending books to one another and discovering each other's reading interests. We know as adults that we are much more likely to read books or magazines that have been recommended by family and friends, and we are developing more opportunities for this across the

school day for both children and staff. As parents and carers, you can support this by listening to your child read and reading to them daily. Bedtime stories and shared reading not only improve academic outcomes, but also strengthen family relationships and help foster a lifelong love of books. Now more than ever, it is vital that we nurture a love of reading at both home and school so that our children grow into successful and happy adults.

Collective Worship



Monday 2nd February marked the feast of Candlemass. The Insight Team came into school to lead our collective worship and we learned that this feast commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple, symbolising Jesus as light of the world. The team shared with us how they had researched the feast of Candlemass before delivering collective worship, reminding us that learning continues throughout our lifetime and doesn't stop when we leave school. The

theme of learning has continued across the week as we heard the story of Jesus going missing during Passover and how Mary and Joseph found him teaching the teachers in the temple. The children were reminded that their voice really matters and that we can all learn from one another.

St Mary's Open the Book team really brought the story to life for us on Friday and helped us to think about our own safe and special places.



I feel safe at school

I feel safe in my bedroom

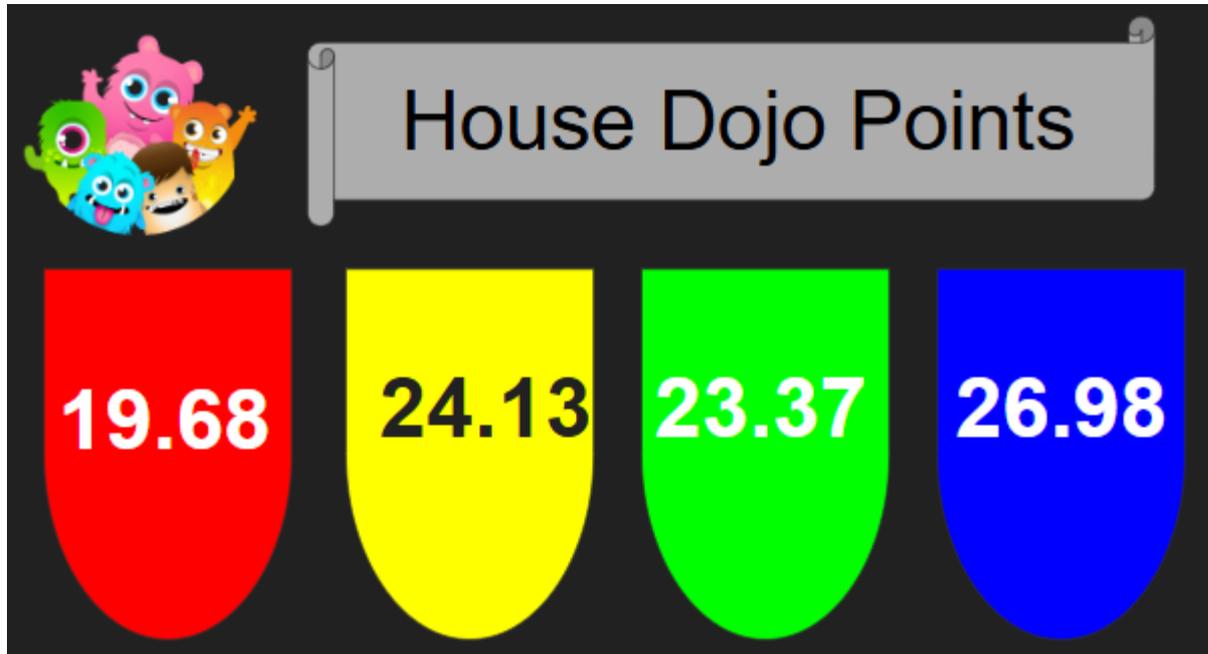
I feel safe with my parents

I feel safe with my friends

I feel safe when I'm at home

House Dojo Points

As we previously shared with you, the children earn dojo points for their house team by showing positive behaviours at school such as persistence, helping others, teamwork, courage or respect. In Celebration Worship each week we share the current leader board with the children. The team who has earned the most dojo points at the end of this half term will be invited to have a non-uniform day on Friday 13th February. Our current leader board is...



Curriculum enhancements



Year 5 enjoyed a terrific trip to the science museum last week as part of their science topic on space. They learned about the incredible scientific and technological innovations that have made space exploration possible.

The children watched a space show which really brought the

learning to life and saw moon landers, rockets and satellites. The children were highly engaged, asked thoughtful questions and thoroughly enjoyed exploring the space exhibition.



This week, **Year 6** took part in the Junior Citizenship Scheme run by TfL. This is a multi-agency event designed to help pupils prepare for the challenges they may face as they become increasingly independent. The activities and interactive workshops teach valuable life skills, enabling pupils to become more aware of what they can do to help themselves and others and to make responsible decisions for a healthier and safer lifestyle.



On Friday, **Year 3** visited the Natural History Museum to support their science learning about fossils. During the visit, the children discovered Mary Anning's fossil collection and took part in a very exciting 'Dino Dig' workshop where they were able to experience hands-

on palaeontology! The children thoroughly enjoyed their day and represented our school beautifully with their excellent behaviour.



A huge thank you to the staff and parents who generously gave their time to support these visits. Your help makes these opportunities possible and is very much appreciated.

Reminders!



Next week on Wednesday 11th February we will be holding our termly parent/pupil book look. This is an opportunity for children to share their learning with you as parents and for you to celebrate their achievements together this term. The book look will take place straight after school on Wednesday from 3.20-4pm. We look forward to seeing you then.



School will be closed for the half term break from Monday 16th - Friday 20th February. If you're looking for activity ideas during the week, take a look at the information below.

What's on for families in Richmond, Kingston & North Surrey at February half term 2026

<https://familiesonline.co.uk/london-upon-thames/whats-on-february-half-term-richmond-kingston-north-surrey/>

February Half Term Fun: Free Activities at Kingston Libraries!

<https://libraries.kingston.gov.uk/blog/february-half-term-fun-free-activities-at-kingston-libraries->

An Insider's Guide to February half term in Kingston

<https://kingstonuponthames.info/discover/things-to-do/an-insiders-guide-to-february-half-term-in-kingston>

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
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