

w/c 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Message from the Headteacher

The theme of this Jubilee Year is **HOPE**. What does hope mean to you? What kind of things do you hope for? What do you hope the world will be like in the future? Today in school we have launched the Jubilee Year and talked to the children about how they can bring HOPE to our world. You can watch the launch video by following this link: <https://youtu.be/BipplAlPuvw?feature=shared>

Today is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. We pray for all families affected by the horrors of war, and we pray that world leaders learn from the past and work together to achieve world peace. Sometimes it is hard to find signs of hope when we watch the news, however, the liberation of hostages in the Middle East this weekend gives us a glimmer of hope. It is important to focus on the small acts of kindness that we can all do that bring hope to those around us.

Wishing you all a good week.

### Important Dates

Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 3:15	<b>Cake Sale</b> run by the Friends of St Mary's
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 09:00	<b>Year 3 Mass (parents invited to attend)</b>
w/c 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Children's Mental Health Week</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 14:30	<b>Year 2 Liturgy (parents invited to attend)</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Safer Internet Day</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>INSET Day</b>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 16:00	<b>Books at Bedtime</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February - 28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Class 4Lo swimming lessons</b>
Week commencing 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>Book Week</b>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>World Book Day</b>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 15:30/18:00	<b>Parent/Carer Information sessions -Times Table Checks 15:30/Y6 SATS 18:00</b>
Week Commencing Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Book Fair in school</b>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>CAFOD Family Fast Day</b>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 15:30	<b>Parent/Carer Information session - Phonics Screening – Year 1</b>

Thursday 20th March 2025 - 14:30	<b>Year 1 Liturgy</b> (parents invited to attend)
Friday 21st March 2025	<b>World Down Syndrome Day - Fundraiser</b>
Tuesday 25th March 15:30	<b>Parent/Teacher Consultations</b>
Thursday 27th March - 15:30	<b>Parent/Teacher Consultations</b>
7th to 21st April	<b>Easter Break</b>

## Announcements

### Friends of St Mary's Cake Sale

Our Friends of St Mary's committee are running a cake sale after school on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Please see the attached flyer. Please do support us by providing cakes and taking time to come to the sale from 3.15pm. Stalls will be in the KS1 playground and by the Astro pitch.



### Mermaid Tail



We have not had much sponsorship for our Mermaid Tail yet. If you would like to contribute, please do give a donation on our Just Giving Page. Our target is £750. Thank you. Please see local publicity about this wonderful event that we are so proud to be part of <https://www.juliashouse.org/tail-trail/events/great-tail-trail>

Sponsor our tail here: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/alice-emblin-1729367785127?utm\\_source=SFMC&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=FR-heroes\\_FRPo\\_Overall-near-badge\\_uk&mi\\_u=54375631&mi\\_ecmp=FR-heroes\\_FRPo\\_Overall-near-badge\\_uk](https://www.justgiving.com/page/alice-emblin-1729367785127?utm_source=SFMC&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FR-heroes_FRPo_Overall-near-badge_uk&mi_u=54375631&mi_ecmp=FR-heroes_FRPo_Overall-near-badge_uk)

All funds raised will be going to Julia's House Hospice.

## Reminders

### Year 3 Mass

Parent / carers are invited to join Year 3 for their mass on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 9:00am in the school hall.

### Pupil Travel Survey

Our travel survey closes this week. We would urge you to complete it, it only takes a few minutes: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StMarysCatholicPrimarySchoolParentandGuardianTravelSurvey2025>  
So far 109 families have submitted information so we would be glad of some more.

## Be Here, be Ready



Thank you to all those families who have made a huge effort with their child's punctuality! Getting to school on time means your child is more comfortable as they are going in with their classmates and can have a quick chat about the day ahead, your child does not have that awkward feeling of going in to class late and on their own and they do not miss the input for the first lesson of the day.  
Last week 27 children were late on one occasion or more resulting in 38 lates marks. 7 children were late after the registers closed with results in an absence mark on their school record.  
Again, thank you for this improvement, we really appreciate it!

Mr Lakatos is our School Anti-Bullying Lead and our E-safety Champion.

### Anti Bullying Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all our students, We would like to share some important information regarding our Anti-Bullying Week, which took place from the 13th to the 17th of November 2024.



From November 2024 to November 2025, we are embracing the theme of “Choose Respect”, which encourages our children to treat one another with kindness and understanding. To kick off the week, we invited all students to wear odd socks on Monday. This fun and light-hearted activity served as a colourful reminder that our differences make us unique and should be celebrated.

Throughout the week, the children engaged in various activities designed to promote empathy and respect among peers. Each student had the opportunity to write a personal pledge, outlining how they intend to contribute to a positive school environment. More recently, the school council introduced ‘play buddies’ where two from each class choose to wear a red cap. If anyone feels like they have no one to play with they will approach someone wearing a cap who they know will be happy to play with them!

As parents and carers, your involvement plays a vital role in this initiative. We encourage you to talk to your children about what respect means to them and how they can actively contribute to preventing bullying. To help spark these conversations, you might consider discussing scenarios where kindness can make a difference or sharing examples of times when you chose respect in your own life.

### Safer Internet Day

We would like to inform you about an important upcoming event that we will be observing at school—Safer Internet Day, which falls on the 11th of February 2025. This year, the theme is “Too Good to be True,” focusing on online scams and the importance of recognising misleading information.



As we live in a digital age, it is vital for our children to understand how to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. On Safer Internet Day, our students will participate in a BBC Live Lesson, designed to engage them with critical discussions about online safety, digital literacy, and the tricks that can often be hidden behind seemingly attractive offers or messages.

To support this initiative at home, we encourage you to have conversations with your children about their online experiences. Together, you might explore topics such as recognising suspicious content or understanding the significance of privacy settings. It could also be beneficial to discuss the importance of asking for help or reporting any concerning incidents they may encounter online.

In preparation for Safer Internet Day, here are a few recommendations you may find helpful:

1. **Discuss the Theme:** Have a chat with your child about what “Too Good to be True” means in the context of the internet. Encourage them to share any experiences they’ve had with suspicious messages or offers.
2. **Explore Resources:** There are many online resources available for parents and children alike. Websites like Parent Zone and Internet Matters offer valuable advice on navigating online challenges.
3. **Set Boundaries:** Together, you can set some guidelines regarding internet use at home. Talk about how much time they spend online and the websites they visit.

Thank you for your attention, and we look forward to a successful Safer Internet Day together!

Mr Lakatos

