



SCHOOL NEWS

ST. MARYS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, PUTNEY

DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE





Winter Mini Reading Challenge

Welcome to a fantastic free reading challenge. Join in 1 December - 20 February! The Winter Mini Challenge is an online challenge that encourages children to keep up their reading over the winter holidays.

To take part, sign up here. Choose your avatar and log books you read on your profile. Read three books to unlock special digital badges and a certificate of achievement!
<https://readingagency.org.uk/get-reading/>



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Our first Anti-Bullying Week of the year was a great success and gave all children the opportunity to reflect on the national theme 'Power for Good.' We linked this to the story of Elphaba from Wicked, exploring how acts of kindness, courage and staying true to who we are can make a positive difference.

During the week, children took part in engaging workshops led by Active Learning where they used the Wicked narrative to explore how friendships are formed, how misunderstandings occur and how we can use our own "power for good" to stand up for others. This was supported through PSHE lessons that helped pupils identify different types of bullying, understand how to seek help and consider practical ways to make positive change within our school community. This learning continued into English, with pupils completing a variety of tasks linked to character viewpoints, celebrating uniqueness, being upstanders and using kind words and actions to support others.

To top it off, Year 5 and Year 6 visited the theatre to watch Wicked (see photo above). Staff and pupils shared that seeing the story performed live deepened their understanding of empathy, diversity and inclusion, helping to bring the week's messages to life. We also celebrated Odd Socks Day as a whole school, encouraging children to express their individuality and reminding us all that our differences make us special. It was a memorable week of learning, reflection and shared commitment to using our Power for Good



The Spring Term starts
Tue Jan 6th 2026
 (Mon 5th Jan - Inset Day)

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him."

Matthew 2:10



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

It's the most wonderful time of year again at St. Mary's. Everything is covered in glitter - especially Mr Mwila! We are so fortunate to have such wonderful support from our parent body and as a result the children and staff have been able to enjoy the usual Christmas traditions and more. If we weren't feeling the Christmas spirit before the Fair then we certainly were afterwards! Children have enjoyed playing in the grotto which was beautifully imagined in our eco classroom. I would like to say a huge thank you to Danielle and Rochelle our Co-Chairs and their fantastic committee of fabulous parents for our events this term - especially the Christmas Fair and the magic of the grotto!



This magazine is a review of the Autumn Term, which started with the greatest excitement - not least from the Head Teacher - that our stunning garden and outdoor classroom were no longer plans on the wall, but a wonderful reality for our children to enjoy through play and learning. There is no way that we, as a one form entry school in the current climate, would be able to provide such a space without the help of our parent body. It's a huge and very heartfelt thank you to you all for our fabulous new space and a special thank you to Ruth as our Chair for her drive and determination to make this a reality along with the hard-working committee and wider FoSMS team. The space is mainly in use at play and lunch times at the moment, but we have plans to start growing in the Spring. Mrs Livingstone - a former Deputy Head Teacher - has offered us some frogspawn, so as soon as the mini-beasts and wildlife move in we will be able to make use of our pond and outside area for learning.

As always our staff team have ensured that children receive the wonder our vision promises, especially in regards to trips outside of the classroom. This term alone our trips have involved meeting David Walliams, visiting St. Paul's school to take part in a Liquid Nitrogen workshop, singing at St. Paul's Cathedral and seeing Wicked at the Apollo Victoria. No doubt you are aware of how difficult recruitment and finance are for schools at the moment. We are experiencing greater mobility of staff than every before. However, I am very proud of our team which continues to go from strength to strength. I continue to work hard to find the very best teachers for our children - it is always my paramount aim as head teacher. The staff have worked hard this term with a reduced senior team to support them, new colleagues to induct and support, new routines to learn and acclimatise to, and they have still pulled it out of the bag in terms of the quality of teaching and learning and enhancing the children's experience at school. I say a very big thank you to them and hope that they all experience rest, joy and fun over Christmas and come back feeling excited about what 2026 has in store for them.

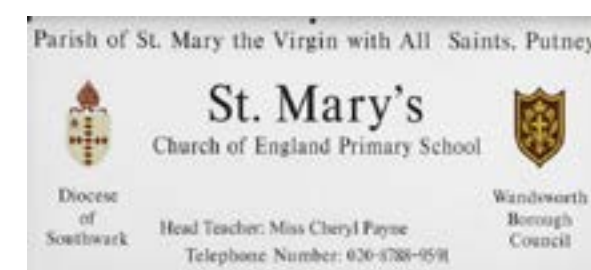
I wish the same for all of our families too. Thank you for your wonderful children - they are always the very best part of our job. I hope you all enjoy looking back on the Autumn Term and is makes you excited about what's still to come this year. Have a wonderful Christmas break and the very best start to 2026!

