St. Mary's Newsletter

Friday 6th November • Fortnightly newsletter

The temperature has certainly taken a dip this week, so please remember to send your child in with a warm coat each day so they can enjoy their time outside.

Our focus value this term is Hope. We'll be using the words 'I can become more' to help the children think about what hope looks like in their own lives. It might mean having another go at something they found tricky last term, finding the courage to try something new or helping a friend see how far they've come. In our collective worship, we'll think about how hope helps us take that next small step, even when something feels difficult.

Bethan Scriven

Dates for your diary

November	
Tue 10th & Thu 12th	**Parents Evening - Most classes**
Mon 9th & Tue 10th	**Lemon Class** - Parents Evening
Mon 9th to Thu 12th	**Cherry Class** - Parents Evening
Mon 9th & Tue 17th	**Beech Class** - Parents Evening
Friday 13th	Children in Need
Wednesday 18th	2027 Intake tour 9:30am
Friday 27th	Mufti Day
Monday 30th - 4th	Yr 5/6 Swimming Lessons
December	
Tuesday 1st	Yr 6 National Child Measurements
Wednesday 2nd	Christmas Carols 9am
Friday 4th	Christmas Fair
Friday 11th	2027 Intake tour 1:30pm

Arriving on time and ready to learn

Our gates open at 8.40am and school starts at 8.50am. Please arrive in time for your child to hang their coat and bag on their peg and get out the resources they need for their first lesson. This helps them be ready for registration and learning at 8.50am.

Those first few minutes of learning are important. Children might recap something they'll need for a lesson later that day or practice key skills such as number work, handwriting or spelling. Thank you for helping your child get off to a good start each morning.

Celebrating our children

Well done to the children who have received certificates.

Rosie, Louis G, Isabella K-S, Paisley, Archie H, Zach Mc, Esme B, Amberley, Leila, Christina, Poppy H-Y, Ore, Cooper, Joey E, Mason M, Gracie S, Ezra Br, Nova, Maya, Isabella-Rose, Lexi, Oliver B, Erin P, Anya, Artemia, George Wi, Marnie, Amber M, Reegun, Freya E, Mark, Indi, Nelly P, Esmee, Madison and Elizabeth

Remembrance Wreath Donations

We haven't been allocated any poppies this year. If you'd like to contribute towards the cost of the Remembrance wreath that will be placed on the lynch gate, please make your donation via the school office. Any money raised above the cost of the wreath will go directly to the Royal British Legion.

Thank you for your support.

Parents' Evening Next Week

We're looking forward to seeing you at Parents' Evening next week. Children are very welcome, and we encourage them to come along with you and take part in the conversation. Please aim to arrive a few minutes before your appointment so your child has time to show you their books and share some of the work they're proud of.

Children in Need

Please join us in supporting Children in Need! Children are invited to come to school wearing official Children in Need merchandise, pyjamas or spots.

A suggested donation of **£1** would be gratefully received. Thank you for your support!

Term dates

2026/2027 Term Dates

Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Start 2nd November **End** 18th December	**Start** 4th January **End** 12th February	**Start** 22nd February **End** 25th March	**Start** 12th April **End** 28th May	**Start** 7th June **End** 21st July **INSET** 25th June **INSET** 28th June

LOVE HOPE TRUTHFULNESS FORGIVENESS COURAGE SERVICE

St Mary's Job Vacancies

Would you like to be part of our friendly school community?
Why not join our team, we currently have the following job vacancies:

Cleaner
11 hours per week, all year round
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri 3:30-5:30pm and Tues 3:00-6:00pm
Grade: Hay 14 £7,614 per annum
For further information and to apply please visit Eteach via this link:

School Cleaner

Lunchbreak Supervisor
5.83 hours per week, term time only
Monday – Friday 12:00-1:10pm
Grade: Hay 13 £3,436 per annum
For further information and to apply please visit Eteach via this link:

Lunchbreak Supervisor

Teaching Assistant
20.75 hours per week, term time only
Monday – Wednesday 8:45am-3:15pm, Thursday & Friday 1:00-3:00pm
Grade: Hay 10 £13,366 - £14,339 per annum
For further information and to apply please visit Eteach via this link:

Teaching Assistant

For full advert details and job descriptions please visit www.eteach.com
Alternatively a paper application form can be collected from the school office.
Closing date for all positions is Friday 20th November 2026

Coffee and Connect

Share • Chat • Connect



Friday 27th November
9am – 10am
in the Meeting Room at
St Mary's School.



All parents are invited for a **coffee** and **a chat** to meet with **Mrs Hill** and **Mrs Wishart**, giving you an opportunity to connect with other parents and to talk to us about how we can support you and your children.

Please let the office know if you would like to attend.



Together we're stronger

ignite sport

After school football club
Term 2
St Mary's CE Primary School



Years 1 - 5

Wednesdays: 15:15 - 16:30

BOOK ONLINE HERE!

