



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

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# newsletter

**Week ending**  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear St Mary's Families,

It's competition time!

## **BBC 500 Words Writing Competition**

The UK's largest children's story writing competition is open for entries from Tuesday 23 September - Friday 7 November at 9pm. There are two age categories: **5-7 and 8-11 year-olds** and spelling, punctuation and grammar are not marked - as has always been the case for 500 Words, it's all about our writers' brilliant creativity!

Here at 500 Words, we have always wanted children to have fun writing stories, to be as creative as they can be and to make us laugh, cry or just be blown away by what we are reading. **Children are encouraged to write a story they would love to read themselves.**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words/articles/zctk7v4#zbx4jfr>

Please see this link for more information about the competition including:

- Rules for writing
- How to apply
- Which authors are on the judging panel
- PRIZES!

Get Writing!



I hope you all have a great weekend!

From Mrs Chambers

## **HSLW**

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

- 'Stronger Relationships' online course for parents of neurodivergent children
- 'Why Relationships Matter: Supporting Parents with Children with Additional Needs' webinar
- Free First aid training session for parents/carers/grandparents

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

## **Royal Day – Whole School Event**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we are having a Royal Day for the whole school where the children will learn about kings and queens from the past and present. We would love your child to dress up as a royal for the day. They could be a prince, princess, king or queen or just wear the British colours of red, white and blue (no football kits please) with a royal accessory e.g. a crown or tiara. Homemade efforts are great - you don't need to buy a costume!

We look forward to celebrating our royal history and British Values. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss O'Brien and Mrs Hearn

## **Childcare Vouchers**

At St Mary's, we accept child care vouchers to pay for Nursery and the Hive (breakfast and after school club).

In order to use these vouchers, you will need to arrange this directly with your child care voucher provider. Once you have made a payment, please forward proof of payment to:

[finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk) and advise us if this is for a Nursery or Hive payment please.

When we receive confirmation of your payment from your child care voucher provider, we will load this onto your child's Scopy account, allocating the funds to the account you have advised.

For the National Tax Free Child Account, you will need to register for this at <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

Our account is called St Mary's CofE Controlled Primary School, Byfleet, KT147NJ

Once you have made the payment, please email us at [finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk) and advise us if this is for a Nursery or Hive payment please. When we have received this amount in our bank account, we will be able to allocate this to your child's outstanding payments

If you have any queries, please email [finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:finance@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk) for assistance.

## **Yellow Photographers – Sibling Request**

Reminder: Our school photographers are visiting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October to take individual photographs of all children and also sibling photos of children within the school, for those requested.

If you would like your children to have photo taken with their sibling(s), please visit their website below and complete their online [Sibling Request Form](#), no later than 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Visit website: [www.smileYellow.com/sibling](http://www.smileYellow.com/sibling)

School password is: **stmb011025**

Closing date for requests is **midnight 24<sup>th</sup> September**

## **Penalty Notices for unauthorised leave of absence**

If you consider that there are exceptional circumstances relating to your request, please let the school have full details. Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis.

### Penalty Notices to Address Poor Attendance at School

A Penalty Notice may be issued as an alternative to the prosecution of a parent/carer for their child's unauthorised absence from school (absence without the agreement of the school or not covered by a medical note) and will be used by Surrey County Council in the following circumstances :-

1. Pupils identified by police and Attendance Advice Officers (formerly Inclusion Officers) engaged on Truancy Patrols and who have incurred unauthorised absences.
2. Leave of absence in term time (5 days or 10 sessions or more).
  - **Please be aware that the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**
  - They may request that Surrey County Council issue Penalty Notices when the absence is not authorised.

Warnings will not be given where it can be shown that parents have been notified that such absences will not be authorised.

3. Finally, the issuing of a Penalty Notice will also be considered where it is judged that a parent is failing to ensure their child's regular school attendance.

This will be considered when a pupil has incurred 10 or more unauthorised sessions in the previous 10 school weeks, which may include a pupil arriving late after close of registration.

