St Mary's C of E Primary School
"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34

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Headteacher: Mr Matt Vale –Smith

**Values: Generosity**

Issue No : 1

Friday 2nd October 2026

**Diary Dates:**

**1/10—6/10—Travelling Book Fair**
**19/10—21/10—Year 6 Residential**

**W/C 19/10—Learning Conferences**

**Term Dates—Autumn 2026**
**26/10—30/10—Half Term**
**2/11—PD Day—School Closed**
**18/12—Last day of Term**

# Newsletter Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to all the children for all their enthusiasm and hard work this week. Please be reminded that we have our school book fair after school on Monday and Tuesday on either the playground or in the hall (weather permitting). This is a great opportunity to buy some early Christmas presents! The school also gets a percentage of monies raised which goes straight into new books for our library - please be generous! Also be reminded that we will be holding learning plan meetings for Johnson, Sheeran and Beethoven class this week. This is not for all children - you will have been invited via email or letter if this relates to your child.

Have a great week!

*Mr Matt Vale-Smith,*

Headteacher

**Weekly Attendance**

**to 25/9/26**

| | |
|---|---|
| Reception | 96.4 |
| Year 1 | 93.6% |
| Year 2 | 95.8 % |
| Year 3 | 94.9% |
| Year 4 | 95.% |
| Year 5 | 93.8% |
| Year 6 | 94.1% |

## Office News

**Outstanding Debt**—Please review your child's account in MCAS to check for any outstanding balances and ensure that all debts, including nursery provisions and other services provided, are settled promptly. If you need assistance with verifying the balance or making a payment, please contact the school's administrative office.

**Year 6 Residential Trip—October 2026:** We still have 4 payments to be received for the Hoodies please —MCAS/ Trips

**Main Reception Gate:** **It is imperative that the school gate is closed every time it is opened for you. We cannot stress this enough.**

## Community News

### Applying for a secondary School Place—Year 7

Applications must be made between 12th September and 31st October 2026. All of the information you need to help you make your decision is available on the website at www.suffolk.gov.uk/admissions from 12 September 2026.

### National Child Measurement Programme—Year 6

Following details sent out to Year 6 parents on 6th September, this is a reminder of your 14 day window if you wish your child to be opted out of the programme.

### Reception Start September 2027—Open sessions

If you have a child or know someone whose child will be starting school in September 2027, we are holding 2 open sessions - Thursday 15th October between 10 and 11 am, and Saturday 17th October between 10 and 11am. Please contact the school office to add your name to the respective session you would like to attend.

admin@stmaryshad.co.uk or 01473 823268



## Beatrix Potter—Nursery & Reception

Potter class have been very busy this week learning lots of new sounds in phonics. Their focus in drawing club has been the book Perfectly Norman and the children have been inspired to draw pictures of their own wings and talk about where they would take them. They have been exploring outside during discovery time, making the most of the lovely weather and building boats.

## Ed Sheeran—Years 1 & 2

Sheeran class have been working so hard on all of their work! We are very proud. On Monday, the children had lots of fun testing their senses in Science. In RE the children are learning about Baptisms and being part of God's family.





## Little Beethoven's

This week in Little Beethoven's we have been learning about the weather with the wind blowing being one of the favourite things and the children saw how the wind can make windmills go around and blow your hair which they found funny.

With autumn coming into full colour, the children in art have been making squirrels for our class tree and autumn wreaths using autumn colours to paint leave's . There has been some fantastic learning with our 'Rise therapy' exploring how and when rainbows appear by using different paints and shaving foam for clouds and rice for rain . Well done to all the children who joined in.

# Chris Packham —Years 3 & 4



**This Week's Learning**

What a lovely week we have had!

**Science**

We have continued our science learning by exploring **magnets**. The children have had lots of fun investigating different types of magnets and exploring how they work.

**Poetry**

This week, the children shared some of their **special things** in preparation for our poetry work. It was so wonderful to listen to them speak so passionately about the things, people and memories that they love. It has given us lots of lovely ideas to use in our poems.

**PE – Rugby**

We have also started our new **rugby unit** and I was so impressed with our very first lesson! The children listened brilliantly, worked together and had lots of fun. **Fantastic job, everyone!**

Just a little reminder that our **PE days are Mondays and Thursdays**, so please make sure children have their PE kits in school on these days.

