• Ringing in the St. Mary's School News • Issue 355 Friday 6th November, 2026

The School Bell

"Walking together in the fruit of the Spirit"

Dates for your diary...

November

Tuesday 10th	-	Flu vaccinations
Thursday 12th	-	Open Day
Friday 13th	-	Children in Need
	-	Into Film
Monday 16th	-	Parents' Evening 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 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

All infomation 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

Follow us on social media

The next School Bell will be issued on Friday 13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary's,
Fruit of the Spirit for November: Peace

I hope you all enjoyed the half-term break. We are now gearing up for the busy period leading up to Christmas!

I am sure you will have noticed the lovely poppy floral display in the flower beds around the outside of the school. A huge thank you to Mrs Lyn Harwood who worked hard to make and plant the poppies ready for Remembrance Day.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Jess Griffiths, mum of Edith in Willow Class, has been elected to our governing body in the role of parent governor. It is great to have her on the governing body and we look forward to her working with us on the strategic planning and monitoring of the school.

Next Thursday morning (12th November) between 9.00 and 12.00 we will be holding our annual Open Day for prospective parents to look around the school. If you know anyone who would like to come and look around, please let them know. Everybody is welcome!

A reminder that next Friday (13th November) is 'Children in Need' day and we are going 'spotty'. Please wear a spotty item or a spotty outfit, in exchange for a cash donation to the charity. We are also holding our 'Into Film' Festival on the same day. Children in Birch, Willow and Oak classes will be watching 'GOAT' in the Fownhope Memorial Hall in the morning, and children in Seedling Class will be watching a Julia Donaldson adaptation in the afternoon. Many thanks to the PTA for providing an ice cream for the children during the film.

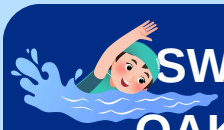
Have a lovely weekend.
Best wishes,

Mr. Milne



The Fruit of the Spirit for the month of November is Peace: 'Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.' 2 Thessalonians 3:16

What's happening this half-term...



SWIMMING
OAK CLASS

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

PE DAYS

Seedling	**- Monday Dance**	**Thursday PE**
Birch	**- Monday Dance**	**Wednesday Activate**
Willow	**- Wednesday Activate**	**Thursday KICK**
Oak	**- Thursday KICK**	



PARENTS EVENING

Monday 16th November 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 26th November 3.30pm - 6pm
(Willow and Oak Class only)

FLU VACCINATIONS

Tuesday 10th November

CHRISTMAS FAIR

after school
on
Friday 4th December

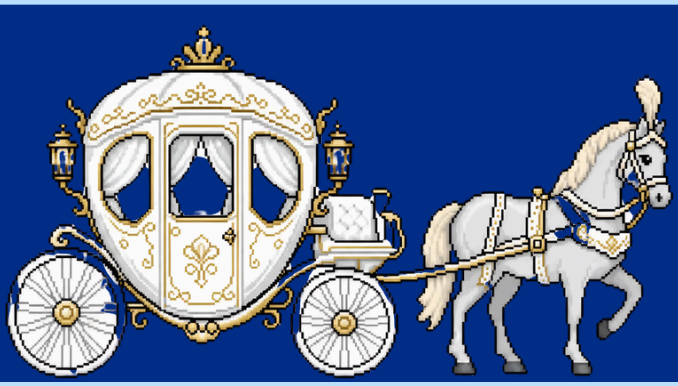
CHILDREN IN NEED AND INTO FILM

Friday 13th November





WEAR A SPOTTY ITEM OR A SPOTTY OUTFIT IN EXCHANGE FOR A CASH DONATION



THEATRE TRIP

Cinderella
Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham
Friday 11th December
Please pay on the Teachers2Parents App

FOREST SCHOOL - Seedling and Birch Class - starting Monday 2nd November

Remembrance Day

Thank you Mrs. Harwood for the wonderful displays around the school













School Uniform from Monday 2nd November 2026

Please ensure children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day



Winter Uniform



Winter uniform is worn from October half-term to the Easter holidays, we then return to school in summer uniform.

