

St. Mary's Newsletter



Friday 11th September 2026

Bi-weekly Newsletter

Dates for your diary

Welcome to the first newsletter of our new academic year. It has been wonderful to see the school filled with the energy, enthusiasm and smiles of our children. A warm welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families. The children have made an excellent start, settling into school life with confidence while forming lovely relationships with their teachers and new friends.

As I write, we are eagerly awaiting the return of our Year 6 children from their residential trip. I am sure they will come home with stories to share, having challenged themselves, supported one another and created some very special memories. I would like to thank the staff for all their time and efforts to make the trip possible.

This term, we are introducing **Love** as one of our school values. Our simple statement, "I have worth and so do you," reminds us that every person is precious. I look forward to seeing our community bring this value to life throughout the year.

Message about joining the Trust: You should have received a letter last week confirming that St Mary's and St Helen's are now part of the Severn Federation Academy Trust (SFAT). This marks an exciting new chapter for our school. By 'learning together, with minds that think and hearts that care', we can strengthen our shared commitment to helping every child 'explore, enjoy, excel and amazing'. We are proud to belong to this wider family of schools and look forward to the opportunities it will bring.

A Few Important Reminders: Please remember that children may only have plain water in their classroom water bottles. A second bottle containing flavoured water or juice may be kept in their bag and taken to the dining hall at lunchtime. This applies to all children, without exception.

Toys should not be brought into school. If a child would benefit from a 'concentrator', such as a fidget toy, school can provide an appropriate item where their teacher considers this necessary. Teachers are happy to discuss this with parents and carers. If a child needs a transition object to support them in school, this must be agreed in advance with the class teacher and Mrs Lane, in her capacity as SENDCo.

Join Our Local Academy Committee: Please refer to the letter emailed last week inviting parents and carers to join our newly formed Local Academy Committee and support the governance of St Mary's. This is a fantastic opportunity to work directly with the school, represent our parent community and help us continue to promote both high educational outcomes and the love and care we want for every pupil. The committee will meet five times a year, on Wednesdays at approximately 5.15pm in school. Members will also be expected to make a reasonable commitment to visit school and support the monitoring of an agreed area of school development.

Bethan Scriven



September

Weds 23rd Flu immunisations

October

Mon 5th Individual Photos

Weds 7th 2027 intake tours 5pm

Mon 12th-Fri 16th Book Fair

Thurs 22nd&Fri 23rd Inset Days

November

Weds 18th 2027 intake tour 9:30am

December

Fri 4th 2027 intake tour 1:30pm

Well done to the following students who have received a certificate in the last few weeks

Finley K, Charlie C, Whole of Apple class, Eden, Jaxson P, Whole of Pear class, Ruby K, Ralphie G, Renzo, Eddie B, Perrie, Ollie W, Noah R, Georgia M, Ollie M, Darby, Hugo B, Ewan, George E, Noah D, Kaitlyn, Freddie W, Elora, Codey, Poppy K, Rupert, Margo. Reece, Ellaria, Nina, Theo M, Alfie G, Peter R & Tate M

Free parent workshop

Please come along to join Alison Little with the South Glos behaviour support service on **Thursday 24th September**.

Time tbc (likely 9am-11am)

Promoting positive behaviour –
Practical strategies.

Please let the office know if you plan to attend.

Church Car Park – Bollard information

Please remember that the **church car park bollards are in place from 8:30-9:00am and 3:00-3:30pm each school day**.

These are there to keep **children, parents & staff safe** during busy drop-off and collection times. Please do not drive into or out of the car park while the bollards are in place.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please note that the Friends of St Mary's AGM will be held on Thursday 1st October 7.30 at The Lawns.

2026/2027 Term Dates

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Start 1 st September End 23 rd October INSET 1 st September	Start 2 nd November End 18 th December INSET 22 nd October INSET 23 rd October	Start 4 th January End 12 th February	Start 22 nd February End 25 th March	Start 12 th April End 28 th May	Start 7 th June End 21 st July INSET 25 th June INSET 28 th June



The Busy Bee

A very warm welcome back to all our wonderful children! We hope you had a fantastic break filled with fun, laughter and lots of happy memories.