If you believe at any stage that your child's absence from school may leave you liable to receive a Penalty Notice, it is extremely important that you act without delay to secure their regular attendance.

If you have any questions or require further support to achieve an improvement in your child's attendance, please contact your child's school or the Attendance Advice Officer.

### Penalty Notice relating to Exclusions

If a child is excluded from school, Section 103 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on parents/carers to ensure that their child is not in a public place without justifiable cause during school hours.

This duty applies to the **first five days of each exclusion**. Failure to do so will render the parent/carer liable to a Penalty Notice. (Alternative education provision will be made available from the sixth day of any exclusion.)

### Amount Payable for a Penalty Notice and Consequences for repeat unauthorised absences

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, **per parent/carer per child**, if paid within 28 days. There will be no

reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, **per parent/carer per child**, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

**Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.**

Advice and support is available from an Attendance Advice Officer by contacting Surrey Attendance Service as follows:-

North West    Tel: 01483 518130    South West    Tel: 01483 517874

North East    Tel: 01372 833588    South East    Tel: 01737 737777



## Star of the Week



### **Moles**

Joey “for settling back into school so well and for being so kind to the new Moles.”

Harry “settling into Moles really well!”

### **Rabbits**

Astrid “for being a fantastic St Mary’s learner and settling into Rabbits class with a smile.”

### **Hedgehogs**

Isabelle “for a wonderful first week and settling in beautifully!”

### **Cheetahs**

Brodie “for being a great role model to others!”

### **Panthers**

Bonanza “for showing a positive attitude to his learning!”

### **Lions**

Phoebe “for being such an enthusiastic learner and sharing her ideas with confidence!”

### **Tigers**

Hareen “for always showing she is ready to learn – sitting beautifully and listening carefully!”

### **Polar Bears**

Ada “for always being ready to learn and a super role model to others.”

### **Pandas**

Blake “working hard in every lesson, especially Maths and in his Reading.”

### **Elephants**

Sebastian “for always being on task and trying his hardest.”

### **Hippos**

Molly “for writing a fantastic setting description.”

### **Kangaroos**

Tommy “for excellent work in maths.”

### **Giraffes**

Eliezer “for your fantastic imagination in English.”

## Dates for your Diary

(New dates/events/changes shown in bold)

24.09.2025	PTA Meeting, Sure Start Centre – 6pm
<b>24.09.2025</b>	<b>Photographers Siblings Photo Request deadline</b>
26.09.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10pm
26.09.2025	Family Picnic & Cake Sale 3.10pm
01.10.2025	Individual Photographs
02.10.2025	Chimps Class Assembly
<b>03.10.2025</b>	<b>Parent Voice – 8.30am</b>
w/c 06.10.2025	Year 6 Bikeability
09.10.2025	Butser Farm Trip – Yr 3
09.10.2025	Giraffes Class Assembly
w/c 13.10.2025	Book Fair
14.10.2025	Look Out Discovery Centre Trip– Yr 2
15.10.2025	Winchester Science Centre – Yr 5
15.10.2025	Phonics Workshop 9am -Yr R
16.10.2025	Elephants Class Assembly
16.10.2025	Yr 1 Local Area Walk
<b>21.10.2025</b>	<b>Open Day for Prospective New Parents 9 – 10.30am</b>
21.10.2025	Parents Evening ONLINE
22.10.2025	Royal Day
23.10.2025	Harvest Service – Yr 3 Parents Invited (TBC)
23.10.2025	Parents Evening FACE TO FACE
24.10.2025	INSET Day
w/c 27.10.2025	Half Term
03.11.2025	Young Shakespeare Workshop – Yr 6
<b>04.11.2025</b>	<b>Parent Voice – 8.30am</b>
04.11.2025	Snow White Panto – Whole school
04.11.2025	Open Classroom
05.11.2025	Firework display – PTA
10.11.2025	Freshwater Theatre – Yr R
11.11.2025	Remembrance Service – Yr 6 Parents Invited
13.11.2025	Watts Gallery Trip – Yr 4
14.11.2025	Children in Need
<b>17.11.2025</b>	<b>Flu Vaccinations Yr R - 6</b>
20.11.2025	Polar Bears Class Assembly
w/c 24.11.2025	Life Bus Visit
26.11.2025	Maths Workshop 9am - Yr R
26.11.2025	Open Classroom 3.10pm
<b>03.12.2025</b>	<b>Parent Voice – 8.30am</b>
03.12.2025	Nursery Nativity am & pm
08.12.2025	Choir to Barnes Wallis
09.12.2025	Carol Service – St Marys Church 6.30pm (TBC)
10.12.2025	Reception Nativity 9.30am
11.12.2025	KS1 Nativity – 2pm
12.12.2025	KS1 Nativity – 9.30am
18.12.2025	Christmas Service – Yr 5 parents Invited
19.12.2025	End of term 1.05pm

