



newsletter

Week ending
23rd January 2026

Dear St, Mary's families,

Attendance matters for not only academic reasons but for social, emotional and mental health reasons also. We are here to help. If you need any advice or support please reach out to us!

190 days in school

It is very important that your child attends school regularly and aims for excellent attendance.



175 days not in school

That's 175 days per year to organise appointments, go on holiday etc.

School absence a big factor in child mental illness in England, data shows

Loughborough University and ONS study of 1 million school-age children reveals risks increase with longer absence



The study showed five in 100 children who had a 30% school absence record attended hospital for mental ill health. Photograph: Manuel Arias Duran/Getty Images

School absences "significantly contribute" to children's mental ill health, according to research backed by the [Office for National Statistics](#) that shows the risks increase the longer a child is absent.

"Our research shows that the more times a child is absent from school, the greater the probability that they will experience mental ill health," the authors, from [Loughborough University](#) and the ONS, concluded.

We would love to hear from you about attendance. A survey link will be coming out soon. I hope you are able to take the time to complete the survey. Thank you in advance!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

97% = 6
attendance days off
= **30 hours**
of learning lost



Happy Friday! We 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:

- Free online parenting courses
- Support programmes for parents and carers of children with autism
- Family Lives article: Managing change and transition in neurodivergent children


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

PTA Update

The PTA has lots of exciting events coming up and we wanted to share the latest news with you.

Colour Run – Help Us Choose the Date!

We're busy planning our next Colour Run and would love your input. Please take a moment to complete our short poll to help us decide the best date for this event.

 **Colour Run Date**

Poll: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZYYyHnPNuS8LGsWLW1DoIHZixagkiHG4zc8Ggu4qG3gfT0w/viewform>

The poll will close on Friday 6th February 2026

School Disco Tickets

The last few tickets for the upcoming school disco are available! The disco will take place on Thursday 29th January and promises to be a fun-filled evening for the children.

Tickets can be purchased via: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstmarys/index.cfm>

Quiz Night Tickets

Our ever-popular quiz night is back! Join us on Friday 6th February for an adults only evening of fun, friendly competition, and fundraising.

Ticket price: £5 per person (max teams of 8)

To book your place, please visit: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofstmarys/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=104826>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the PTA. Funds raised from these events go directly towards supporting the school and enriching our children's experience.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Best wishes,

St Mary's PTA



LITTLE CITY

The children in Nursery and Reception enjoyed a visit from Little City this week. Little City has 10 fabulous areas of role play for the children to explore and play in. We had doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers, hairdressers, vets, builders and more! The children were engrossed in their play and didn't want it to end.

Thank you to Maddie for bringing Little City to us!





Star of the Week



- Moles:** Marley “for gaining confidence and coming into nursery really well.”
Venny “for always showing the values of a St Marys Learner.”
- Rabbits:** Penelope “for fantastic writing about our Little City session.”
- Hedgehogs:** Nicky “for always being a super tidier and respecting our classroom!”
- Cheetahs:** Heath “for working so hard on your writing this week!”
- Panthers:** Ola “for showing the value of kindness in the classroom and always helping those around her.”
- Lions:** Maya “for working incredibly hard on your handwriting – fantastic effort and concentration!”
- Tigers:** Dumininu “for listening carefully during lessons and always being ready to share her ideas.”
- Polar Bears:** Madison “for always challenging herself in her learning and being a great role model to others.”
- Pandas:** Maya “for trying her best in her learning, helping others and responding to feedback well!”
- Elephants:** Joseph “for really focussed work in Maths this week.”
- Hippos:** Tania “for demonstrating great teamwork in our science lessons.”
- Kangaroos:** Lexie “for much improved confidence in English and Maths this week.”
- Giraffes:** Matilda “for being kind and supportive to her friends at Young Voices.”
- Chimps:** Matei “for thoughtful ideas in English and History.”
- Lemurs:** Isabella “for some great Keith Haring artwork, reading and algebra too!”

Times Table Rock Stars

Year 3 and 4: Finley - Pandas
Ava- Pandas
Rameez - Pandas

Year 5 and 6: Cleo - Giraffes
Aurora - Giraffes
Jasmine - Giraffes

Dates for your Diary

(New dates/events/changes shown in bold)

26.01.2026	Open Classroom 3.10pm
28.01.2026	Full Governing Body – 5pm
28.01.2026	Pizza Express Trip – Cheetahs (Date changed from 26.01.26)
29.01.2026	Hippos Class Assembly
29.01.2026	Friendship Disco - PTA
30.01.2026	Romans Workshop – Yr 3
03.02.2026	Parent Voice – 8.45am
04.02.2026	Pizza Express Trip – Panthers
05.02.2026	Kangaroos Class Assembly
06.02.2026	Our World Day
06.02.2026	Quiz Night - PTA
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
12.02.2026	Uniform Sale – PTA at Parents Evening
16.02.2026	Half Term
26.02.2026	Painshill Trip – Yr 4
26.02.2026	Open Classroom 3.10pm
w/c 02.03.2026	Book Fair
03.03.2026	Parent Voice – 8.45am
05.03.2026	World Book Day
05 & 06.03.2026	Dance Workshop – Yr R – 6
w/c 09.03.2026	Science Week
09.03.2026	Hindu Temple Trip - Yr 5
10.03.2026	Litter Picking – Yr 3
11.03.2026	Full Governing Body – 5pm
11 – 13.03.2026	Wonderful Women Crafternoon - PTA
12.03.2026	Cheetahs Class Assembly
16.03.2026	Legoland Trip – Yr 1
19.03.2026	Lions Class Assembly
20.03.2026	Red Nose Day
23 & 24.03.2026	Feet First Training – Yr 3
26.03.2026	Easter Egg Trail – PTA
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
17.04.2026	Library Visit – Pandas am
17.04.2026	Library Visit - Polar Bears pm
22.04.2026	Earth Day
23.04.2026	Pandas Class Assembly
24.04.2026	Brooklands Museum Trip- Yr 3
24.04.2026	Library Visit – Giraffes am
24.04.2026	Library Visit – Rabbits - pm
27-29.04.2026	Yr 4 Residential

30.04.2026	Tigers Class Assembly
01.05.2026	Bocketts Farm Trip – Yr R
01.05.2026	Library Visit – Tigers am
01.05.2026	Library Visit – Hedgehogs pm
06.05.2026	Parent Voice – 8.45am
06.05.2026	Full Governing Body – 5pm
07.05.2026	Rabbits Class Assembly
08.05.2026	Library Visit – Lions am
08.05.2026	Library Visit – Hippos pm
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
21.05.2026	Disco - PTA
22.05.2026	Ancient Egyptian Day
w/c 25.05.2026	Half Term
02.06.2026	Open Classrooms 3.10pm
03.06.2026	Parent Voice – 8.45am
05.06.2026	Library Visit – Lemurs am
05.06.2026	Library Visit – Panthers pm
11.06.2026	Panthers Class Assembly
12.06.2026	Library Visit – Kangaroos am
12.06.2026	Library Visit – Cheetahs am
17-19.06.2026	Marvellous Men Crafternoon - PTA
18.06.2026	Hedgehogs Class Assembly
24.06.2026	Nursery Sports Day
26.06.2026	Sports Day
01.07.2026	Nursery Sports Day (reserve)
01.07.2026	Full Governing Body – 5pm
03.07.2026	Parent Voice – 8.45am
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