The school corridors are buzzing once again, classrooms are full of excited voices, and we are ready for another fantastic year of learning, friendship and adventure. Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning to familiar faces, we are so happy to have you with us.

This year will bring plenty of opportunities to discover new things, try your best, make new friends and celebrate our successes together. Remember, every day is a chance to learn something new and to let your imagination shine!

A New Look for Busy Bee 

This year, our Busy Bee will be working in a slightly different format. Children can still share their wonderful news, artwork, sporting achievements and anything else they would like to celebrate by submitting their work in the plastic wallets in their classrooms.

Instead of producing a stand-alone Busy Bee newsletter, we will be sharing your fantastic contributions as part of our school newsletter. We can't wait to see what you have been getting up to and to celebrate all the wonderful things our children are achieving both in and out of school!

So, children, get ready for an exciting year ahead. Let's make it a brilliant one filled with kindness, curiosity, courage and lots of smiles.

Mrs H Wishart



ELSA: Helping Children Thrive

Building Self-Esteem:

Positive self-esteem helps children feel confident and resilient. Praise effort, perseverance, and kindness rather than focusing solely on achievements. Encourage children to try new things and celebrate their unique strengths and interests. Listening to their thoughts and feelings and helping them learn from mistakes can build confidence. Small moments of encouragement each day can make a big difference in helping children believe in themselves and reach their potential.

Mrs Wishart (ELSA)

10 Ways to Build Self-Esteem



1. Identify your **needs, wants & hopes**. And make **CHOICES** that move you closer to them...not farther away.
2. Stand up **TALL**. Literally. Good posture improves **confidence**.
3. Focus on your **EFFORT** and view challenges & mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow. 🌳
4. Talk to yourself like you would to a good friend, with kindness, **compassion** & a good sense of humor.
5. **CREATE. BUILD. Make art.** Follow your curiosities....Do more of what helps you to feel more like amazing, lovable, grounded **YOU**. 🌈
6. **Unplug**. Go outside. **Breathe**. And **listen** to the birds, breeze & wise voice within.
7. Decide what is okay and not okay with you. Then hold your **BOUNDARIES** and stay true to your values. ⬅️
8. **Connect** with others. And spend time with people who treat you the way you want to be treated.
9. Exercise daily, eat healthy food, drink plenty of water & get at least 9 hours of sleep each night.
10. Laugh. **PLAY**. Have fun. **Dance**. Get silly. 🤪

Noticeboard

Posters from outside organisations are shared for information purposes only and do not imply endorsement by the school



Avon and Wiltshire
Mental Health Partnership
NHS Trust

Mental Health Support Team Online Parent/Carer Workshop

What is it?

It is an hour long workshop aimed at parents & carers to understand your child, and gain some tips and tricks to use at home.

There are 2 topics this month:

INTRODUCTION TO ANXIETY



Monday
12pm-1pm

Gain an understanding of anxiety, how it may impact your child and learn some strategies to use at home

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS: TOOLS TO THRIVE



Wednesday
12pm-1pm

To learn about the function of emotions, what can impact children's ability to manage emotions and gain some tools to support your child at home.

What happens next? You will receive an email with options and instructions.

Topics of workshops change termly

To sign up, please
complete a registration
form here:



[MHST Online Session](#)



The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. MHSTs were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers. To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

<https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2>

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.





West of England
**MUSIC
& ARTS**

NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES

Instrument Lessons & Courses

Woodwind, Brass, Piano, Strings, Guitar

Music Production, DJ Skills

Learn after school at your local WEMA Music Centre -
then join an ensemble when you're ready!

Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium

Bookings open now

wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons



DJ & Music Production times

- Saturdays · Backwell · from 9.30am
- Mondays · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
- Wednesdays · Bath · from 5.45pm



West of England
**MUSIC
& ARTS**

NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES

• DJ skills • Music Production

Brand new sessions for young musicians.
Mix, produce and make your own tracks.

- Saturdays · Backwell · from 9.30am
- Mondays · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
- Wednesdays · Bath · from 5.45pm

Bookings open now

wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons

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