



St. Mary's CofE Primary
'Learning for Life'

Hart Road, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7NJ
Tel: 01932 410300
Email: info@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk

newsletter

Week ending
7th March 2025

Our Vision Statement **'Learning for Life'**

'Learning for life' with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary's. At our school children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.

Dear St Mary's Families,

Happy Friday!

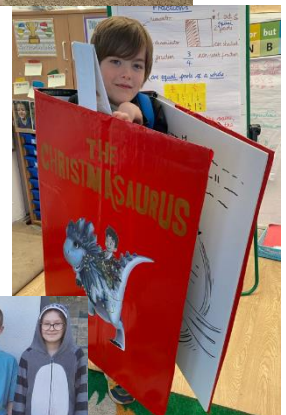
What a beautiful sunny week! We are so excited for the arrival of Spring!

Thank you for all your efforts with our World Book Week and a big thank you to Mrs McKechnie who organised it all.

We wanted to share some of the pictures of the fabulous outfits across the school with you! There are more on the school Instagram to see as well so please do go and take a look.

Have a great weekend.

From Mrs Chambers



HSLW

In this week's [HSLW weekly bulletin](#), you will find information on the following:

- Parent/carer well-being group - Woking Family Centre
- Families online magazine - March/April edition
- Thursday Tots
- Jigsaw (South East)

There is also a fun family activity to try at home and a recipe idea.

Red Nose Day – 21st March

On Friday 21st March, St Mary's will be working to raise money for Comic Relief by participating in Red Nose Day. Year 5 pupils have been busy planning a collective worship to share information about the charity event and would like everyone to come in on the 21st dressed in something red – even if it is just a nose!

We have opened up a donation on Scopay, where we recommend a donation of £1, but any donations are welcomed. We look forward to seeing you wearing lots of red!

Thank you

Year 5



Science Week

Next week is Science Week and we have been busy preparing a range of fun and inspiring activities for children to participate in. This year the theme is 'Change and Adapt'.

The theme covers a range of scientific topics and we will be learning about how changes or adaptations affect so many parts of our World. We will start the week launching our whole school data collection investigation, involving some life size measuring!

We are very thankful to Sabina and Karmina's mother, Paulina, who has offered her time and will be talking to the children about her role in the microbiology field, the route she took to get there and some real-world examples of how science influences our lives.

In Guided Reading, we will be researching animal adaptations to their environments and we'll be trying some 'Deep Sea Yoga' during meditation sessions, learning more about the changes in our environment along the way. In Music, we will be investigating how we can make different sounds using different sized bottles and then how we can change those sounds. We will be finding more out about the impact that water contact and changes in temperature have on glaciers, what coins are made of and how this has changed, mechanisms, magnets and much more!

In this week's newsletter, we have also included a science challenge you may like to complete with your child, using the ever-popular Minecraft game. If this isn't your cup of tea, then there are many other simple and engaging science activities you can do with your child:

- Take a walk and discuss the changing season and what happens as a result.
- Bake or cook together and talk about the changes that happen to food is heated or frozen
- Experiment with torches at home, shining them on clothes and other materials to find which ones are reflective.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2025

Suitable for older primary children, aged 7-11, or those working at this level.

MINECRAFT: AXOLOTL ADAPTATIONS

Animals are perfectly adapted to survive in their habitat. In this activity, you will use Minecraft to build your own axolotl pond with all of the features of a lush cave, which is the axolotl's natural habitat in Minecraft.

In real life, axolotls are endangered and are only found wild in a lake complex in Mexico.

🕒 1 hour



📋 Kit list

Minecraft
any version and a device that allows you to play

Notepad or piece of paper

A pen or pencil

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📖 Instructions

- 1 Find an azalea tree. These can be found most commonly in forested biomes.
- 2 Dig down to find a lush cave – where Minecraft axolotls live!
- 3 Explore the lush cave and note down the features of the habitat.
- 4 Find a wild axolotl – or two – and catch them in a water bucket.
- 5 Find somewhere above ground to build your own axolotl pond.
- 6 Dig a shallow hole for the pond. Make sure you have a slope up to the ground, as axolotls leave the water for short periods of time.
- 7 Fill your pond with water using a bucket.
- 8 Remember - animals are perfectly adapted to the habitat they live in. You should include all the features of lush caves to make sure your axolotls feel right at home!
- 9 You can even breed your captive axolotls by feeding a pair of axolotls with buckets of tropical fish. Then reintroduce them into lush caves to increase the wild population.

➤ Next steps

If you finish your axolotl pond, you could build an axolotl laboratory to study these incredible creatures.

You can also print these free worksheets to learn more about animal adaptation: <http://bit.ly/MinecraftBSW>

Think about adaptation and if humans should help endangered species to reproduce.

🏠 At home

Do some research on real-life axolotls. They are fascinating creatures!

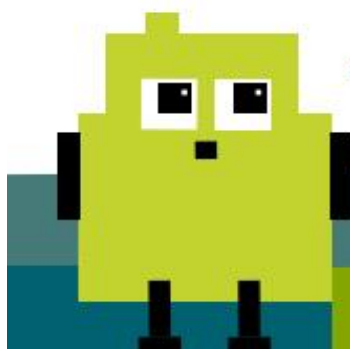
- What is unique about their life cycle?

↔ Career options

- A conservationist acts to protect and preserve wildlife and the environment.
- An evolutionary biologist studies how species have evolved and changed over time.

🔓 Skills unlocked

Imaginative, curious



Book Week

This week, we have been celebrating reading! It has been a wonderful week full of reading, dressing up and dancing!

Reception to Year 6 enjoyed a dance workshop where they retold the stories of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory or Kensuke Kingdom. The children loved it and had such fun. Thank you to the PTA for their support in helping this happen!