SCAN ME

why join...?

- **Inclusive for all Abilities** – Activities are adapted so every child can join in and shine!
- **Safe, Supervised, and Structured** – Every session is led by qualified coaches with years of experience!
- **Smiles every Session** – Children leave buzzing with energy and stories to tell!
- **Fun Guaranteed** – Fun, games based sessions with plenty of action!

www.ignite-sport.co.uk

Sirona care & health | South Gloucestershire School Nursing Team

Meet the School Nurse at Parents' Evening

Tuesday (Parents' Evening)

3:30pm – 5:30pm

Olivia, from the South Gloucestershire School Nursing Team (Sirona care & health), will be in school during Parents' Evening.

Pop along to find out more about the support the School Nursing Team can offer to you and your child. Depending on availability and the nature of your enquiry, there may also be an opportunity for a short, private chat with Olivia on the evening to seek some immediate advice.



The School Nursing Team can support families with:

- **Sleep difficulties** – bedtime routines, settling and sleep concerns.
- **Emotional wellbeing** – worries, anxiety, confidence and managing emotions.
- **Toileting** – toilet training, bladder and bowel concerns.
- **Healthy lifestyles** – healthy eating, nutrition and physical activity.
- **Behaviour and family wellbeing** – understanding children's needs and supporting their development.
- **Growing up and development** – changes as children grow and develop.
- **General health concerns** – advice and signposting to other services where additional support may be helpful.

Parent Sleep Support Session

A one-off session for parents and carers to learn more about children's sleep and pick up practical tips and strategies to try at home.

Thursday 26th November

9:00am – 10:00am



The session will explore common sleep difficulties, the importance of bedtime routines and ways to encourage healthy sleep habits. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences with other parents.

Places must be booked in advance via the school office.

Xplore CHURCH @ YATE PARISH

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS & SERVICES EVERY WEEK

After School Family Time

@ St Mary's

TOAST & DRINKS
TABLE TENNIS
BOARD GAMES



MUSIC



PLAY SPACE & TOYS
CRAFT TABLES
BIBLE THEME

EVERY MONDAY TERM-TIME 3.15-4.15pm

All children need to be with a supervising adult. It's all free (donations welcome).

Just come along!

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Church Road, Yate, BS37 5AB
check out www.yateparish.org

Xplore CHURCH @ YATE PARISH

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS & SERVICES EVERY WEEK

Sundays in November

Sunday 1st November 10.00am
Number 1 Sunday @ St Mary's
Breakfast snacks, play, catch-up, followed by...Interactive service with songs, prayers, bible story, message and activities

Sunday 8th November 4.00pm
Messy Church @ St Nix
Bible-themed activities, short worship time, followed by hot meal together

Sunday 15th November 4.00pm
Tea-Time Worship @ St Mary's
Worship, prayer, games, learning together + tea and cake!

Sunday 22nd November 10.00am
Worship for Everyone @ St Nix
Breakfast snacks, play, catch-up, followed by...Interactive service with songs, prayers, bible story, message and activities

Sunday 29th November 6.30pm Special
Advent Darkness to Light @ St Mary's
Join in with others from across the churches – starting in darkness, then lighting candles, and then full lights, as we think and pray about Jesus bringing his light of hope into our lives and our world. Lots to see, enjoy, hear and sing!





The Busy Bee

In this edition of the Busy Bee, we've been asking some children who are new to our school how they feel about being part of the St Mary's family and what helped them settle in.

By Sophie

What were you most worried about when you first joined? I didn't know what to do.
What helped you feel welcome? Someone helped me by telling me what to do.
How did you make your first friends here? I chose people who were kind to me.
Was there anything you found difficult or confusing? I kept forgetting where everything was.
What do you wish other people had done to help you settle in? They were pretty good already at helping me.
What advice would you give to a child joining our school for the first time? The teachers can help you, and so can I.

1. How did you feel on your first day at our school?Scared.
2. What were you most worried about when you joined?The other children.
3. What helped you feel welcome?My brother.
4. How did you make your first friends here?I played with other children and asked them if they wanted to be my friends.
5. Was there anything you found difficult or confusing?Knowing where to go and understanding why I had to line up.
6. What do you wish other children had done to help you settle in?I wanted the other children to find out more about me.
7. What advice would you give to a child joining our school tomorrow?Don't worry. The teacher will help you.







How did you feel on your first day at our school? Nervous and happy.
What were you most worried about when you joined? That I wouldn't make any friends.
What helped you feel welcome? Being included in games.
How did you make your first friend here? Because I treated them the way I wanted to be treated.
Was there anything you found difficult or confusing? On the first day, I didn't have anyone to play with.
What do you wish other children had done to help you settle in? Show me around to know where everything is.
What advice would you give to a child joining our school tomorrow? Don't worry because it will all turn out good.