Very best wishes,
 Cheryl Payne

SCHOOL GOVERNOR NEWS

It has been a time of renewal for the governing board, with several governors stepping down at the end of the summer term as their period on the board ended. As you will have noticed we held a parent governor election this term, which was closely fought and we welcome Miranda Lerner to the board. We have also been joined by two new Foundation governors - Richard Quesnel, who many of you may know, and Adam Rachlin, who worships with his family at St Mary's and is an accountant.

This term, governors have received some excellent safeguarding training and have begun familiarisation with the new OFSTED framework, as well as our usual strategic oversight within committees. We were hosted by school very recently to watch an excellent act of collective worship, all about celebration. We then had the chance to visit each class and watch some of an RE lesson. The growth in use of and familiarity with a more complicated spoken vocabulary was very evident as we toured classes, from Nursery to Year 5 (Year 6 were out on a trip). For example, a year 5 pupil explained very clearly to a governor what the word "omnipotent" means, whereas a very committed nursery pupil gave us a preview of her lyrics and moves for one of the upcoming nativity performance songs. In between, governors joined the children in the playground and watched all the wonderful new playground equipment being used as intended. Governors commented on the impeccable behaviour of the children and how knowledgeable they were about the subject of their lessons. It was a very encouraging and uplifting morning, and we are grateful to staff and pupils alike for hosting us. We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.



Classroom Close-ups

Y5

Year 5 has had an exciting and productive Autumn term! In science, the class has expanded their understanding of forces. They've explored the effects of friction on movement, examined how gravity affects unsupported objects, and delved into air resistance. A highlight of the term was their trip to the Science Museum, where students had the chance to apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

In English, the class has been fully immersed in their Fairy Tales topic, learning how to create vivid imagery in their writing. By exploring similes, metaphors, personification, noun phrases, and careful vocabulary choices, they've developed impressive writing skills. This week, they tested their creativity by writing spooky poetry, and they're eager to use these skills when crafting their own fairy tales and creating different atmospheres. A standout moment this term was

definitely the trip with Year 6 to see the Wicked stage show, which was a fantastic experience for all involved. It's been a wonderful first term, and Year 5 is excited for what the rest of the year will bring!



Y1

What an exciting and busy autumn term Year One have had! It has been jam-packed with learning, adventures and lots of enrichment. We started the term with a brilliant trip to Gootopia, where we explored the properties of materials in the most hands-on, goo-tastic way possible! Later, we visited Waitrose and investigated the fruit and vegetable aisle to help us decide which ingredients would work well in our smoothies. After discovering our favourite flavours and thinking carefully about tasty combinations, we headed to Octagreen restaurant to make our very own delicious creations. We were also incredibly lucky to attend a Spin, Rhyme, Rhythm and Rap show at the Civic Suite with the wonderful Joseph Coelho, which left everyone inspired. For Black History Month, we loved learning about the remarkable life of Mary Seacole and her incredible contributions. Another highlight was our "Power of Good" workshop, where we tried on Elphaba's hat and imagined ourselves in her shoes, thinking about how characters could make kinder choices. In science, we explored the pond and the outdoors for signs of autumn and even created our own "Guess Who" game using scientific clues about animals.



Y4

Year 4 have had an exciting and productive term! The children have been busy researching gorillas to create their own fact files. Mr Steinitz and Mrs Flavin have been blown away by the children's growing vocabulary when writing stories about magic. In maths, they've tackled working with four-digit numbers and explored perimeter, applying their skills to real-life problems. Science lessons have been hands-on, with pupils building physical circuits using light bulbs whilst experimenting with block code multiplication games to combine computing and timetables practise. In history and geography, the class delved into the fascinating world of the Romans and also learned about rivers, exploring how they shape landscapes and communities. A highlight of the term was visiting the London Cenotaph, where the class reflected on remembrance and its significance. They also showcased their voices by singing beautifully in church during our Harvest Service. PE sessions focused on training and understanding fitness, helping everyone learn how to stay healthy and active. In RE, the children deepened their knowledge of Hinduism and Christianity, exploring traditions and beliefs in written reflections and discussions. Phew! What an exciting and jam packed term it's been! Congratulations, Year 4, and see you next year!



