



THE ST MARY'S MESSENGER

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2026

THIS WEEK

Dear Parents

This week has certainly been a week of learning, 8 members of staff had 2 days of intense paediatric first aid training and all staff and several governors took part in a dedicated OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) training session. Together, we analysed our baseline assessment, celebrated what is already working well, and developed our action plan for the next stage of our OPAL journey.

We were also delighted to welcome 8 parents who joined me to meet Liz our OPAL lead practitioner to learn more about the programme.

The benefits of OPAL are becoming increasingly evident. Children are making the most of the expanded opportunities for play, building friendships across year groups, and developing important social skills through imaginative, creative, and active play. Staff and parents alike have commented on the wonderful way children are interacting and playing together. Some of our children's comments say it best:

"I love sitting with my special school family at lunch and chatting with them about what they have been doing."

"It has been fantastic having all the space to play all around the school."

This scripture articulates what we are trying to achieve at St Marys: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

With blessings,

Diane Wright

HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET

"Michelle always plays with me"

"Miss Wright always helps me with my work, she is the best"

"Today, Debbie made me feel happy when she played with me outside at playtime"

"Sirene, Moridiya and Daniella helped me outside when I had nobody to play with"

"Kyrán held the door open for me"

"Hunter told me that he liked my new trainers"

"Bongani made my week when he took the time to colour in the sheet I made for him"

"Mr Middleton always helps us with driving the bus to Football"

KEY DATES

7th October – KS1 trip to Wicksteed Park

8th October – 2pm OPAL presentation to parents

14th October – 9.15am EYFS read-a-long with your child

20th October – 2.45pm Lions class worship

21st October – Lions & Doves trip to Cadbury World

23rd October – 2.45pm Leopards class worship

23rd October – Break for half term

31st October – Deadline for Year 6 parents to enter their secondary school preference

3rd November – Return to school



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SAFEGUARDING INCIDENT

Yesterday a child sustained a suspected neck injury and significant facial injury whilst playing in Mill Road Park after school. The individual needed to be taken to hospital via ambulance.

The accident was the result of secondary aged pupils swinging the round, basket swing too high whilst a younger child was using it. They did not listen to the protests of the victim and continued swing it. I have now been informed that this is not the first time that older children have done this to our pupils.

At school, we expect children to be collected by an adult or older sibling until they are in Year 5 or 6. We strongly encourage parents to apply the same level of supervision outside of school.

The clear message from this incident is that children are not always safe in the park when attending unsupervised.

Thank you for your support in helping keep all children safe.

SWIMMING SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of James Hazleton at the recent Club Swimming Championships.

James has secured some fantastic national rankings, achieving:

- Top 25 in England for 100m Individual Medley (8-year-old boys)
- Top 25 in England for 50m Butterfly (8-year-old boys)
- Top 50 in England for 50m Backstroke (8-year-old boys)

These are remarkable accomplishments and a testament to James' hard work, dedication, and commitment to his training. Well done, James, on representing your club with such success. We are all incredibly proud of you and look forward to hearing about your future achievements!



OPAL PARENTS MEETING

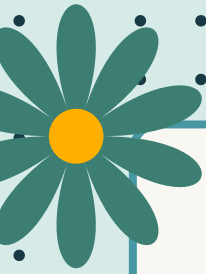
Join Us on Thursday 8th October, 2:00pm – 3:00pm for our OPAL (Outside Play and Learning) Parents Presentation.

This session will give you the opportunity to hear:

- Why we chose to introduce the OPAL programme
- What OPAL means for your child
- The positive impact we are already seeing
- How you can support and contribute to our OPAL journey

We look forward to sharing our vision for play and celebrating the exciting changes that are helping our children thrive. We hope to see you there.





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COMIC CLUB TAKE OVER

Keeping up with our "Comic Book Club" takeover - this week's comic was designed by Bryan and is called Super Cat and Super Worm. Bryan has lots of fun at comic book club and likes that he can draw with his friend Enoch. Bryan's favourite books to read are about Footballers.

