



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
18th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are about to launch our exciting new project to make our playtimes even better, in conjunction with Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) CIC. In 2018, OPAL won the Best Active Schools' programme in Europe award and has been cited in two parliamentary reports as delivering outstanding practice. OPAL is working closely with Sport England to promote more active childhoods, which is one of the many reasons we are improving our playtime, as well as to improve opportunities for socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment for your child.



We strongly believe that: **"Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child. Play can be fun or serious. Through play, children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter. By playing, children learn and develop as individuals, and as members of the community."** (Children's Play Council 2001).

There are many benefits to the OPAL programme including:

- **Improving playtimes for all children meaning happier children and children who come into the classroom ready to learn.**
- **Improving our play spaces across the school making the most of our wonderful spaces and ensuring a fully inclusive play offer**
- **Develops our school values and encourages children to be creative, resilient, independent and collaborative whilst respecting those around them**
- **Improving behaviour at playtimes**
- **It's fun!**

The project will start in November 2026 and we hope it will change the way we think and how we play together. To support this project, we will need to buy new resources, move some things around on the playground and add some loose parts. Loose parts are any materials that can be easily moved, combined and incorporated into children's free play. The items we are looking for will enable us to enjoy a wider range of play experiences during playtime (see below for some examples) If you have anything your children have outgrown or you are wanting to recycle from the list below, please can we have it! There will be further collections of other items to follow in the coming months.

We are starting by collecting the following :

- Anything on wheels/castors (trikes, scooters, anything with wheels children can roll on, pull)
- Tools like small spades/shovels, trowels and old cutlery spoons.

- Small world / Lego / Construction toys (trains, cars, dinosaurs, animals, imaginative play small world toys, car garages, fairy treehouses, car mats etc)

We will be holding a collection on **Thursday 8th October at drop off**. Anything you can donate, **from the list above**, please drop off at the bottom playground on this day. The sooner we do this, the sooner the children can play with the items! **Please do not bring your donations in before this date, as we will have nowhere to store them.**

More information will follow at a parent's session later in the year and you will be invited to come and play with your children also. We are really excited about this project and hope that you will support us in our efforts to improve playtime for all children.

This is just step 1 in our exciting Opal Journey! I can not wait to share more details and plans in the near future!.

<https://outdoorplayandlearning.org.uk/>

Hope you all have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Chambers

Home School Link Worker

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

- Family Advice Communication Education – September timetable
- Family Learning – workshops and courses for parents/carers who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- National Autistic Society – Access and advice to Autism support session

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



We would like to say well done to the Eco Warriors for leading the Recycle to Read project at our school and a huge thank you to the families who donated their broken, plastic toys for it. As a result, we raised money for our school and were able to purchase new books for our library. Please stay tuned for new projects we may participate in this year. Many thanks, Eco Warriors.



Sibling Photograph – Requests

Reminder: The School photographer is visiting the school on 30th September to take individual photographs of all pupils and also sibling photos of children within our school too. If you would like a sibling photo taken, please visit Yellow's website below and complete the online Sibling Request Form.

Visit website www.smileYellow.com/sibling or type in browser www.smileYellow.com/sibling

- School password is stmary300926
- Closing date for requests is midnight 23rd September

Thank you



Star of the Week



Moles:

Flissy "for coming into nursery really well each day."

Pari "for settling into nursery really quickly and for her amazing tidying up!"

Hedgehogs:

Cece "for having a super first week and always being kind and helpful to others!"

Rabbits:

Ava "showing kindness to her class mates this week."

Cheetahs:

Miles "for working so hard with your handwriting this week!"

Panthers:

Rex "for thinking hard about questions in our lessons!"

Lions:

Joshua "being a kind and caring member of our class."

Tigers:

Arsh "for working really hard at his table to include capitals and full stops in his writing."

Polar Bears:

Alaia "for persevering with her maths when it became tricky."

Pandas:

Joshua "for a big improvement in his learning and focus."

Elephants:

Ada "for confidently contributing ideas to all lessons."

Hippos:

Maya "for contributing fantastic ideas in Science."

Kangaroos:

Joni "for improved confidence and participation in lessons – keep up the great work!"

Giraffes:

Esme "for always trying her best and for being a kind and helpful member of Giraffes class."