Y6

Our first term in Y6 has been action packed. Not only do we work hard in class, we keep the school day interesting with our roles as school leaders, the school council, anti-bullying ambassadors, eco committee, librarians, representing St Mary's at sporting events and acting as family captains. In our 'free time', we have been navigating the secondary transfer process with school visits and assessments. It is exhausting, but we have handled it with grace. Despite all we have going on we have stayed focused on our academics.



Y3

Year 3 have had a great start and have settled well into Key Stage Two. One of the highlights of this year was hearing David Walliams speak at Wandsworth Civic Suite. We have been reading a new David Walliams book, 'Santa's Son' as a class to prepare for and celebrate the holidays. In English class we are currently reading a picture book called 'Winter's Child' by Angela McAllister. The children have written a winter wonderland setting description, dialogue, a winter poem and a postcard! They are developing their use of noun phrases, prepositional phrases and possessive apostrophes. In Maths the children have so far tackled place value, as well as column addition and subtraction. They are now looking at their skills in estimation, problem solving and multiplication/division. In RE the class have been learning about the Holy Trinity and baptisms. They are currently enjoying the topic on Advent, and our Christmas activities, such as creating stable animal ornaments. One of their favourite topics has been Geography, where they have studied settlements including villages, towns and cities. Finally, the children have really engaged with our Science topic about animals including humans, and have learned about what animals eat and how it impacts their bodies.



YN

The Nursery children have settled into school life brilliantly this autumn term. During the first half term, we focused on getting to know the adults and our new friends, learning daily routines and developing independence. The children have shown great confidence and enthusiasm as they explored their new environment.



We spent time learning about emotions using The Colour Monster by Anna Llenas, which helped the children talk about their feelings in a fun and meaningful way. This led us into an exciting monster theme, inspired by Bedtime for Monsters by Ed Vere. The children were thrilled when a friendly monster visited our classroom! We made our own monsters, took them on adventures and created wonderful story maps together. We then shared the story Owl Babies by Martin Waddell, which encouraged lots of discussion about families, babies and growing up. This linked closely to our topic Ourselves, helping children reflect on their own experiences.

During the second half term, we learned about People Who Help Us. The children loved exploring different role-play areas, including a fire station, police station and baby clinic, acting out roles with enthusiasm. This half term, we have also enjoyed our RE topic, learning about the Nativity story and why Christians celebrate Christmas. The children loved being angels in the school nativity at Church. The children also took part in many Christmas activities, including making cards, decorations and running our much-loved Christmas post office.

Y2

This term in Year Two has been a fantastic experience for everyone. The children have worked incredibly hard in all areas of their learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Their enthusiasm and determination have shone through in everything they have done. We enjoyed a couple of wonderful school trips that helped bring our topics to life and gave the children valuable opportunities to explore new places and build lasting memories together. In science, we learned about materials, investigating their properties through practical activities and lively discussion. During DT Day, the children designed and created their own ferris wheels, showing great creativity and perseverance as they overcame challenges and celebrated their finished models.

A major highlight of the term has been getting ready for Christmas. The children have already shown wonderful excitement and commitment during rehearsals. We have also spent time making Christmas tree decorations and crafting advent candles to take home and enjoy with family. Each morning, the class has eagerly searched for Alfie the elf, who has entertained everyone with his mischievous hiding places. All these festive activities have added a joyful sparkle to our term and created a warm, happy atmosphere in the classroom.



YR

As we reach the end of a busy first term, we're really pleased with how well the children in Reception have settled into school life. They have quickly picked up our class routines and have come to school each day ready to learn and take part. Across all subject areas, the students have worked incredibly hard. In phonics and literacy, we've been learning new sounds, beginning to read simple words and having a go at writing. In maths, they have explored numbers, shapes and patterns through lots of practical activities. In RE, they have enjoyed learning about the nativity story and why we sometimes perform nativity plays.

Through PSED, the children have also been building their social and emotional skills. They have made new friends, learnt how to work together and are getting better at talking about their feelings and solving small problems on their own.

