

St. Mary's Mail



Friday 16th January 2025

Bi-weekly Newsletter

Dates for your diary

As we come to the end of the second week of the new term, it has been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled back into school life. Classrooms are calm, focused and full of enthusiasm, and the children have returned with a positive attitude and readiness to learn. We would also like to wish all our families a happy and healthy New Year & thank you for your continued support. We are extremely proud of the girls who represented the school at the athletics competition held at YOSC this week. They showed great determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the event and were a credit to the school.

Once again, our choir did us proud with their performance at Young Voices in Birmingham. Their confidence and commitment were clear, and they represented the school superbly. Thank you to staff and families for supporting this wonderful opportunity. Finally, good luck to the children taking part in the swimming gala on Saturday.

We hope they enjoy the experience and achieve their very best.

Bethan Scriven



Global Theme:

his term, our global theme is Social Justice. Children will be learning about what it means to live in a fair world and exploring questions such as what is fair, what is unfair, and how we can make things better for others. Through their geography and history lessons, pupils will look at the lives of people in different places and times, both locally and around the world, and consider how access to things like education, resources, and opportunities can differ. They will also learn that fairness does not always mean everyone is treated the same, but that everyone is supported according to their needs. This theme helps children to develop empathy, understanding, and a sense of responsibility for others. Families are encouraged to follow along with this learning on ClassDojo, where we will be sharing updates, activities, and examples of work from the classroom.



Academy Conversion Update

Since our last update, I am delighted to inform you that we have now received our Academy Orders for St Helen's/St Mary's schools from the Department for Education. There will now be a period where the legal actions will be carried out by the solicitors, appointed by the Severn Federation Academy Trust and school, which will include:

- Land and building arrangements
- Asset and property transfer arrangements
- Review governance arrangements
- Complete TUPE arrangements for transfer of staff contracts

We continue to hope for a conversion date of 1.9.26 and this will depend on the smooth completion of legal requirements.

I have been attending leadership meetings with the Severn Federation Academy Trust, and I am looking forward to working closely with the Trust leaders and the head teachers at the Trust schools to identify exciting opportunities for the children and staff of the school. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions you would like to discuss.

February

Mon 23rd - Fri 27th Book fair

March

Wednesday 25th Reception Screening

Monday 30th Rocksteady concert AM

Tuesday 31st

Rocksteady concert PM

May

Weds 13th - Fri 15th Yr 4 Greatwood

Mon 11th - Thurs 14th Yr 6 SATS

Medical Appointments & Absence Coding

To ensure that we can record absences correctly, families will be asked to supply evidence for medical appointments. This may be provided in the form of an appointment letter, card, or a screenshot of a confirmation message from your phone.

If evidence is not provided, the absence will likely be recorded as unauthorised. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

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

Elijah, Amberley, Erin, Fearne, Ethan, Mateo, Elena, Ezra, Kai, Lavinia, Isla-Rose, Cherahleigh, Hridha, Preston W, Ralphie B, Daisie, Leonie, Lucy, Indy, Livie, Fletcher, Ria, Bonnie, Maisie, Jesse J, Zara, Poppy H-Y, Charlie C, Lily N, Bella G, Lena, Isabella-Rose, Jonah, Daniel L, Nina, Sam, Ellaria, Cooper, Amelia L, Louis L, Tim, All of Oak class, Darby, and Edward

Value

This term, our school

value is **Truthfulness**.

We will be encouraging the children to think carefully about the importance of honesty, integrity, and having the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult.

Our key story this term is the story of Esther, which shows how being truthful and brave can make a positive difference for others. Please refer to the leaflet below for more information.

Term Dates

Term 3

Start: Mon 5th Jan
End: Fri 13th Feb

Term 4

Start: Mon 23rd Feb
End: Thurs 2nd Apr
Inset: Mon 23rd Mar

Term 5

Start: Mon 20th Apr
End: Fri 22nd May

Term 6

Start: Mon 1st Jun
End: Tues 21st Jul
Inset: Mon 20th Jul
Tues 21st Jul

TRUTHFULNESS

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value TRUTHFULNESS. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT TRUTHFULNESS TOGETHER...

"I promise to tell the **truth**, the whole **truth** and nothing but the **truth**, so help me God"

In a court of law a witness swears an oath on the Bible or another sacred text, but sometimes in everyday life people find it more difficult to be **truthful**.

Talk together about occasions when complete honesty could cause trouble or be hurtful. For example:

- When a member of your family asks you if you like their new shoes
- When telling the **truth** will get your friend into trouble
- When someone asks what you are thinking but the answer would hurt their feelings

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"To be **truthful** with others, you must first be **truthful** with yourself!"

Anon



QUIZ

Words in the Fishing Net

Pair letters from the net together to make words from the story.

You could colour matching halves...

For answers, see reverse.

READ TOGETHER... A Day That Changed Everything



It began just as any other day.

Peter the fisherman was mending his nets as he always did.

But then Peter met Jesus. On that ordinary day his life was changed for ever. Peter was to actually see Jesus heal people who were ill, make blind people see again, and turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast for 5000!

Peter became Jesus' follower and friend. "I will do anything for you" he said to Jesus. "Just say the word!"

"One day you will tell people you never knew me" said Jesus, "and then a cock will crow."

"No" shouted Peter "Never, Never, Never!"

Sure enough, life for Jesus did become difficult - difficult and dangerous.

The day came when Jesus was on trial for his very life. He needed his friend to stand by him. But Peter said "I don't know him, I never knew him, I never saw him before."

And at the end of the day a cock crowed.....just as Jesus had said it would.

Jesus was sentenced to death and crucified, even though he had done nothing wrong.

