



Family Update – Friday 27th February

Dear Families,

It was wonderful to welcome children and staff back to school this week.

It is incredible to think that we are already half-way through the academic year. This time of year always feels filled with hope and excitement. The days have started to lengthen and spring blossoms are appearing in the streets, parks and gardens.

Not only did we welcome brighter skies and glimpses of sunshine this week, but also visitors old and new.

Michael De Souza



Yesterday, the excitement in the air was palpable as we welcomed Michael De Souza, amazing author of the Rastamouse books, into school. From the moment he arrived, we were all filled with joy, and laughter began to reverberate around the school.

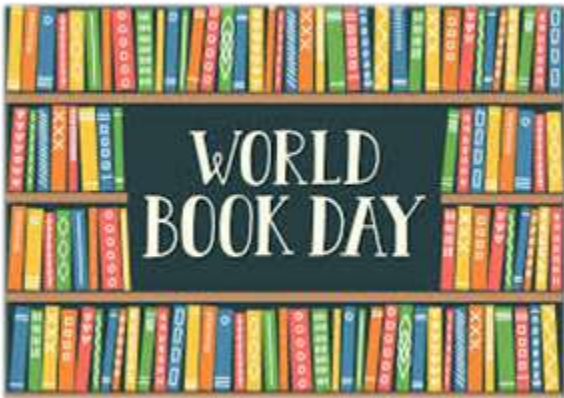
Michael led our collective worship and entertained us all with his incredible wit, and led us all on a beautiful, poetical journey. He led workshops for every child in the school from our 2-year-olds all the way up to Year 6.

We pre-ordered signed books from Mr De Souza, however due to a large, last-minute flurry of orders, not everybody went home with a book. Mr De Souza will be signing more books over the weekend and these will be delivered to school by the middle of next week. Please be assured that everyone who has paid for a book, will receive their order.



World Book Day 2026

Read Your Way



On Thursday 5th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day 2026. The theme this year is "Read Your Way." This theme encourages every child to discover the joy of reading in their own unique way, nurturing a lifelong love of books and stories. At St Mary's, we value reading as a gift that broadens horizons, inspires imagination, and reflects our commitment to learning, wisdom, and creativity.

To mark this special occasion, children are warmly invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book or comic. Costumes can be simple and imaginative and homemade outfits are very welcome. Please note that football kits or sportswear are not permitted unless they are directly linked to a specific book character.

If your child has a copy of the book featuring their chosen character, we would encourage them to bring it along to share with their class. This helps us to celebrate not only the characters themselves, but also the wonderful stories in which they are found.

We look forward to a joyful day of storytelling, creativity, and shared reading. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading within our school community.

Project Touchline



Chris, the founder of Project Touchline, rejoined us on Wednesday to begin his annual half term block of PE with children in Years 2-6. Here is a quote from the Project Touchline website, "Project Touchline is transformative approach to physical education (PE) that integrates Christian values in sport like compassion, perseverance, and integrity into sports such as rugby and cricket.

Unlike traditional PE, which focuses primarily on physical skills, Project Touchline emphasises character development alongside physical competence, thereby integrating values effectively. It fosters moral and social skills within sporting contexts, showing the role of Christian values in PE."



TCS London Mini Marathon

We are delighted to have secured 30 entries for the TCS London Mini Marathon on Saturday 25th April. This is a unique opportunity to run the final mile of one of the most famous races in the world! Children will run one mile through the heart of Westminster and then cross the iconic TCS London Marathon Finish Line. They will also receive a TCS Mini London Marathon medal.

The event is open to children **in Years 2-6** and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To register your child for the event, please complete the Google Form here:

<https://forms.gle/YeocGq2Y9cf92Lhb8>

Your child will receive a letter confirming their place, along with further details, by 20th March. Please note, we will not know our wave time start until this is shared with us, by the organisers, after the Easter holidays.



The school is now a partner with the Youth Sport Trust, part of the London Marathon Foundation. Over the next few months, we look forward to more opportunities to participate in sport-related activities.

If you are interested in practising between now and the mini marathon, why not take part in a Junior Parkrun? The Junior Parkrun at Paddington Rec, happens every Sunday at 9am. For more information, click [here](#).

London Marathon

Talking of marathons, as some of you may have heard (she does seem to talk about it a lot), on Sunday 26th April, Mrs Marius-Beeko is running The London Marathon. Her training started in the Christmas Holidays and has continued, despite the incessant rain.

Quite a few parents have asked about sponsorship. Mrs Marius-Beeko will be fundraising for Cancer Research UK. If you would like to sponsor her, please click [here](#). Please keep Mrs. Marius-Beeko in your prayers over the next nine weeks as she completes her training.