We've also had plenty of fun experiences this term. We had a workshop for Black History Month where the children learnt through music and stories. Our trip to the Science Museum, linked to our space topic, was a real highlight, and this week we all enjoyed watching a Christmas pantomime. It's been a lovely start to the year!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month 2025 at St Mary's focused on the theme "Standing Firm in Power and Pride." Across the school, children embraced the chance to learn about individuals whose voices have not always been heard and to celebrate the contributions Black people have made to society. The month encouraged a deep appreciation of justice, equality and resilience. In Early Years, pupils explored "Amazing Grace" and "Coming to England", thinking about kindness, fairness and standing up for others. Through their Freshwater story telling workshop, they "arrived" in England as pirates with Amazing Grace, climbed a Kenyan mountain in Lila and the Secret of Rain, travelled to the Caribbean with Island Counting 124, and met the great storyteller Anansi. Years 1 and 2 focused on recognising unfairness and doing what is right through storytelling, role-play and classroom activities. They learned about Mary Seacole's challenges, achievements and lasting legacy, and their Freshwater workshop brought these lessons to life—making it feel as though they were right there with Mary Seacole herself. KS2 kickstarted the month with a "Breaking Barriers" workshop highlighting four remarkable Black British figures—Jacques Francis, Claudia Jones, Sislin Fay Allen and Stormzy — whose stories inspired pupils to reflect on courage, contribution and positive change. This led them nicely on to their class based activities where they examined different forms of resistance and activism: Years 3 and 4 explored everyday acts of standing up for justice and fairness in the UK, while Years 5 and 6 learned about activism and changemaking.



CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed watching the pantomime The Snow Queen, which was a magical treat for children from Year 1 to Year 6.

The lively performance was full of humour, colourful characters and catchy songs that kept everyone engaged from start to finish. The Snow Queen's icy world and the message of friendship and kindness captured the children's imaginations and prompted lots of excited discussion and calls of 'caw-caw' back in classes.

The show was a wonderful shared experience for the whole school and a special opportunity to enjoy live theatre together. Thank you to FOSMs for organising such an enjoyable and memorable visit.



Some highlights from the children:

Emily - Y2 - "I liked when the Snow Queen went away and the boy returned to his best friend."

Eddie - Y6 - "I liked the pigeon English joke, it was very funny and they were great accent impressionists"

Tolu Y2 - " I liked the end when the boy and girl got to be friends again."

Cordelia Y4 - "I liked how they created the river and changed the story from the original to include cavemen."

Xavier Y1 - "I liked the crows they were really funny."

MUSIC

This term the new nursery children have enjoyed their weekly visit to the Music Room where they have been able to use the percussion instruments - shaky eggs in particular are good for tiny hands! Reception have begun to recognise some written notation which has taken them no time at all, and they continue to enjoy rhythm games, beat and listening. Year 1 and Year 2 continue to develop their knowledge of the orchestra, understanding of pitch shapes (Y1) and how the stave works (Y2), as well as plenty of practical work with the instruments, and singing. Peter and the Wolf has been this term's project for Y3 and they have composed their own matching animals, whilst Y4 have explored the Nutcracker in detail which has been great fun, ending in a quiz requiring accurate recognition of the main themes! Y5 and Y6 have worked hard on their note learning and singing for the Christmas Concert, and produced a wonderful performance in the Hall to parents and carers. I was very proud of them all, and I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did! Individual 1:1 instrumental lessons continue, and Y3 are enjoying their Class recorder lessons, and Y4 are developing their flute skills in their group classes. Thank you to families for supporting our budding musicians at their concert this term. Musical clubs continue to thrive including M-Tech, Guitar, Choir and Young Voices.



ART

All children across the school began creating their Christmas card designs early on in the Autumn term, this was to ensure they were all ready in time to be printed and sent out to friends and family.

Nursery children worked collaboratively to create a beautiful mixed-media firework painting and a field of poppies for Remembrance Day. Reception have enjoyed using drawing materials such as oil pastels and inks to create space related art and worked together to make a large space rocket. Inspired by their Science focus on animals, Year 1 created animal artwork using patterns and shapes and created their own imaginary animal world. Henri Rousseau's art inspired Year 2 to create stormy jungle paintings that linked with their weather focus in Geography, and Year 3 explored colour-mixing for painting snowy winter scenes. Year 4 used their sketchbooks to explore a range of mark-making inspired by their Geography work on rivers. Using a range of drawing and painting processes, Year 5 explored how art can be used as a tool for wellbeing and self-regulation. Year 6 have been creating their self-portraits to be hung in the stairwell, using a combination of drawing, painting, printmaking and collage.



NATIVITY

This term, the children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 have worked incredibly hard in preparation for our Christmas nativity, Lights, Camel, Action!, and we could not be prouder of their efforts. From learning lines and lyrics to practising dance moves and stage positions, they have shown real commitment, focus, and enthusiasm throughout rehearsals. Every child has embraced their role and given their very best, week after week.