Chimps:

Teddie D "for his brilliant ideas and lovely handwriting in English!"

Lemurs:

Tommy "for being so helpful in class and willing to share ideas."

Times Table Rock Stars

Year 3/4: Charlie - Pandas

Amelie - Elephants

Madison – Elephants

Year 5/6: Sebastian - Kangaroos

Ben - Chimps

Charlotte - Chimps

Dates for your Diary

(New dates/events/changes shown in bold)

19.09.2026	Colour Run - PTA
23.09.2026	KS2 Author Visit - Jack Meggitt Phillips
25.09.2026	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
30.09.2026	Pupil Individual Photographs
01.10.2026	Y3 Harvest Songs at Barnes Wallis
02.10.2026	Y3 Butser Farm Trip
02.10.2026	Lemurs Library Trip AM
02.10.2026	Parent Voice Meeting
05.10.2026	Y5 Winchester Science Museum Trip
06.10.2026	Flu Vaccinations YR-6 Height & Weight YR & 6
07.10.2026	YR - 6 Life Skills
08.10.2026	Donations – Opal Play equipment
09.10.2026	World Mental Health Day
09.10.2026	Chimps Library Visit AM
12.10.2026	Harvest Donations in this week
13.10.2026	Y2 The Lookout Centre Trip
14.10.2026	YR Phonics Workshop 9am
15.10.2026	Y3 Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's Church
15 – 16.10.2026	Yr 4 Wise Up
16.10.2026	INSET day
19 – 30.10.2026	Half Term (2 weeks)
02.11.2026	Y6 Shakespeare Workshop
03.11.2026	Parent Voice Meeting
03.11.2026	Whole School - Robin Hood Pantomime
04.11.2026	Fireworks Night – PTA
06.11.2026	Mufti Day for PTA – Colour Hamper Donations
09.11.2026	Shoobox Appeal donations in by
09.11.2026	Parents Evening ONLINE
10.11.2026	YR Freshwater Theatre
11.11.2026	Y6 Remembrance Service in the hall
11.11.2026	Y1 Local Area Walk
11.11.2026	Parents Evening INPERSON
12.11.2026	Kangaroos Class Assembly
12.11.2026	Y4 Watts Gallery Trip
17.11.2026	Y1 Fairy Tale Workshop
18.11.2026	NURSERY ONLY Children in Need – Mufti Day
18.11.2026	YR Maths Workshop 9am
19.11.2026	Elephants Class Assembly
19.11.2026	Byfleet Christmas Lights Switch On – Choir
20.11.2026	Children in Need – Mufti Day
23 – 26.11.2026	Lifebus
26.11.2026	Lemurs Class Assembly
26.11.2026	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
02.12.2026	Nursery Nativity
03.12.2026	Parent Voice Meeting
04.12.2026	Mufti Day for PTA Tombola
04.12.2026	YR-6 Life Skills
05.12.2026	Christmas Market – PTA
07.12.2026	Choir singing at Barnes Wallis
08.12.2026	KS2 Carol Service – Choir
09.12.2026	Reception Nativity
10.12.2026	KS2 Nativity - PM
11.12.2026	KS2 Nativity - AM
16.12.2026	Y5 Christmas Service
18.12.2026	End of Autumn Term 1.05pm
04.01.2027	Start of Spring Term
06.01.2027	Parent Voice 8.45am
12.01.2027	Nursery and Reception - Little City
13.01.2027	Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop

