Family Update
Friday 23rd October

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe that the first half term is already over. It has been a joy to see children across the school embrace the learning opportunities that have come their way, both in and out of the classroom, over the last two months. The awe and wonder that is prevalent in each class across the school is a sight to behold!

We are thankful for the wonderful start we have had to the academic year, for the learning that has taken place, the friendships that have been formed and the many ways in which we have seen God's grace at work in the life of our school.

Friday Collective Worship

As the whole school meets to celebrate the successes of children, it has been lovely to extend the invitation to parents to join with staff and pupils. Due to space restrictions, we ask that no more than two adults per family attend and that families stick to the dates below.
Please note, that whilst **we will endeavour to let you know** when your child is going to receive a golden certificate, **this is not always possible.**
Collective Worship is a mobile-free zone. No mobile phones should be in use or visible during this time. If your child receives a certificate, there will be an opportunity for you to take a photo of your child, at the end of Collective Worship.

If you are late for school, the office team may ask you not to join Collective Worship, in order to minimise disruption.

Timetable for parents

Reception and Nursery - Friday 6th November
Year 1 and Year 2 - Friday 13th November
Year 3 and Year 4 - Friday 20th November
Year 5 and Year 6 - Friday 27th November

'EXCELLENCE WITH COMPASSION'

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbour as yourself.' (Mark 12:30-31)

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Black History Month 2026

Throughout October, we have been celebrating Black History Month. Yesterday afternoon, the whole school gathered together to share their learning on this year's theme: 'Honouring our Communities'.

It was wonderful to hear children from Nursery to Year 6 share all that they had learnt. I was particularly impressed by the oracy skills of some of our youngest children.

Every October at St Mary's we celebrate Black History Month, but for us, this is not just one occasion during the year. All year round, our curriculum, the books in our book corners and libraries, and the music we listen to, all reflect the school's commitment to celebrating the rich and diverse literature, reading, mathematical and scientific contributions from people of Global Majority Heritage.

Just like how we don't only talk about Maths in Maths Week, or bullying in Anti-bullying week, we don't just celebrate Black History in Black History Month. If it is worth celebrating, it is worth celebrating all year round.

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SEND Coffee Morning
Meet your new SENCO

Join us for tea or coffee, meet our new SENCO and find out more about SEND support at our school.

Our current SENCO, Mrs Ramphul, will also be there to support the handover and help to ensure a smooth transition.

Date: Tuesday 3rd November
Time: 9-9:30am
Location: St Mary's Bryanston Square School. Please meet at the office.

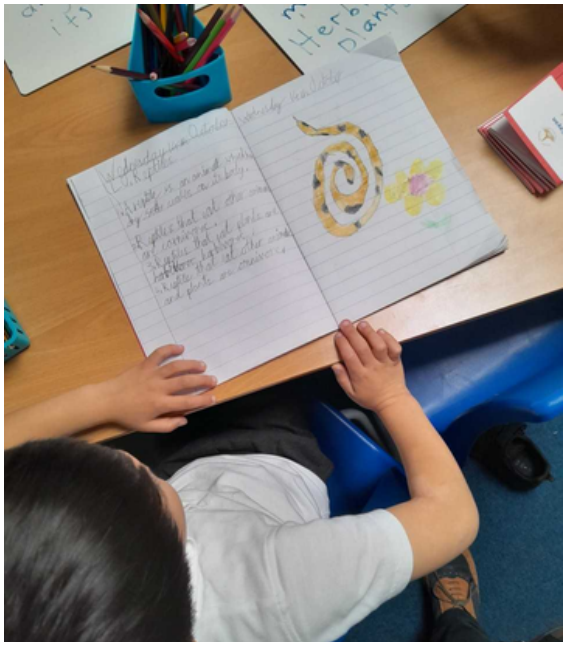
All parents and carers of children receiving SEND support or parents and carers of children with EHCPs are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Year 2 Autumn 1 Learning

Year 2 have had a wonderfully busy and exciting start to the year! The children have shown great enthusiasm, curiosity and a growing love of learning as they settle into new routines and embrace the challenges of their learning. It has been fantastic to see their confidence develop as they build their independence, work collaboratively and demonstrate kindness towards one another. Well done, Year 2, for such a brilliant start to the year! We look forward to all the wonderful learning and achievements still to come.

In Science, Year 2 have been exploring the fascinating world of animals, learning how to identify and group mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The children have enjoyed sharing their ideas, asking thoughtful questions and discovering the features that make each group unique. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have made for some wonderful discussions!

