

# St. Mary's Newsletter



Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Bi-weekly Newsletter

Dates for your diary

As we reach the end of another school year, I want to take a moment to thank our entire school community for the support, kindness and encouragement you have shown throughout the year. It has certainly been a busy final few weeks, but they have also been filled with so many moments that remind us what a special place St Mary's is.

Looking back over the year, I am incredibly proud of all that our children have achieved. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through music and the arts, in worship, or by showing kindness to others, they have continued to live out our vision of *Explore, Enjoy, Excel; Be Amazing!* every single day. Their enthusiasm, resilience and compassion never fail to impress us.

To our Year 6 pupils, thank you for the contribution you have made to St Mary's. You have been wonderful role models for our younger children, and it has been a privilege to watch you grow into the thoughtful, confident young people you are today. We wish you every success as you begin the next exciting chapter of your education. Remember that you will always be part of the St Mary's family. I would also like to thank our incredible staff. Their dedication, professionalism and care for every child are what make our school such a nurturing and inspiring place to learn. They consistently go above and beyond, often in ways that go unseen, and I am hugely grateful for everything they do.

Finally, thank you to you, our parents and carers. We know that educating children is a partnership, and your support makes an enormous difference. Whether volunteering your time, attending events, supporting learning at home or simply entrusting us with your children each day, we truly value working alongside you.

September promises to be an exciting new beginning as St Mary's joins the Severn Federation Academy Trust. While this marks the start of a new chapter, the things that make St Mary's so special—our values, our community, and our commitment to every child—will remain firmly at the heart of all that we do. We are looking forward to the opportunities this partnership will bring while continuing to ensure that every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish.

I hope you all enjoy a restful, happy, and safe summer break, creating special memories with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for another exciting year together.

*Bethan Scriven*

| July                                       |                       |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | INSET DAY             |
| Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>                   | INSET DAY             |
| September                                  |                       |
| Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>                    | INSET DAY             |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>                  | First Day of term     |
| Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> | Year 6 Deanfield camp |

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

Arthur S, Thomas C, Naomi, All of Cherry,  
Lily N, Esme B, Effie, Henry B,  
George, Sebastian, Maxi, Mila Ma, Henry S,  
Tate M, Margo, Lucy, Nevanna, All of Oak,  
Gracie, Penny S, Freddie P, Arlo M, Evie,  
Finley H, Georgia K, Frank, Piper J  
All of Apple, All of Pear, Avery, Kieron,  
Amy, Eddie B, Emily W,  
All of Chestnut, Martha B, Faith L, Livvie  
and all of Year 5 and 6

## Notice of Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please note that the Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in September 2026. The exact date and time will be confirmed and shared with all parents in due course.

## Mojo Active

We had a great time at Mojo active this week and got to try out a lot of activities such as archery, hide and seek in gillies, low ropes, tree climbing, obstacle courses and zorbing. We had a lot of fun and were really pleased the weather was so dry for us too!



## Chess!

Have you ever desired a game that challenged your brain with complex moves while also including competitive entertainment? Well, look no further as chess is a simple game about strategic movements, ruthless captures and endless possibilities of fun. So that's why we, St Marys, are introducing a new way to play the game, as fun as it gets. We have formed a chess playing club, for you and your friends to easily sign up to. So not only do you get to learn the wonders of chess, but you also get taught all the strategic moves to the game. We will see you this September!

Article written by Solomon O'Shea and Daniel Richards.

## 2026/2027 Term Dates

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

## **St Mary's School has a Wonderful Adventure at Yate Library!**

There were lots of smiles, excitement, and plenty of books to discover when pupils from St Mary's visited Yate Library.

The children enjoyed exploring the shelves, finding stories that sparked their imagination, and learning all about how the library works. They took part in fun activities, listened carefully, asked lots of brilliant questions, and couldn't wait to see what they would discover next.

The visit gave everyone the chance to experience the magic of reading in a welcoming space, helping the children build confidence, develop a love of books, and see the library as a place full of adventure and learning.

It was a fantastic day that inspired curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of reading. A big thank you to the wonderful staff at Yate Library for making the visit so enjoyable. We can't wait to visit again in the Autumn term!



Some comments from the children included:

**Maria**

"I was excited because I could read my favourite book!"

**Perrie**

"It was really fun and I was so excited and I love my book!"

**Poppy S**

"I was happy because I got to find a new series that I really like and I'm going to go back and get some more to read at some point."

**Poppy M**

"I really liked going because I got to find loads of books that I really like."

**Tilly**

"I was excited because I found new books I never thought I would get to read."

**George**

"It was good and I found really fun books."

**Naomi**

"There were lots of fun books"

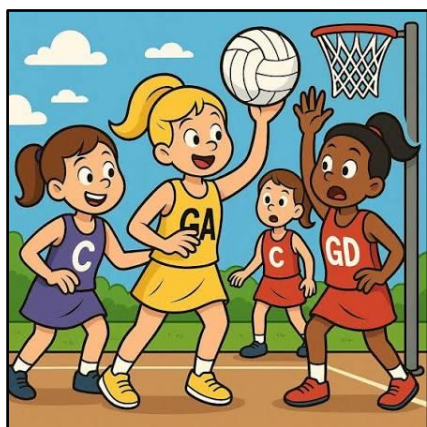
**Florence** "I loved picking out a book because there were so many to choose from."



# Sporting News & Information

## Football Team

The football team here at St Mary's have achieved great triumphs this season, reaching the final of the school cup. Through resilience and hard work they fought off all opponents until they were unfortunately beaten in a hard-battled match with Longwell Green School. During the season, the team only lost 1 game and completed a dramatic comeback to draw 3-3 with St. John's Mead after being down 3-0. A massive well done to the whole team, including: Vinnie M, Danny T, Daniel R, Fletcher H, Hadley C, Harry M, Harry T, Freddie C, Martha B, Arthur M, Cian M.



## Netball Tournament 6/7/26

The team played 5 matches including St John's Mead and Alexander Hose A and B teams. St Mary's won 4 out of the 5 of them resulting in us winning the trophy and gold medals for the team. The team played well under hot conditions and were on top form with shooting, particularly Edith and Gracie who were the top scorers for the games.

## Chess Club

Following last week's successful chess workshops, we are exploring the opportunity to launch a Chess in Schools after-school club from September.



The club would:

-  Be open to children in Years 4-6 (as of September)
  -  Run every Monday after school
  -  Cost £2.50 per session
-  Be initially limited to 20 places

Before we commit to running the club, we'd like to gauge the level of interest from families.

If you think your child would be interested, please complete the expression of interest form.

At this stage, this is not a booking form. It simply helps us understand demand. If we go ahead with the club, full details of how to apply for a place will be shared in due course.

We hope this exciting opportunity will inspire even more children to develop their chess skills! 

<https://forms.office.com/e/rxhG3c84N9>

# Noticeboard

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

