

TERM DATES

School Year 2023-24

Autumn Term

INSET Day: 4th and 5th Sept

First day of Term: 6th Sept

Half Term:

23rd Oct to 27th Oct

Last day of Term: 20th Dec

INSET Day: 21st Dec

Spring Term

INSET Day: 8th Jan

First day of Term: 9th Jan

Half Term:

12th Feb to 16th Feb

Last day of Term:

28th Mar

Summer Term

INSET Day: 15th Apr

First day of Term: 16th Apr

Bank Holiday: 6th May

Half Term:

27th May to 31st May

Last Day of Term:

24th Jul

IN TOUCH



Friday 24th November 2023

Issue 676

VISION: Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish
MISSION: Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith
VALUES: COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

Christmas is in the air at St. Mary's as preparations begin in earnest for the festive season. Next week we look forward to our Christmas trees arriving and being able to decorate them with our handmade decorations. We invite you to join us at a special celebration worship next Friday from 9.15am. Reverend John will be leading worship and lighting the first candle on our advent wreath. Instead of Learning Warriors, we will be awarding certificates to our most successful Christmas decoration makers. We will then officially turn on our Christmas lights and open the first door on our whole school advent calendar. It's always a special event and we encourage you to be with us if you can.

Year Five Progress in Learning meetings were well attended this week. Huge thanks to Ms Munro and Mrs Bishop for hosting these. We hope parent/carers found them to be useful discussions. The remainder of meetings will take place on the 6th and 7th December. Joining us in the hall on this evening will be Schools Mobile, a UK Company helping schools and parents collaborate to deliver balanced, safe and positive online usage. Please see the information attached. Schools Mobile is run by a family member of former pupils of St. Mary's, Hoong Kwan.

Year Five also held their Work Share this week. Work Shares have been very well attended by parent/carers so far. We would like to say a very big thank you to you for making the time to come and see what each class are doing. Still to come we have Year Six Work Share next Wednesday and Year One next Thursday. We look forward to welcoming more parent/carers into school next week. We have received several requests to hold these on Fridays when some parent/carers have more flexibility around working patterns. We value your feedback and will take this into consideration when planning future Work Shares. Thank you.

Yesterday, saw Year Two and Three extend their learning outside of the classroom. Year Two headed to Surrey to visit All Saints Primary School in Tilford. Mrs Livingstone, a former Deputy Head at St. Mary's, is now a member of staff at the school and we have formed a useful link which allows children to observe a contrasting geographical school setting, form penpals with children their age and enjoy the forest school facilities in Tilford. Year Three headed further afield, to Hampshire to visit Butser Ancient Farm, where parents were amazed to see how much they had already learned about the Iron and Stone Ages in their History work. Huge thanks to the Year Two and Three staff teams for planning and enabling these extension opportunities.

Coming up soon is a new event in the FoSMS calendar—St. Mary's Movie Night! Tickets are selling well, but there is still the opportunity to purchase tickets for each screen if you would like your child to join staff for a Christmas Movie Night on Saturday 2nd December!

Also next week, our governors will be in school for their first of three working mornings. Governors will be undertaking training around the school's performance data and conducting a Science learning walk and hearing from the Science lead. Some of them will join us for lunch in the hall afterwards so that they can understand as much of the children's experience as possible when in school.

That's it for this week! From everyone here at St. Mary's—I wish you a very restful but fun weekend. We look forward to seeing you all again at the usual time on Monday!

Very best wishes, Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

School Attendance 23-24	
TARGET	97.0%
Autumn 1	96.7
Week Beginning	%
30/11	97.2
06/11	97.5
13/11	94.4
20/11	96.0
27/11	
04/12	
11/12	
Total:	96.5

Family Points

565

627

669

408



Year Three eating lunch at Butser Ancient Farm