Lights, Camel, Action! has been a challenging nativity, with lots to remember and plenty of energy required, but the children have risen to the challenge brilliantly. Their determination, resilience, and positive attitudes have shone through, even when things felt tricky. They have supported one another, grown in confidence, and worked together as a true team to bring this lively retelling of the Christmas story to life. The progress they have made over the term has been wonderful to see, and their hard work has truly paid off. Their performances are full of joy, character, and festive spirit, and they should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. With talent and enthusiasm like this, we may well have a few future West End stars among us!



Christmas Greetings From our church

One of my December highlights is when the Oxford English dictionary publishes their word of the year. The OED bases their word of the year not just on increased usage but also capturing the tone or mood of the year. Think of *vax* for vaccinations back in 21 as a classic example!

This year, with a threefold increase in usage, the chosen word is *rage bait*; manipulative online content designed to provoke anger and therefore engagement. Engagement of cause leads to advertising revenues equals profits. There's gold in *rage bait*. So the OED say that the word or phrase emerging as best capturing the mood of 2025 is about anger, manipulation and unsavoury business tactics!

I think we can do better than that and of cause Christmas gives us some other words to both reflect some of the goodness, kindness and generosity in our world and to inspire and encourage us in embodying them into our living. Think Hope, Peace, Joy, Love for starters. Words that our school community have journeyed with during advent! The accounts of the birth of Jesus bring us hope, joy, peace and love. Hope that the God of heaven and earth, God of the universe is interested in us, knows us and comes to be one of us. Peace that we can find our true identity as brothers and sisters, all children of our God of love. The joy of new birth. And the power of love to overcome the hatred, divisions and, dare I say it, the angers of our world.

All year round, at St Mary's Church, children, young people and adults journey with each other to support each other in the ways of faith; resisting *rage bait*, seeking to orientate ourselves to the hope, peace, joy and love of God. Do visit the church or go online to find out more: <https://stmarys.parishofputney.com/>.

This Christmas God calls us all to turn away from what brings division, hatred and *rage bait* and instead turn to all that brings beauty, wonder, hope, peace, joy and love.

God Bless, Rev'd John Whittaker



SPORT AT ST MARY'S

Thank You for Supporting the Active Lives Survey!

We'd like to say a huge thank you to all our wonderful pupils and parents who took part in the Active Lives Survey at the end of last year! Your involvement has helped us earn £360, which will go directly towards new PE and playground equipment for our school. This is a fantastic boost that will help us continue to promote fun, fitness, and healthy lifestyles for all our children. The survey, run by Sport England, helps schools and researchers understand how children across the country engage with physical activity and healthy habits. Your contributions are helping shape a healthier future for young people everywhere! Thank you once again for your support - together, we're making a difference!

PPSSA Cross Country 2025

On Saturday 18th October, pupils from Years 5 and 6 laced up their shoes on a sunny but cold morning and took to the Richardson Memorial Playing Fields in Roehampton for an exciting morning of cross country running. The event offered something for everyone, with one competitive race and a fun run for others. Both groups of runners showed incredible stamina and resilience as they tackled the 2km course. It was inspiring to see so many pupils pushing themselves on the lightning fast run. Whether racing for a personal best or running for the joy of it, every participant contributed to a fantastic morning that brings our local schools together for competition and physical activity. Thank you to parents for supporting and marshaling sections of the race. A huge well done to all who took part.

Pupils: Alana - (Winner Y5 Girls), Y5 - Francesca, Cecilia, Celine, Jasper, Harry, Alonzo, Y6 - Jack, Ben, Max, Fleur, Ruby, Zahra



Barnes Tag Rugby Festival

Early in September a small group of Year 5 and 6 pupils took to the rugby field for an evening of fun and fast paced tag rugby games. All pupils traded their normal Friday after school activities to display great sporting attitudes and endurance to run, tag and score across the multiple games we played. With more wins than losses for the night, each player showed an improvement in their skill during the event. Mr Phillips was impressed to see that even when other teams were doing well, they continued to play the game to the best of their ability. Hopefully we have yet more opportunities for Tag Rugby next year.

Pupils: Max, Aleksei, Jack, Ruby, Agastya, Peter, Fleur, Harry, Alex, Francesca



Schools District Boys Football U11

Year 6 pupil Eben came through 5 trials to be selected to represent Wandsworth Schools District in U11 football. This term the team has already taken part in the National Schools Cup, Inner London District Shield and matches at Crystal Palace Academy and against Hackney and South London Districts. They have chalked up some great performances against some very strong opposition and Eben has scored 4 goals.



