



Spring Term Newsletter 2

Friday 23rd January 2026



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

Dear St Mary's Community

It's been a busy and productive few weeks at St Mary's and I can't quite believe that we are now halfway through this half term!

Over the last few weeks we have welcomed new staff and pupils to our school, enjoyed visits out of school and visitors into school to support our learning, and shared individual and group achievements in our weekly Celebration Worship.

Thank you to the KS1 parents who attended our PSHE information workshop this week. We will be holding a session for KS2 parents on Wednesday 28th January and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you for your continued support for the children, staff and whole school community. You all make St Mary's a very special place to learn, work and play.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Quinn, Mrs Mastrocola & the team at St Mary's

House Dojo Points

Many of you may be familiar with ClassDojo, an online tool that teachers use to give out points to children. Children can earn points for their house team by showing positive behaviours at school such as persistence, helping others, teamwork, courage or respect.

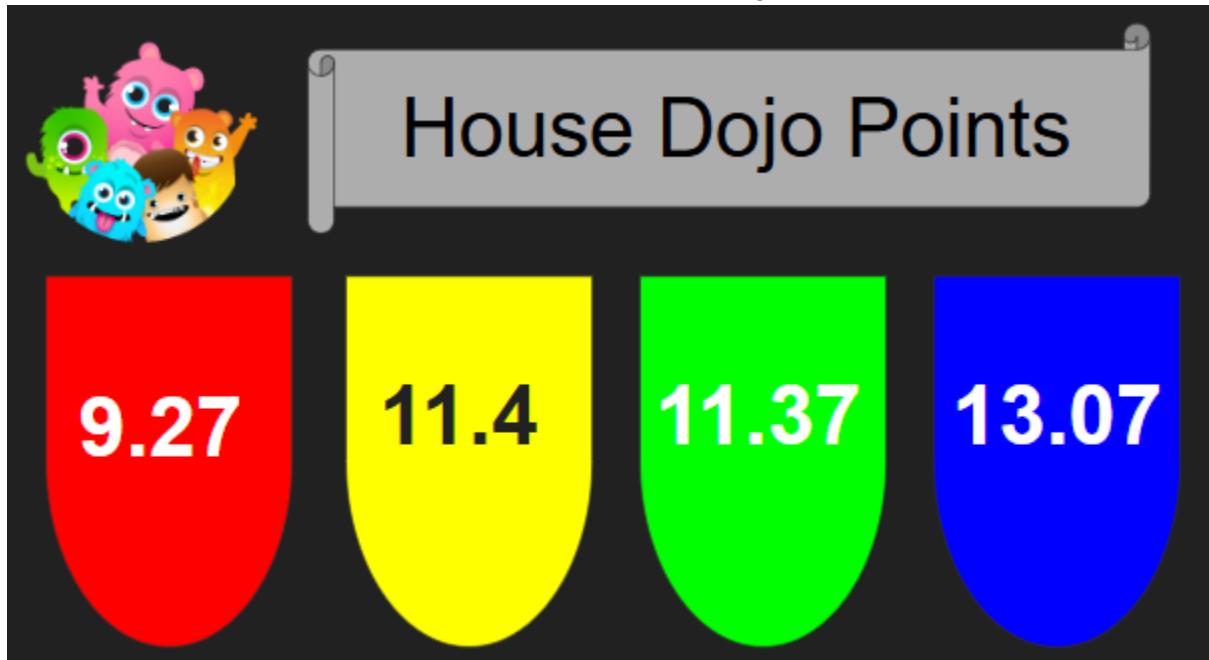


As a team we are keen to celebrate these positive behaviours which we see every day across our school community and so the children are now working towards a house reward at the end of each half term.

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.

Due to the fact that the house teams have different numbers of pupils in each, we have calculated the average number of points that each child has earned for their house so far. Thank you to Mrs Rose & her mathematician helpers for working this out each week.

Our current leader board which was revealed this morning is...



Collective Worship reflections

This week, we have introduced a new theme in collective worship, called Songs from the heart. We will be finding out more about one of the most famous song-writers of all time, who wrote much of the book called Psalms, in the Bible; a man named David. As well as these songs being really special for Jewish and Christian people (who share them in their holy books), the words David wrote are also very human – often a response to what was happening in his life at the time. So there will be ideas and emotions we can all identify with!

