



The School Bell



"Walking together in the fruit of the Spirit"

Dates for your diary...

October

- Monday 5th** - Oak Class Wellbeing Walk
- Friday 9th** - Harvest Service 10.30am followed by Harvest lunch
- Thursday 22nd** - Festival of Light

November

- Tuesday 3rd** - School Photographer
- Thursday 5th** - Parents' Evening 5pm - 7pm
- Tuesday 10th** - Flu vaccinations
- Thursday 12th** - Open Day
- Friday 13th** - Children in Need
- Monday 16th** - Into Film
- Thursday 26th** - Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 6pm
- Friday 26th** - Parents Evening for Willow and Oak Class 3.30pm - 6pm

December

- Friday 4th** - Christmas Fair
- Friday 11th** - Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham - Cinderella
- Friday 18th** - Christmas Service in Church 2pm

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's,
Fruit of the Spirit for October: Patience

A reminder that our harvest festival service will take place at 10.30am next Friday in St. Mary's Church. Once again, this year we are supporting Hereford Food Bank. Please remember to send your child into school on Friday with an item of food to be donated.

We wanted to let you know about some changes to our Governing Body following its first meeting of the school year. Foundation governor James Pothecary, formerly Chair of Governors, and parent governor Jason Roberts have both stepped down. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the Governing Body. Mr Melville Knight has taken up the foundation governor position, and we will be inviting nominations for the parent governor position next week.

To read more about our governors, please go to:
<https://www.stmarys.hereford.sch.uk/governors>

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Mr. Milne

All information can be found on our school website.
Please click link below

[Home | St Mary's C of E Primary School, Fownhope](#)

We also communicate to parents via Class Dojo. Download the app to keep up with all of the happenings at St Mary's!



Term Dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

Term begins: Wednesday 2nd September
Term ends: Friday 18th December
Half term: Friday 23rd-30th October
school closed to pupils on Friday 23rd October

Spring Term 2027

Term begins: Tuesday 5th January
Term ends: Thursday 25th March
Half Term: Monday 15th-19th February

Summer Term 2027

Term begins: Monday 12th April
Term ends: Tuesday 20th July
Half Term: Friday 28th May-4th June

CONSENT FORMS

We have had a fantastic response with returning consent forms.
Thank you.

Just a few more to be returned - Please complete and return these forms by **Friday 9th October, 2026.**

These are important forms detailing parental permissions. We have added a new form this year regarding photos and videos.

Please remember to contact the school office with any updates for your child's records i.e. contact details, allergies and medical information.

IMPORTANT!



Follow us on social media

The next School Bell will be issued on Friday 9th October, 2026

**The Fruit of the Spirit for the month of October is Patience. Romans 12:12
Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.**



This week in school ...



We are very proud to announce that St. Mary's School has achieved the ARC Bronze Award!

This recognises our commitment to becoming an increasingly attachment-aware school where we believe strongly that positive relationships are at the core of everything we do and emotional wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging are at the heart of our practice.

The Attachment Research Community (ARC) supports schools to understand how attachment, relationships and experiences of adversity can influence children and young people's emotional well-being, behaviour and ability to learn.

Achieving the Bronze Award recognises the work we are doing to develop an environment where children feel safe, understood, valued and connected and where strong, trusting relationships support both learning and well-being. Our recent Ofsted inspection recognised **'The school's caring nature nurtures pupils' well-being and boosts their self-esteem'** and **'a calm and happy place where positive relationships flourish'**.

This achievement reflects the positive relationships we build everyday with our pupils and families and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone in our school community who has played a part in achieving this.





This week in school ...



Forest School

Campfire cooking



Peeling apples and making popcorn

Learning practical skills like learning how to use tools safely



Willow Class working with Willow!



Being creative with apples

At St. Mary's we are very fortunate to have lovely school grounds and the wider countryside of Fownhope. Every Monday afternoon, we have forest school sessions, this term Willow Class are taking part.

Research shows that children thrive when they learn outdoors. It has been shown to benefit children in terms of confidence, social skills, language and communication, motivation, concentration, physical skills and knowledge.



Next week in school...



Harvest Festival



Our next service in St. Mary's Church will be on
Friday 9th October at 10.30am
to celebrate the Harvest Festival.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Daily worship provides opportunities for us to come together as a community to reflect on Bible teachings, explore our Christian values and consider how we can positively impact the world around us.