Well done, everyone, for another fantastic week!

# Katherine Johnson—Year 5



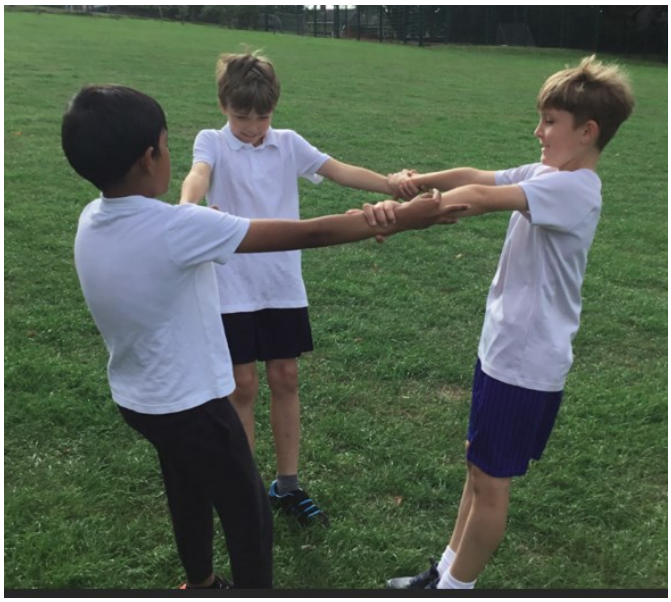

Year 5 class

This week we have continued to learn about space. It is a very exciting subject and some of us want to be astronauts or astronomers when we are older. With Mr Vale-Smith we created large planets of the Solar System using oil pastels. We had to look at photos of the planets and copy the different colours accurately. We used blending to create texture and shade.

Johnson Class have been learning about the importance of agility and balance in PE. They are important in so many sports.

In one activity they had to work in small groups, leaning back and supporting each other to stay upright.

Luckily their teamwork , trust and sense of balance is so good that no one fell on the floor.





# Aaron Fotheringham —Year 6

In Fotheringham Class this week, we have looked at column addition and subtraction in Maths, which the children worked very hard at.

In PE lessons, the children have had great fun continuing with skipping and trying to see how many children can skip at the same time using one rope.

# Sporting News...

This week, Mrs Mills had to the pleasure of taking a group of Year 5 and 6 Girls were invited to Wattisham Airfield for a Girls on Track event! The event was organised by Motorsport UK in collaboration with the British Army. Girls on Track is an initiative to inspire girls into seeing and believing that there is a rightful and valuable place for them in the motorsport industry as well as other industries such as the British Army.

The girls got to do lots of different activities, including changing tyres in the Pitstop challenge, facing challenges that Firefighters have to face each day, and learning all about jobs in the British Army the exciting opportunities they have. We had a lovely day, and the girls were excited to talk about all of the different things they can do as a career!












Friends of St Marys School

# Friends of St Marys – PTA

## Together we make a difference

Last year we raised
**£1956.25**

## What we've bought

- Transport for various trips
- New accelerated reading programme
- SATS Breakfast
- Y5 Trinity Park Trip
- Easter Eggs
- Christmas Pencils
- Contribution to Yr6 hoodies & leavers gifts

Every penny counts & makes a difference

## We are always looking new members!

We are always looking for new members to help with planning, organising and volunteering at events.

Any little support, big or small, is a huge help!

If you are interested please drop us a message at fosm@stmaryshad.co.uk

## Reasons to Join

- Support the school community
- Help with events and fundraising
- Be part of a friendly team
- Make a positive difference

## Thank you everyone

A huge Thank You to everyone for your support over the last year! We couldn't have done it without you!!

# HALLOWEEN PARTY

## 30th Oct 26 10:30am - Midday

**Come and join us for a spooky children's event with our residents. This is a free event, but we ask for a donation towards our resident's fund.**

Best costume awards

Games

Snacks

Glitter tattoos

Crafts

Prizes




HADLEIGH
NURSING HOME

**1 Friars Rd Hadleigh IP7 6DN**