14.01.2027	Nursery and Reception - Little City
18.01.2027	Choir – Young Voices O2 Trip
21.01.2027	Pandas Class Assembly
22.01.2027	PTA Break the Rules Day
26.01.2027	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
28.01.2027	Hippos Class Assembly
29.01.2027	Y3 Chertsey Museum Roman Workshop
03.02.2027	Parent Voice Meeting
04.02.2027	Panthers Class Assembly
04.02.2027	PTA KS1 Friendship Disco – 5-6pm
09.02.2027	Safer Internet Day
10.02.2027	Ancient Egyptian Day
11.02.2027	Y6 Buddhist Temple Trip
11.02.2027	Cheetahs Class Assembly
11.02.2027	PTA KS2 Friendship Disco – 5-6pm
12.02.2027	YR – 6 Life Skills
15 – 19.02.2027	Half Term
23.02.2027	Y4 Painshill Trip
26.02.2027	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
03.03.2027	Parent Voice Meeting
03 – 05.03.2027	PTA Wonderful Women
03.03.2027	World Book Day (NURSERY ONLY)
03.03.2027	YR – 6 West End In Schools Workshops
04.03.2027	World Book Day
05.03.2027	YR – 6 West End In Schools Workshops
11.03.2027	Chimps Class Assembly
15-16.03.2027	Y3 Feet First Walking Training
16.03.2027	Y2 Wisley Trip
16.03.2027	Eco Great Big School Clean
16.03.2027	Yr 1 British Wildlife Centre Trip (date changed)
17.03.2027	Red Nose Day (NURSERY ONLY)
18.03.2027	Polar Bears Class Assembly
19.03.2027	Red Nose Day
23.03.2027	Y4 Easter Service
23.03.2027	Easter Bonnet Parade & PTA Easter Event
24.03.2027	End of Spring Term 1.05pm
25.03.2027	INSET Day
12.04.2027	Start of Summer Term
12.04.2027	Y4 Humanist Workshop
13.04.2027	YR – 6 Life Skills
14.04.2027	Class Photographs
16.04.2027	Y2 Wisley Trip
16.04.2027	Hippos Library Trip
22.04.2027	Tigers Class Assembly
22.04.2027	Eco - Earth Day
23.04.2027	Y3 Brooklands Museum Trip
23.04.2027	Elephants Library Trip AM
23.04.2027	Panthers Library Trip PM
26.04.2027	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
28.04.2027	Nursery – Our World Day
28.04.2027	Lions Class Assembly
29.04.2027	Our World Day
30.04.2027	Reception Bocketts Farm Trip
30.04.2027	Cheetahs Library Trip
03.05.2027	Parent Voice Meeting
05 – 07.05.2027	Y4 Bikeability
06.05.2026	Rabbits Class Assembly
07.05.2027	Rabbits Library Trip AM
07.05.2027	Hedgehogs Library Trip PM
10 – 13.05.2027	Y6 SATS Week
14.05.2027	Y6 Park Trip
17.05.2027	Y5 Vikings Workshop
19.05.2027	Nursery Sports Day
20.05.2027	Nursery Sports Day

20.05.2027	PTA KS1 Summer Disco 5 – 6pm
21.05.2027	YR – 6 Sports Day
26.05.2027	Y1 Mosque Trip
26.05.2027	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
26.05.2027	Nursery Sports Day – RESERVE DATE
27.05.2027	Hedgehogs Class Assembly
27.05.2027	Nursery Sports Day – RESERVE DATE
27.05.2027	PTA KS2 Summer Disco 5 – 6pm
28.05.2027	YR – 6 Sports Day – RESERVE DATE
31.05 – 04.06.2027	Half Term
07 - 11.06.2027	Y6 Bikeability
08.06.2027	Parent Voice Meeting 8.45am
09.06.2027	Nursery - Royal Day
11.06.2027	YR – 6 Royal Day
14 – 18.06.2027	Y1 Phonics Screening
16 – 18.06.2027	PTA Marvellous Men
18.06.2027	Kangaroos Library Trip AM
18.06.2027	Lions Library Trip PM
21 - 25.06.2027	Y6 PGL
24.06.2027	Giraffes Class Assembly
25.06.2027	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
28.06.2027	INSET Day
30.06.2027	YR – 6 Life Skills
02.07.2027	Giraffes Library Trip AM
02.07.2027	Tigers Library Trip PM
03.07.2027	Parent Voice Meeting 8.45am
09.07.2027	Pandas Library Trip AM
09.07.2027	Polar Bears Library Trip PM
14 & 15.07.2027	Y6 Production
19.07.2027	YR – 6 Life Skills
20.07.2027	Y6 Leavers' Day
22.07.2027	Y6 Leavers' Service
23.07.2027	End of Summer Term 1.05pm

FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**CAN YOU SPARE 2-3 HOURS A WEEK
TO HELP A LOCAL FAMILY?**

We are looking to grow our team of volunteers who provide weekly practical and emotional support to families facing challenging times

Full training provided

Contact us today to
find out more:
www.homestartraw.org
info@homestartraw.org
01483 740367

**HOME
START**
Runnymede
& Woking

