

This week our Year 6 children have been sitting their end of Key Stage 2 assessments. I am sure that they are all relieved that they are over – but what ever the results, one thing which really stood out this week is how much effort each child has put into each and every test. Every single member of staff at St. Mary's has been proud of each one of them. As a reward for their hard work, the Year 6 children were rewarded with a chip shop dinner today. If you have a child in Year 6, you can be very proud of them this weekend.

Next up will be our Year 1 and Year 4 children who will be completing screening tests in Phonics and times tables. These test will take place after half term.

Please make note of the information regarding next week's colour run – especially the companies which have sponsored us. Their sponsorship is very much appreciated.

20th – 22nd May	Y6 Robinwood Trip
24th May	St Mary's Colour Run sponsored event
24th May	School closes for half term
10th June	School re-opens for Summer 2
10th – 14th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
10th – 14th June	Year 4 Multiplication check
4th – 5th July	Year 6 High School Transition
10th – 11th July	Y5 and Y6 production
26th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
26th July	School closes for Summer

School Attendance and Term Time Holidays

You may or may not have seen in the press, that the government is having a huge push on school attendance. There is a new document which has been published to schools regarding this, and changes which have to be implemented in September 2024. As a school, we are not able to set our own rules regarding attendance – we must follow government guidelines. The biggest changes are around fines for poor school attendance and punctuality including school time holidays. It is worth noting that if your child arrives after 9:30am without valid reason (eg a medical appointment) this is classed as an unauthorised absence.

From September 2024:

Penalty notices will be issued for any 10 unauthorised absences within a 10 week period. (this is equivalent to 5 schools days)

Penalty notices will rise to £160, per child, per parent. If paid within 21 days, this will be reduced to £80. If a second penalty notice is issued, this will be at £160 but will not have the option of being reduced.

A 3rd penalty notice cannot be issued within 3 years of the first one. If the threshold (10 sessions) is met for a 3rd time, this will result in prosecution.

Our attendance and punctuality at St. Mary's is good and for the vast majority of our families these changes will have no impact at all but one of our biggest issues is around holidays in school time – and following guidelines, I am never allowed to authorise holidays in school time.

Parish news

The latest parish newsletter can be found by clicking the link below.

[Parish Newsletter](#)

Attendance

**Congratulations to Year 6 who have had the
highest attendance this week
With a fantastic 100%**

	F2	99%	
Year 1	98%	Year 2	95%
Year 3	94%	Year 4	97%
Year 5	94%	Year 6	100%

Stars of the week

Congratulations to Tristan, Demi, Tabitha, Asher, Lucy, Florence, Imogen and the whole of Year 6 who have been nominated as stars of the week by their class teachers. Well done and keep up the good work.

Behaviour Stars of the week

Each week the staff will nominate children who they feel need rewarding for their behaviour. Congratulations to William, Marcus, Daisy, Bryan, Herbie, Morgan, Nancy and Usman who have been nominated as behaviour stars of the week. Well done and keep up the good work.

PE stars of the week

Congratulations to Matilda, James, Aiden, Reuben, Harry, Fia, Asher, Oliver, Samuel, Penelope, Charlotte, Blake, Lucy, Ellen, Maisie, Evelyn, Calum, Ted, Connor, Izzy, maxwell, Jhaziah, Coady, Max and Lillie-May who have been nominated as PE stars of the week by their class teachers. Well done and keep up the good work.

Behaviour in School

All the staff in our school are always proud of how our children behave in school. Visitors to our school always comment on their behaviour and levels of respect. We have recently redrafted our school behaviour policy, placing a much greater emphasis on the children taking responsibility for their actions. This does not always mean them being responsible for when things go wrong, but also to ensure that each and every child makes a conscious decision to do the right thing. When children do the right thing, they will be rewarded for it.

[A copy of the new behaviour policy is available by clicking here](#)

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to George who has celebrated his birthday this week. I hope you had a lovely day.

Dragon's Den

This year we see the return of Dragons' Den. An exciting opportunity to combine creativity and develop an insight into the world of business and finance!

Our Dragons' Den event will take place on Friday 28th June and will be open to children from years 3 to 6. We invite the children to plan and design a product to sell. In the past children have worked in small groups and will be invited on Tuesday 11th June to pitch their ideas to the Dragons, where they will provide details of their product, the amount of investment they would like and the expected profit they would hope to make. The Dragons will decide which products they would like to invest in and those groups will be given an investment to produce their product.

In the past this was a hugely popular event and we hope that the children will enjoy taking part. In the past we have seen some fantastic ideas – bracelets, fruit kebabs, smoothies, pizza, personalised pen pots.....the list is endless. Any funds raised will go towards a planned special event for the children at the end of the Summer Term.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding team at St. Mary's consists of Miss Johnson, Mr Knapper and myself. If you wish to discuss any concerns with us please ask and at least one of us will be available. All of our staff have received safeguard training and keeping all children safe is always our first and most important priority.

First Holy Communion

Last weekend saw the final group of children receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion. I was fortunate to attend all 3 Masses and each one was a very special occasion and each child was amazing. I am sure you will join me in thanking Fr Joe and Sr Delores for arranging and running the sacramental programme this year. If you have any feedback regarding the sacramental programme, please do let me know and I can let Fr and Sr know.



Colour Run

You should have received a letter yesterday with some additional details for our colour un next Friday. We would love you to all join us watching your children. The times for each class were on the letter.

Next Fri, please do not send your child into school with any bags. We would like to minimise the coloured powder coming back into the school building and if every child is retuning to class to collect their bags, we will end up with very colourful classrooms.

If you are wanting to watch the colour run, there will be the option of taking your child home afterwards. If you have various children, they may stay with you to watch their brothers or sisters.

I would like to thank the following sponsors for their support. Through their generous sponsorship we have been able to purchase white t-shirts and sunglasses for each child, as well as all the coloured powder needed. This will make the day much more memorable for all of the children.

Broadway Insurance Brokers
The Dane Bank
Mellor's Mind Craft Private Tutoring
Denton Diamonds
H & W Electrical Services Limited
Coolair Equipment Limited
Theresa's Tribe Childminders

Join us for an exciting Mind Craft adventure at
Mellor's Holiday Club!



MELLOR'S MIND CRAFT Private Tutoring

Summer HOLIDAY CLUB



Adventure • Learning • Creativity • Fun

Dates Available:

Tuesday 28th May
Wednesday 29th May
Thursday 30th May
Tuesday 4th June
Wednesday 5th June
Thursday 6th June



Contact Rachel Mellor for more
information and to reserve your spot

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