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm and support with Book day costumes - the children all looked fantastic and enjoyed parading around the school field on Thursday to show their costumes off.

The book fair has been a wonderful success and we are pleased that so many of you have been able to support the school by buying a book at the fair. We will receive a commission for every book that is purchased and we will use that money to replace some books in our library.

Lots of children completed the "World Book Day Reading Challenge" and we were very impressed with their enthusiasm and creativity in showing us how much they love reading. A winner was chosen from Early Years, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2. The winners received a book to take home with them and everyone who entered received a certificate. A special mention to Hedgehog class who had an amazing 15 challenge entries handed in!

Thank you

Fullbrook Maths Competition

This week, four children from Year 5 took on a number of other local schools in a Maths competition at Fullbrook School. There were various rounds which tested a lot of their mathematical knowledge and team work.

We did fantastically and finished in second place. Well done to Haleem, Leona, Nate and Sonya!

Mr Baddock - Maths Lead



Star of the Week



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Moles | Olivia “for fantastic imaginative ideas in the role play area.” Oscar “For concentrating so well on his cutting skills.” |
| Hedgehogs | Leo “For great listening and always having a big smile!” |
| Rabbits | Maan “for enjoying and joining in the class assembly.” |
| Cheetahs | Phoebe “for always trying her best with her learning.” |
| Panthers | Leo “for his wonderful participation during our World Book Day workshop!” |
| Lions | Joshua “for working hard on your handwriting!” |
| Tigers | Blue “For an improvement to his effort and attitude in his writing.” |
| Polar Bears | Zoe O “for making a huge effort in class to challenge herself in her learning, especially during maths.” |
| Pandas | Amelia “for her enthusiasm and wonderful participation during our World Book Day workshop!” |
| Hippos | Ralph “For demonstrating excellent effort in both Maths and English, keep up the good work!” |
| Elephants | Lexie “for effort in all her learning.” |
| Kangaroos | Xavier “for showing effort and determination in all of your learning.” |
| Giraffes | Karmina “for increased effort in all of your learning.” |
| Lemurs | Jacob “for being a fantastic St Mary’s Learner and consistently demonstrating our school values!” |
| Chimps | Aydin “for his enthusiasm and effort towards his learning!” |

Times Table Rock Stars

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Year 3 & 4: | Faith- Hippos Leonie - Polar Bears Sebastian- Pandas |
| Year 5 & 6: | Karmina - Giraffes Nicholas - Chimps Tulisa - Lemurs |

Dates for your Diary

(New dates/events shown in bold)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| w/c 10.03.2025 | STEM Week |
| 13.03.2025 | Full Governing Body Meeting - 5pm |
| w/c 17.03.2025 | Yr 6 Mock SATS Week |
| 18.03.2025 | Painshill Trip – Yr 4 |
| 20.03.2025 | Hobbledown Trip – Yr 1 |
| 21.03.2025 | Comic Relief / Red Nose Day (date change from 14.03.25) |
| 24.03.2025 | Feet First Training- Yr 3 |
| 25.03.2025 | Year 4 Parents Residential Meeting – 8.45am (in hall) |
| 26.03.2025 | Tigers Class Assembly – 9am |
| 26.03.2025 | Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm |
| 01.04.2025 | Yr 4 Easter Service – Yr 4 Parents Invited |
| 01.04.2025 | Easter Trail - PTA |
| 02.04.2025 | Class Photographs |
| 03.04.2025 | Wisley Gardens – Yr 2 |
| 04.04.2025 | End of Term - 1.05pm |
| 22.04.2025 | Start of Summer Term |
| 29.04.2025 | Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm |
| 30.04-02.05.25 | Kingswood Residential – Yr 4 |
| 30.04.2025 | Pizza Express Trip – Cheetahs |
| 01.05.2025 | Bocketts Farm – Yr R |
| 02.05.2025 | Brooklands Museum Trip – Yr 3 (date changed from 29/04) |
| 07.05.2025 | Kangaroos Class Assembly – 9am |
| 07.05.2025 | Pizza Express Trip – Panthers |
| 09.05.2025 | Full Governing Body Meeting - 5pm |
| 10.05.2025 | Circus – PTA Event |
| W/c 12.05.2025 | KS2 SATS Week / SATS Breakfast |
| 14-16.05.2025 | Bikeability – Yr 4 |
| 16.05.2025 | Park Trip – Yr 6 |
| 19.05.2025 | Fullbrook Away Day – Yr 5 |
| 21.05.2025 | Nursery ONLY Egyptian Day |
| 23.05.2025 | Ancient Egyptian Day |
| w/c 26.05.2025 | Half Term |
| 04.06.2025 | Lemurs Class Assembly – 9am |
| 17.06.2025 | Shah Jahan Mosque Trip – Yr 1 |
| 17.06.2025 | Leavers Service at Guildford Cathedral – Yr 6 |
| 18.06.2025 | Lions Class Assembly – 9am |
| 20.06.2025 | Quiz Night – PTA |
| 25.06.2025 | Nursery Sports Day |
| 26.06.2025 | Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm |
| 27.06.2025 | Sports Day |
| 02.07.2025 | RESERVE Nursery Sports Day |
| 03.07.2025 | Full Governing Body Meeting - 5pm |
| 04.07.2025 | RESERVE Sports Day |
| 09.07.2025 | Hedgehogs Class Assembly – 9am |
| 09 & 10.07.2025 | Year 6 Productions to Parents – 6pm |
| 16.07.2025 | Year 6 Leavers Day/BBQ (not 17 th) |
| 18.07.2025 | Year 6 Leavers Service |
| 18.07.2025 | End of term – 1.05pm |