05.01.2026	Start of Summer Term
13.01.2026	Great Fire of London Workshop – Yr 2
15.10.2026	Lemurs Class Assembly
20.01.2026	Little City – Yr R
22.01.2026	Little City – Yr R
22.01.2026	Choir Young Voices trip to O2
26.01.2026	Pizza Express Trip – Cheetahs
26.01.2026	Open Classroom 3.10pm
29.01.2026	Hippos Class Assembly
30.01.2026	Romans Workshop – Yr 3
04.02.2026	Pizza Express Trip – Panthers
05.02.2026	Kangaroos Class Assembly
06.02.2026	Our World Day
10.02.2026	Safer Internet Day
10.02.2026	Parents Evening ONLINE
11.02.2026	Buddhist Temple Trip – Yr 6
12.02.2026	Parents Evening FACE TO FACE
26.02.2026	Painshill Trip – Yr 4
26.02.2026	Open Classroom 3.10pm
w/c 02.03.2026	Book Fair
05.03.2026	World Book Day
05 & 06.03.2026	Dance Workshop – Yr R – 6
<b>w/c 09.03.2026</b>	<b>Science Week</b>
09.03.2026	Hindu Temple Trip - Yr 5
10.03.2026	Litter Picking – Yr 3
12.03.2026	Cheetahs Class Assembly
19.03.2026	Lions Class Assembly
20.03.2026	Red Nose Day
23 & 24.03.2026	Feet First Training – Yr 3
26.03.2026	Open Classroom 3.10pm
27.03.2026	Easter Service – Yr 4 Parents Invited
27.03.2026	End of term 1.05pm
13.04.2026	Start of Summer Term
14.04.2026	Wisley Trip – Yr 2
15.04.2026	Class Photographs
22.04.2026	Earth Day
23.04.2026	Pandas Class Assembly
24.04.2026	Brooklands Museum Trip- Yr 3
27-29.04.2026	Yr 4 Residential
30.04.2026	Tigers Class Assembly
01.05.2026	Bocketts Farm Trip – Yr R
07.05.2026	Rabbits Class Assembly
w/c 11.05.2026	SATS Week
15.05.2026	Park Trip – Yr 6
19.05.2026	Mosque Trip - Yr 1
20.05.2026	Ancient Egyptian Day (MOLES ONLY)
20.05.2026	Portals to the Past – Yr 5
22.05.2026	Ancient Egyptian Day
w/c 25.05.2026	Half Term

02.06.2026	Open Classrooms 3.10pm
11.06.2026	Panthers Class Assembly
18.06.2026	Hedgehogs Class Assembly
24.06.2026	Nursery Sports Day
26.06.2026	Sports Day
01.07.2026	Nursery Sports Day (reserve)
03.07.2026	Sports Day (reserve)
08 & 09.07.2026	Yr 6 Productions
15.07.2026	Yr 6 Leavers Day & BBQ
17.07.2026	Yr 6 Leavers Service to Parents
20.07.2026	End of term 1.05pm