At St. Mary's School worship is led by school staff, pupils, members of St. Mary's Church and sometimes, visiting speakers.

Children play an active role in planning and leading worship, writing prayers and contributing to special services.

Mrs. Wynter from Hereford Food Bank will be joining us. If you are able to make a donation, here is their wish list.

Please bring donations to school on Friday 9th October.

Hereford Food Bank

Harvest 2026 Wish List

Tinned Ham/Chicken Roll

Tinned Mince and Onion/Stewed Steak

Tinned Chicken in White Sauce

Tinned Meat Pies

Tinned Hot Dogs

Tinned Vegetables

Jars of Pasta Sauce

Tinned Fruit

Breakfast Cereals

Small Coffee

Toilet Rolls





Looking ahead...



Festival of Light

We are very much looking forward to our 'Festival of Light' on Thursday 22nd October.

The day will begin with an introduction session for the whole school and will finish with an act of worship at 2.30pm to which all parents and carers are warmly invited.

During the day, the four classes will each study a different religion, taking part in a range of activities including making a lantern for our final celebration and having a virtual reality tour of their chosen religion.

Seedling Class: Christianity - Christingle

Birch Class: Judaism - Hannukah

Willow Class: Hinduism - Diwali

Oak Class: Islam - Eid al-Fitr

If any of our families practise a religion other than Christianity, we would love to hear from you. It would be great if a follower of another religion could come in and talk to the appropriate class about their beliefs and experiences.

Also, if you would like to come in on the day and help your child's class teacher with their activities, this would be greatly appreciated.

Please let the school office know if you can help.

What's happening this half-term...



SWIMMING OAK CLASS

Tuesday 8th September
to 8th December (final
session)

PE DAYS

Seedling - Monday Dance

Birch - Monday Dance

Thursday KICK

Willow - Monday Forest School

Oak - Thursday KICK

Thursday PE

Wednesday Activate

Wednesday Activate



Monday 5th October

Oak Class
Wellbeing walk



Friday 9th October

Harvest Service 10.30am in Church

followed by

Harvest lunch in school

£1 from every meal booked will be donated to the Food Bank

Information has been sent out with your child and via email with details of how to book the Harvest lunch.

The first lunch session is fully booked, if you would like to join us for the second session, please
book by Tuesday 6th October.

Thursday 22nd October

Festival of Light

Parents will be invited to join us for whole school worship to conclude this
celebration.

FOREST SCHOOL

Willow Class - starting Monday 7th September

Invite other families to discover our school!

Please share our post on social media.

Printed copies of the flyer are available from the school office.





News from the PTA...



St Mary's PTA Fownhope
invites you to
PICK A PUMPKIN!

Prices from **£1.50** a pumpkin

Come and have your photo with the scarecrows

try and solve the **scarecrow word game**

Held straight after school on **Friday 16th October.**

Tea, coffee, biscuits and squash provided.

St Mary's Fownhope School

DISCO

Friday 20th November

KS1
straight after school
3.15pm - 4pm
(pre school children welcome, with a parent or guardian supervision)

KS2
4.15pm - 5pm

Children in KS1 and KS2 are welcome to stay after school and watch a film with Mrs. Gibbs.

All children will need to be collected at 5pm.

£5 per child
including squash and snacks.

**THANK
YOU!**

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YOU!**



Thank you for 96 Teddies!

On behalf of the Friends of St Mary's PTA, we would like to say a huge thank you to the children, families and staff at Loobylou's Childcare and St Mary's for donating an incredible 96 teddy bears to our Teddy Trust UK appeal!

Your generosity will help bring comfort, happiness and hope to children who need it most.

Every teddy is ready to become a special friend and make a real difference in a child's life. We are so grateful for everyone's kindness and support. Together, we are helping to give these teddies and the children who receive them a brighter future.

Thank you all for your wonderful support!

A beautiful Yamaha Baby Grand Piano seeking a loving new home for musical talent



We have been contacted by someone who is reaching out to offer their late husband's Yamaha Baby Grand Piano as a donation to a dedicated musician or music student that would appreciate this and provide it with a loving and suitable home.

If you or someone you know might be interested in receiving this generous donation, please let us know and we will put you in touch.

