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

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newsletter

Week ending
6th November 2026

Fundraising We had not received sufficient voluntary contributions for an upcoming Yr 1 workshop and it looked like we were sadly going to have to cancel it. One of our St Mary's families, Freddie and Amelie decided to help raise some money towards the workhop, as they didn't want to see it cancelled. With their mum, they made cupcakes and took to their road, where they knocked on doors asking if anyone wanted to buy a cupcake and explained what they were raising money for. They sold over 40 cupcakes and made just over £105! Freddie and Amelie – we are so very proud of you and showing your wonderful act of kindness.



A very big thank you!



Guinea Pigs

Over the half term, sadly one of our school guinea pigs died. Little Milo (the black and white one) had a heart defect that suddenly made him very poorly. We took advice and were told the remaining little brother, Monty, needed to have new companions quickly so we now have two new baby piggies to live with Monty. I hope to be able to introduce them to their home in school next week. Yesterday, I spoke to the children in Years 1-6 about Milo and gave the children the opportunity to ask questions, share feelings and say a little prayer for Milo. Over the course of the day, children brought me cards, poems and paryers they wrote for Milo that were really beautiful and thoughtful.

Dear God,

Please take care of Milo in heaven

Let him have fun and be happy

Make him have friends as he floats into heaven

The Lord be with you

Amen

Written by Bella

Dear God,

As we say bye to Milo

We thank him for everything he has been with the school.

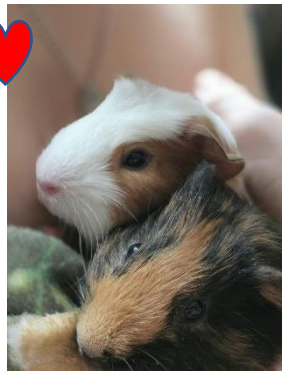
All the cuddles and making peoples day brighter.

God bless Milo

Amen

Written by Leo

Our St Mary's children really are the kindest and most wonderful group of young people.



For any children struggling with this news please follow these link for support or reach out to us:

https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/bereavement

Milo Poem

Been with us since 2024

We had lots of fun with him

Still hear his little, scuttling paws

We loved to cuddle him

He was a guinea pig whom we will miss

He had a lovely life

He gave us loads of guinea pig kisses

We tried hard not to cry

He was sensible, sweet, we loved him so

He will be loved forever

Our lovely little guinea pig Milo

He was our little treasure

We played with him to our hearts content

We thought it would never end

Into heaven he will make his ascent

He was St Mary's best friend

Written by Cleo and Amelia





Remembrance Day This Sunday I will taking some of our choir to sing and perform at the Byfleet Remembrance Day service. Please do come and support us! Thank you to Y6 for selling the poppies this week and next week.

The remembrance service in Byfleet Village will take place at the village war memorial, beginning at 10.50am. The parade will assemble at the village hall's car park at 10.30am.

PTA tombola The school was a rainbow of colour today as people brought in their PTA tombola contrbutions. Thank you for the generous gifts that the PTA will now be able to turn into exciting gift hampers!

On behalf of us all, we hope you have a great weekend!

From Mrs Chambers

Home School Link Worker

In this week's HSLW weekly bulletin, you will find information on the following:

- Leisure activities for children with additional needs
- Childcare
- 'Men's meet up'
- Bump and Beyond webinar
- Family Advice Communication Education – November timetable

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

Just a gentle reminder that if you wish to participate, shoe boxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal are due in on **Monday, 9th November 2026.**

For more information about the appeal or how to pack a shoe box, please follow the links below:

Operation Christmas Child: https://video.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child-2025-overview/

How to pack a shoe box and more information: https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Thank you for your generosity,

Year 4 team



New block play in Early Years!

We're excited to share some great news about the new furniture in our Early Years areas – currently only in Hedgehogs, but Rabbits and Moles will be receiving theirs shortly! As part of the government's 'Best Start in Life' initiative and their dedicated Brighter Beginnings programme, we are lucky enough to be utilising a resource grant to help children achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) by the end of their Reception year.

Block play is widely recognised as a powerful driver of early learning, providing rich opportunities for children to develop spatial reasoning, problem-solving, early mathematical thinking, creativity and language. Research consistently highlights that play-based experiences, particularly those involving manipulatives and loose-part materials, strengthen cognitive, social and emotional development, laying strong foundations for later learning. The new furniture will further enhance the already wonderful environment we offer for our Early Years children, providing them with the best possible start in their educational journey.

Mrs McGowan

Early Years Lead











Star of the Week



Moles:	Lola “for a fantastic fireworks picture.”
	Nila “for super sitting and listening during the pantomime.”
Hedghehogs:	Rosie “for always working hard when writing, and being eager to write!”
Rabbits:	Rose “for fantastic effort during Drawing Club sessions this week.”
Cheetahs:	Poppy “for working so hard in your reading this week!”
Panthers:	Pippa “for listening well and having a positive go with her learning this week.”
Lions:	Melani “For using her voice more in the classroom”.
Tigers:	Marcel “For responding really positively to feedback to improve his writing.”
Polar Bears:	Eliza “for her brilliant contributions in English this week.”
Pandas:	Cobi “for a huge effort in his week.”
Elephants:	Parker “for applying feedback on his spelling into his next piece of writing.”
Hippos:	Rares “for showing perseverance in Maths.”
Kangaroos:	Emilis “for improved focus and following of instructions – keep it up!”
Giraffes:	Elmas “for making some great contributions to lessons and showing improvement in putting his hand up. Keep working hard to make good choices!”
Chimps:	Alexandra “for brilliant engagement and effort towards her learning this week!”
Lemurs:	Ella-Rose “for so much effort this week – what a girl!”

Times Table Rock Stars

Year 3 / 4	Ava H (Hippos)
	Alisa L (Hippos)
	Aria B (Elephants)
Years 5 / 6	Charlotte W (Chimps)
	Luca M (Lemurs)
	Grace H (Giraffes)

Dates for your Diary

09.11.2026	Shoebox Appeal donations in by
09.11.2026	Parents Evening ONLINE
10.11.2026	YR Freshwater Theatre
11.11.2026	NURSERY ONLY Children in Need * date change
11.11.2026	Remembrance Service in the hall 9am – Yr 6 Parents invited
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
13.11.2026	Children in Need
17.11.2026	Y1 Fairy Tale Workshop
18.11.2026	YR Maths Workshop 9am
18.11.2026	**Yr 2 Trip to St Mary's Church - 1.30pm**
19.11.2026	Elephants Class Assembly
19.11.2026	Byfleet Christmas Lights Switch On – Choir
23 – 26.11.2026	Lifebus
26.11.2026	Lemurs Class Assembly
26.11.2026	Open Classrooms – 3.10pm
02.12.2026	Nursery Nativity - 9.30am
03.12.2026	Parent Voice Meeting 8.45am
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	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
08.12.2026	KS2 Carol Service – Choir
09.12.2026	Reception Nativity – 9.15am
10.12.2026	KS1 Nativity – 2pm
11.12.2026	KS1 Nativity – 9.30am
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
01.02.2027	**KS2 Author Visit**
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	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
15.06.2027	Yr 6 Guildford Cathedral Leavers Service
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
02.07.2027	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