St Mary's Bryanston Square Year 1 – Spring Term 1

English - Storytelling Week



As avid readers, Year 1 enjoyed many activities during National Storytelling week. We had different teachers reading some great texts as a class, an amazing webinar with Annemarie Anang, author of 'I am Nefertiti' and lovely Friday morning reading sessions with parents. Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed this week and have been even more inspired to read for pleasure at school and at home. Well done Year 1 for your excellent participation and showing off your love of reading.



Art – I want my hat back Bear paintings

Year 1 have been reading the book 'I want my hat back' this term. In art with Mrs Morant, they have been creating wonderful



masterpieces showing their version of Bear and his travelling hat! The children used watercolour paints to paint each part of their pieces, concentrating carefully to bring their Bears to life... Watch this space for them to be displayed in our classroom after half term!



Maths – Place Value to 20



Year 1 have been outside in the playground practicing their numbers to 20. We braved the cold weather with some chalk and numbers to create our very own number lines to 20. We practiced ordering numbers to 20 as well as taking turns within a group. Following on from this we practiced our estimation skills, taking out whiteboards with numbers 1-20 on and estimated where we would be on the number line. Great teamwork from Year 1 and an excellent use of the playground to help us with our learning.



Computing - Rockets showcase!



This term year 1 have been planning making their own rockets using computers! After getting the hang of logging in, the children were able to make a list of materials needed, design their own rocket and write their instructions on how to make their rockets. We then used our Design and Technology skills to make the rockets using our planning out of water bottles, card and of course glitter! Well done year 1, I hope your adults at home love them as much as we do!



Attendance

Well done to Year 2, our attendance winners this week!

Congratulations Year 2. Keep up the good work!

Class	Attendance figures
Nursery	97.8%
Reception	93.3%
Year 1	96.7%
Year 2	99.4%
Year 3	98.5%
Year 4	94.9%
Year 5 /6	93.4%

Dear God,

Thank you for a glorious and sunny start to this new half term. We give thanks for the joy that we have experienced this week at work and at play.

We pray that you will be with us each day, guiding our thoughts, words and actions.

Bless all of the children who make up our school community and give us your peace.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

Dates for Diaries

Important events for the remainder of the academic year. All of these dates are also on our school website calendar here: <https://www.stmbs.org.uk/diary/grid/2024/09/>

Date	Time	Focus	Led by/who is invited
Mon 2nd Mar	am	Year 6 Junior Westminster Event	Year 6
Thurs 5th Mar Change of Date	All day	Dress up for World Book Day	Whole School
Mon 9th – Fri 13th Mar		Science Week	Whole School
Thurs 26th Mar	3.15pm	FoSMA Easter Bake Sale	Whole School
Wed 18th Mar	2.30pm	Church Service	Whole School
Fri 27th Mar	1.30pm	End of Term	Whole School
Easter Holidays Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April			
Mon 13th Apr	8.45am	Start of the Summer Term	Whole School
11th -15th May		Key Stage 2 Assessments	Year 6
Mon 18th May	11.30-1pm	Mother's Day Lunch (belated)	Whole School (one female relative per child/family unit)
Wed 20th May	2.30pm	Church Service	Whole School

Half Term Holiday Monday 25th May – Monday 1st June			
Tues 2nd June	8.45am	Start of the Summer Term	Whole School
8th – 12th June		Year 1 Phonics Check	Whole School
Wed 10th June	8.30am -6pm	Year 2 Trip to West Wittering Beach	Year 2 + 1 parent per child
15th to 19th June		Art Week Art exhibition at School Wednesday 17th June (3.30pm -4.30pm)	Whole School
15th June	11.30- 1pm	Father's Day Lunch	Whole School (one male relative per child/family unit)
22nd to 26th June		Science Week	Whole School
Mon 29th June		Class Photos	Whole School
Wed 1st July	10am	Sports Day at Paddington Rec	Years 1-6
Thurs 2nd July	9.30am	Sports Day In school	Nursery and Reception
Fri 3rd July		End of Year Reports to Parents	
Tues 7^h July	3.30pm - 4.30pm	Parent Report Drop in	Whole School
Thurs 9th July	2pm - 5pm	Summer Fair	Whole School
Mon 13th July		Year 6 Show	Year 6 parents
Tues 14th July	4pm – 5.30pm	Year 6 BBQ	Year 6 pupils
Wed 15th July	2.30pm	Year 6 Leavers' Service	Whole School
Fri 17th July	1.30pm	End of term and the start of the summer holidays!	Whole School