This week we have learned about David's work as a shepherd and his belief in God. We have listened to one of his most famous songs, Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd' and shared the story of David and Goliath.

We have reflected on times in our own lives when we have needed to be brave or stand up for something we believe in and wondered how David's words might help us to stand up for what's right and fair, even when we feel small.



Choir & Kingston Music Service

Last year, St Mary's School choir took part in the Kingston Primary Singing Festival at the Rose Theatre in Kingston. This year we are excited to not only be taking part in the festival, but also composing one of the songs to be performed! The choir have already had their first session with a professional musician and over the course of the next term they will be polishing their composition ready for it to be performed at the festival in the summer term. We are really proud of our budding composers and are looking forward to hearing the final piece. Huge thanks also go to Mrs Rose, our music lead, & Mrs Hadley for the time and dedication they give to our choir and promoting music across the school



Y6 trip to Horniman Museum

Last week, Year 6 enjoyed a trip to the Horniman Museum to enhance their geography learning this term. The children have started studying the Amazon



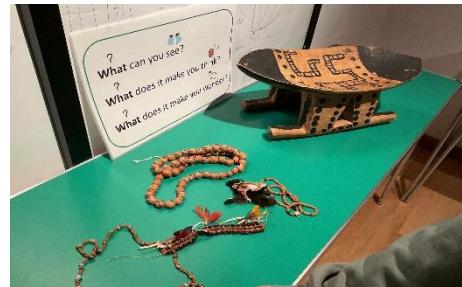
Rainforest, looking at the communities that depend on the forest and river, as well as its global significance. At the Horniman, they experienced a little of the humidity of a real rainforest whilst visiting the butterfly house and were thrilled to be able to observe up close the vibrant colours of some of the beautiful butterflies. They were also able to see for themselves some of the amazing



creatures that live in and around the Amazon river when visiting the aquarium. Finally, the children enjoyed a practical workshop where they learned



more about the traditional ways of the Wai Wai tribe and examined some of the Amazonian artefacts the museum has. It was a thoroughly engaging day and really helped to bring the topic to life. Thank you to the parent volunteers who accompanied the class. We could not do these trips without you.



**SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD
Schools Network**

number of parents looking to schools to support them in their decision to delay the age at which their child has a smartphone.

You can find out more about the Smartphone free childhood campaign [here](#) which includes information for parents and tips on how to speak to your child. We thank you for supporting our school to be smartphone free.

Winter water safety: stay safe, stay off the ice

A waterside walk on a crisp winter day is a popular activity. Here's how to make it a safe one:

- Never go onto the ice.
- Keep any children within reach and teach them not to go on the ice.
- Keep your dog on a lead.
- Stay away from the water's edge.
- Watch out for slippery surfaces - ice, rain, fallen leaves and mud could cause you to slip into the water.
- Stick to well-lit paths.
- Wear shoes with good grip.

Follow the Water Safety Code



Stop and Think

Keep back from slippery banks and wear footwear with a good grip.
Stick to well-lit areas - the reduction in daylight in the winter adds to risks around water. Plan your walks in daylight or along well-lit paths.
Ice can be extremely vulnerable even during periods of prolonged cold. Never go onto the ice.



Stay Together

Keep children within reach and teach children not to go onto the ice.
Keep dogs on a lead near ice and slippery banks.
If out enjoying a winter walk, walk with friends.

In an emergency



Call 999

Call 999 – do not enter cold water or ice to rescue.
Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.



Float

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Preserve heat by pressing your arms by your side and keep your legs together. Keep your head clear of the water.

Make sure the whole family knows basic water safety and what to do if they find themselves in the water unexpectedly. You can access FREE RLSS UK resources to help.

[Resources for Parents](#)

Correction to term dates

Please note that there was an error in the dates that were shared in the last newsletter. The Easter Break starts on Monday 30th March NOT Monday 3rd April. The correct dates are below.

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 Hedgehog Class Assembly 2.45pm
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