But death could not defeat God's Son! Three days later Jesus was alive again and went to find his friend, not to blame him but to forgive him.

It was a new day and Peter had another chance.

Everything was different!



Bible story based on Luke 5: 1-11; Luke 22: 54-62; John 20: 15-19





HALL OF FAME

Aung San Suu Kyi

For many years the nation of Burma was ruled by their ruthless army which refused to allow the ordinary citizens to have free elections to choose their leaders. If Burmese people spoke openly about politics they were thrown into prison or even killed. But a tiny brave woman called Aung San Suu Kyi refused to be silent about the **truth** of what was happening in her country. She campaigned openly but peacefully in the streets and around the world for Burma to have free elections. For this the army put her under house arrest, keeping her prisoner in her own home for 20 years! Whilst under arrest she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for being 'an outstanding example of the power of the powerless'

In 2010 Aung San Suu Kyi was finally freed by the army just after free elections were held in Burma for the first time. On her release thousands of people gathered to welcome and thank her for standing for **truth** and democracy and helping to bring about change in Burma.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Truth be Told

If you could ask a famous person (from history or alive today) to answer a question about themselves what would it be? For example,

David Beckham - How old were you when you knew for sure that you wanted to be a footballer?
Aung San Suu Kyi - Was there ever a time when you felt like giving up your campaign in Burma?

Make a colourful question mark and write your question on it to take into school to display in the Gallery.



FAMILY FOCUS

The human body is probably the most complex machine on earth. But do you know what your body is made of, how it moves and how all the parts work together?

See if you can answer these questions correctly.

- Your brain is made up of - 20%, 50% or 80% water?
- Taking a step forward uses - 30, 100 or 200 muscles?
- A single blood cell takes 1/2, 1 or 4 minutes to make a complete circuit of the body?
- An adult has 158, 206 or 278 bones in their body?
- A finger nail takes 3, 4 or 6 months to grow from base to tip?



FASCINATING FACTS... ...ABOUT US

Humans and giraffes have the same number of bones in their necks.

You can't tickle yourself.

You can't keep your eyes open when you sneeze.

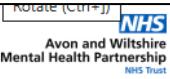
Overnight while you sleep you grow nearly 1 cm, but you shrink again next day.

The length from your wrist to your elbow is the same as the length of your foot.

In 30 minutes an average person gives off enough heat to bring over 2 litres of water to the boil.

Noticeboard

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

Mental Health Support Team

Mental Health Support Teams (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 system including school staff and parents/carers.

The MHST are now delivering online sessions which are free to sign up to. Please scan the QR code below to register for our next webinar.

Online Parent/Carer Sessions
An Introduction to Anxiety

NEW  **NEW** 

To sign up, please complete a registration form here: [MHST Online Session](#)



What is it? This session covers:

- What anxiety is, when it is useful, when it becomes unhelpful, and what keeps anxiety going.
- Our body's response to anxiety focusing on our thoughts, feelings, physical sensations and behaviours.
- Providing strategies for managing and overcoming anxiety.

Who is it for? Helpful for parents and carers whose children may be struggling with mild anxiety.

When are they? 22nd & 26th January. Sessions will be run at 12pm-1pm and 4pm- 5pm on both dates.

New topics and dates will be released regularly.

The MHST is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. We are working with selected education settings across Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos. To find out where we work, check out our webpage: www.otrbristol.org.uk/what-we-do/mhst/



Future talent 

BRISTOL CREATE DAY

With Siobhan Clough

Sunday 8th February 2026
10:30am-3:30pm
Future Talent & West of England
Music and Arts

SIGN UP HERE

This Create Day will focus on **Open Scores** - a flexible, creative way of making music that welcomes all instruments and experience levels. Young musicians from **Future Talent** and **WEMA** will join together to explore ideas, experiment, meet new friends, and create new music as a group.

Trinity Academy
Romney Avenue
Lockleaze
Bristol
BS7



COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

and earn
FREE BOOKS
for our school!





DISCOVERY DAYS

at WEMA Music Centres

Our free-of-charge Discovery Days are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.



Sign up using the QR code or visit:
wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres



DISCOVERY DAYS
West of England MUSIC & ARTS
PLAYING TOGETHER

ignite sport

DODGEBALL & NERF COMBAT

WEDNESDAYS, 15:15 - 16:30

GET READY TO DODGE, DUCK & DOMINATE!

ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BOOK NOW!

SCAN ME

PROFORMANCE COACHING

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS

MONDAY 16TH → FRIDAY 20TH *

9:00 - 15:30

CHIPPING SODBURY FOOTBALL CAMP
Chipping Sodbury School, BS37 6EW

GOALKEEPERS GIRLS ONLY
Monday 16th
Wednesday 18th
Friday 20th

OUTFIELD FOOTBALL
EVERYDAY!

ONLY ← OUTFIELD FOOTBALL

ALMONDSBURY FOOTBALL CAMP
Monday 16th to Thursday 19th
Gloucestershire FA, BS32 4AG

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP
Monday 16th to Thursday 19th
Blue Coat C of E Primary School, GL12 7BD

CODE **FEB26** FOR 10% OFF
Code expires 18th January 2026

ALL CAMPS FROM £21 PER DAY
FIND MORE INFO & SIGN UP AT www.proformance-coaching.co.uk
RECEPTION → YEAR 7 ONLY! Almondsbury & Wotton-under-Edge camps running until Thursday 19th February

Thornbury Musical Theatre Group

SNOW WHITE

NODA

Winterbourne Community Centre BS36 1QG

18, 19, 20, 21 Feb 2026

tmtg.org.uk/tickets

07516270140

pantomime by Jamie Wright and Tirion Cowell