LIBRARY

Year 6 pupils regularly help out in the library - reading to early years and listening to our younger pupils reading.



FoSMS News Round-up of FoSMS events - we've had a blast!

After a mammoth couple of years raising funds for the playground project, FoSMS were thrilled to watch the students return in September to their brand new outdoor eco-classroom, pond & learning space! This year FoSMS is focused on the importance of growing and strengthening our incredible school community - if you're a parent at St Mary's, you're a part of FoSMS! Our school has always had a strong parent body and we are grateful that everyone can play a part, big or small. A huge thank you to our committee for all of their hard work and to every parent who has given their time, resource and talents. We look forward to 2026 and all the fun to come!!

Christmas wreath making night

The second annual wreath night was held at St Mary's Church once again run by the wonderful Sophie Campbell. A fantastic crowd of parents made wreaths for their own front doors and for FoSMS to sell on. Festive music, wreath design guidance and a glass of fizz made this the new classic St Mary's start to the festive season! All wreaths now have good home through sales at St Mary's church on Sunday's. A fantastic £614 was raised - look forward to welcoming even more of you next year!

Christmas cards

Alongside the main events, we also raise an additional £414 commission through the sales of Christmas cards designed by pupils.

Christmas raffle

Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and school parents, we have another incredible lineup of gifts - by the time this is published, there'll be some very happy winners! Thank you to Chess Maughan for once again taking the lead on putting together the raffle and to everyone that went out and sourced prizes - we've already raised over £750!



What we spent

FoSMS continues to fund additional resources and opportunities for every child at St Mary's. Our spending this term includes:

- EYFS Christmas Pantomime £295
- KS1/KS2 Christmas Pantomime £750
- Christmas Trees £50
- ParentKind membership including event insurance £162
- Contribution to staff and classroom expenses



A huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

We rely entirely on volunteers to put on FoSMS events, which are so important for both fundraising and nurturing our amazing sense of community at St Mary's.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2025

The much anticipated St Mary's Christmas Fayre returned to its old Friday afternoon time slot on 5th December & what a return it was! A buzzing queue entered the school hall to find live music, independent boutique stalls and the most wonderful activities - reindeer food making, face painting, games, crafts...the list went on! The music room was transformed into the secret gift room much to the delight of many- this old St Mary's tradition was a hit and sold out quick! An amazing array of food & drink was on offer through the hall and playground - thank you to those that worked hard to nourish us all! This was just the tip of the excitement, as the crowd made their way out to the playground for what was the most epic Santa's Grotto that Putney has ever seen! A huge thank you to Rana Imad for giving so much of her time & commitment to creating this magical room. Santa made his way from the North Pole to meet over 150 children of St Mary's and was very impressed with their kindness & manners! Thank you to every parent who contributed and volunteered their time to make this event as wonderful as it was - a special thank you to the parents in younger years for all their work making the hall so great. We were able to raise a brilliant £1400!



PLAYGROUND PROJECT

The outdoor classroom is now open for use! Each day a class has access to the area during playtime for quiet games or even just to sit for a bit. The buddy bench is used when needed for pupils looking for a new friend and we regularly see our children helping each other out to play a new game. The grass has been a lovely addition for classes who used the end of the summer weather to sit with their friends and enjoy the warmer start to the term. As the year progresses we are hoping the pond will be more established with life, providing opportunities for our science lessons as well as well-being support for all. Thank you to all the community for their hard work and donations that made this possible.



Leavers and Starters to St.Mary's

Pupil leavers
Rafael Sempere-Lane Y1
Maximo Sempere-Lane YN

Staff Leavers
Tandia Jack Y2 Teacher



Building community and funds

Following last year's tremendous effort on the fundraising front, this year's FoSMS' Committee has emphasised the importance of building and celebrating our amazing school community through FoSMS events. The Committee includes some "old hands" and some "fresh faces" this year, which is proving to be an excellent combination, and we would love to hear from anyone else who would like to get involved in event planning as we head into 2026! A big thank you to everyone who has donated their time or financially this term - every contribution really does make a difference. If you are in a position to donate, please do add gift aid if eligible to do so, and get in touch if you have any questions.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



 **Mission Statement**

VISION: Delivering excellence,
allowing all to flourish

MISSION: Creating a culture of
wonder, guided by Christian faith

CORE VALUES: Endurance •
Compassion • Thankfulness