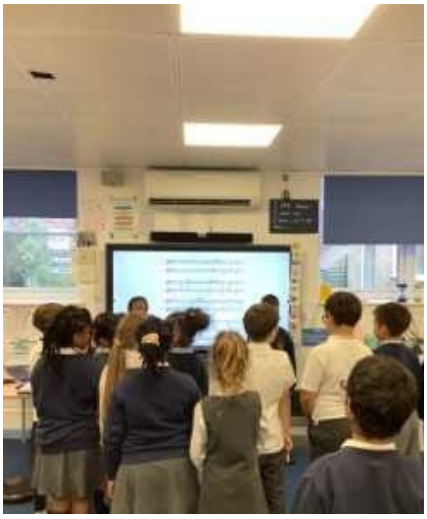


In Music, Year 2 have been exploring the violin and learning to read musical notation, including semibreves, minims, crotchets and quavers. The children have shown a wonderful sense of rhythm and a real enthusiasm for music! This learning has linked beautifully with our English lessons, where we have been writing haiku poems and exploring their special syllable patterns. The children have enjoyed discovering how rhythm and patterns can be found in both music and poetry!

Year 4 Autumn 1 Learning

Year 4 have been getting wonderfully creative this half term, and art and music have been real highlights. In art, we have been developing our drawing skills and learning how to illustrate people and characters with greater accuracy. Working in groups, the children created large-scale Iron Man drawings, which linked to our English focus text. The children showed fantastic teamwork and imagination. Our music lessons have filled the classroom with joy, and the children have been keen to demonstrate their musical talents.

Year 4 have had a great start to this academic year, working hard across all subject areas. I am very proud of their efforts and look forward to what the rest of the year holds. Keep up the great work, everyone!



Maths and English learning have gone from strength to strength this half term. The children have worked incredibly hard to develop their skills in composing a narrative and have shown outstanding determination when learning about place value, addition and subtraction. Highlights of these subjects included the Take 10 to Read initiative and the Black Heroes of Mathematics workshop, where we learned about David Blackwell's contribution to mathematics.

This half term Year 4 enjoyed a trip to the Floating Classroom, which complemented our science unit on grouping and classifying living things. During the boat ride, the children spent time on deck learning about living and non-living things, participating in observation work and drama activities. They also used a local green space to carry out earthworm surveys, using classification keys to identify the different types of worms they found. It was a memorable day of learning that brought our science topic to life.

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Dates for the diary

Please add the dates below to your diary so that you don't miss out.
All of the dates are available on the school website too.

Date	Time	Focus	Led by/who is invited
Half Term (26th October to 30th October)			
Sat 31st October		**Secondary admissions deadline**	Year 6
Mon 2nd Nov	3:30pm - 4:30pm	**Light Disco - Children are welcome to bring a change of clothing to school (no Halloween costumes)**	Whole School
Mon 9th Nov	3pm - 6pm	**Parent/Teacher Meetings**	Whole School
9th to 13th Nov	All week	**Nursery Rhyme Week**	Nursery and Reception
Wed 18th Nov	Morning	**Individual and sibling photos**	Whole School
Thur 19th Nov	9am - 10am	**FoSMA AGM**	At School
Mon 23rd -27th Nov		**Maths Week**	Whole School
Fri 27th Nov	2:30-3:30pm	**Maths Business Fair**	Children from Nursery to Year 6
Mon 30th Nov	3:30pm - 4:30pm	**Christmas Fair**	Whole School
Fri 11th Dec	3:30pm - 4pm	**Christmas Bake Sale**	Whole School
Mon 14th Dec	9:30am	**Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show**	Year 1 and Year 2 Parents invited. **Two adults per family.**
Tues 15th Dec	9:30am	**Early Years Nativity**	Nursery and Recption parents invited. **Two adults per family.**
Wed 16th Dec	2:45pm	**Christmas Church Service**	Whole School

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Attendance

Class	Attendance This week	Attendance this year so far
Nursery	94%	93.8%
Reception	92.0%	96.2%
Year 1	95.6%	94.9%
Year 2	95.5%	95.0%
Year 3	98%	96.3%
Year 4	96.1%	96.6%
Year 5	94.0%	97.3%
Year 6	93.3%	97%

Congratulations to Year 3, our attendance winners again this week!

Keep up the good work, Year 3

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing start we have had to this academic year and the many ways in which children and adults have flourished at school this half term.

We pray that you will be with us over half term, keep us safe as we rest and play.

Amen