Navy Blue jumper or cardigan, preferably with school badge
Pale blue shirt with collar, either long or short sleeved
School Tie (children in Seedling and Birch may wear elasticated ties)
Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress
Navy, dark grey or black socks, no patterns
Navy, dark grey or black tights
Flat smart black shoes, no sports trainers or boots (except wellies which are permissible in snowy weather)



PE Kit

Dark navy polo top, preferably with school badge
Dark navy jumper, preferably with school badge. No branded or patterned clothing
Dark navy, black or dark grey shorts
Navy, black or white socks
Plain navy, black or dark grey joggers or leggings
Available hat and gloves for very cold days
Trainers suitable for both indoor and outdoor use (pumps are not robust enough for winter outdoor use)
No jewellery including stud earrings are to be worn during PE lessons. New piercings must be taped



School uniform is available from: Club Sport

We want our children to feel comfortable in their school uniform while at the same time take pride in looking smart and feeling a sense of belonging.
Our uniform is designed to be smart, practical and affordable, and we ask all families to support us by ensuring that children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day.

We want to maintain this high standard throughout the year.

We understand that the cost of school uniform can be a challenge for families and at St. Mary's we have branded items of uniform which are pre-loved and in good condtion.

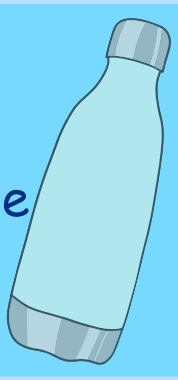
The PTA provide opportunities for parents to buy good quality pre-loved uniform for a small donation. The PTA hold sales throughout the school year but you can always contact the school office if there is an item of uniform you require and they will send your request to the PTA.
All funds raised are used to fund enrichment activities.

REMINDERS

Water Bottles



Please ensure that children bring a water bottle (with their name on) to school everyday.



Jewellery

For health and safety reasons, we ask that no jewellery be worn to school. The only exception is a single pair of simple stud earrings (maximum of one in each ear).

End of day arrangements

For the safety of all our children, please ensure they are directly supervised by a parent or carer at pick-up time.
We kindly ask that children remain by your side at all times once collected to prevent accidents and keep everyone safe.
Thank you.



OPEN MORNING
Thursday 12th November

We have an open morning on **Thursday 12th November** between **9am and 12 noon** for families interested in joining St. Mary's.

We would love to welcome prospective parents and carers to look around our school. If you know anyone who might be interested please let them know.

The online Admissions portal at Herefordshire Council is now open for applications for Reception Class for the 2027/28 academic year.

Click here to access the portal

If your child was born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023 you will need to apply for a reception class place for your child to start school in September 2027.

The closing date for applications is 15th January, 2027



News from the PTA...





FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S PTA

Having a clear out ready for Christmas?

PTA ARE NOW ACCEPTING

DONATIONS OF TEDDIES AND TOYS!



All toys, puzzles and board games need to be complete and in a good used condition.





Friends of St Mary's PTA

Christmas Raffle Donations Needed

CHILDREN
FAMILIES
COMMUNITY
TOGETHER

Our Christmas raffle is back – and this year it's going to be

BIGGER & BETTER than ever!

We are looking for prizes and donations to help make it a wonderful success for the children of St Mary's.

If you have anything you can donate, or know any local business owners who may be willing to support us, please get in touch with one of the PTA team.

Every donation, big or small, really does make a difference.

Without your support, the PTA simply can't do what we do to help and support the school.

Thank you for helping us support St Mary's school community

New Yoga Class in the Village Hall

Hatha Yoga
Fownhope



IJLYOGA

When: **Monday**

Where: New Memorial Hall

Time: **09.30 - 10.30**

Cost: £12 Drop in

Tell: Ian 07712 896902

Come join our friendly, local Hatha yoga class every **Monday** morning from **09.30** to **10.30** at Fownhope New Memorial Hall. We focus on gentle stretches, focused breathing, and finding a sense of calm in a welcoming, relaxed environment.

All fitness levels and abilities are welcome, whether you are brand new to yoga or have practiced for years. There is no need to book in advance, so feel free to just turn up on the day. Mats can be provided if you do not have your own. Take some time just for yourself to move, relax, and connect with the community