



# THE ST MARY'S MESSENGER

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2026

## THIS WEEK

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we have been focusing on belonging – the groups we belong to and what it means to be part of the St Mary's School family.

It has been wonderful to explore with the children what it means to show love to one another, care for those around us, and make everyone feel valued and included. We have reflected on how our actions can help others feel that they belong and how, together, we create a community where everyone is supported and encouraged to flourish. Our Year 6 Play Leaders continue to be a real credit to our school. They work hard every day to support and encourage the younger members of our school family, demonstrating kindness, responsibility and leadership. We are incredibly proud of the positive example they set for others.

### Parent Consultation Evening – 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> November

A reminder that Parent Consultation Evenings will take place during the first week back after half term. These meetings provide an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate their successes and understand the next steps in their learning.

We were delighted that 92% of parents attended our consultation evenings last spring, and we hope to see a similarly high level of engagement this term. So far 90 bookings have been made.

Please book your appointment via Arbor.

Thank you to the 6 parents who have indicated that they would like to be OPAL parent champions.

With blessings

Diane Wright

## HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET

"Lilliana S is just the best, she makes my day and makes me laugh"

"Michelle is so kind to me"

"Ciara is soooooo nice to me"

"Mrs Dix is always so kind and helps me"

"Rosella is a fantastic friend, she makes me laugh and makes amazing things"

"Astrid helps me on my table when I eat, she is my best friend"

"Leon chases and plays with me at playtime"

"Adie has made my week by being so helpful in Caterpillars"

## KEY DATES

**20<sup>th</sup> October** – 2.45pm Lions class worship

**21<sup>st</sup> October** – Lions & Doves trip to Cadbury World

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** – 9am Leopards class worship

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** – Break for half term

**31<sup>st</sup> October** – Deadline for Year 6 parents to enter their secondary school preference

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Return to school

**17<sup>th</sup> November** – 10am & 5pm – School tours for new EYFS intake 26/27

**18<sup>th</sup> November** – 5.15pm – EYFS & KS1 Bedtime story

**19<sup>th</sup> November** – 2.45pm – Doves class worship

**25<sup>th</sup> November** – 4.45pm – KS2 Reading under the stars



# THE ST MARY'S MESSENGER

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2026

## EYFS 27/28

If you are considering sending your child here next academic year, or know anyone that might. We are holding **school tours** on **17<sup>th</sup> November 2026**, for parents and their children to come and look round the school. No need to book, just come to school at either **10am** or **5pm** and we will be happy to show you round.

### SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM - MATCH REPORT

Our school football team enjoyed a fantastic week in the seeding fixtures of the local inter-schools league, recording three impressive victories against Thrapston A, Thrapston B and St Thomas More.

The team played with great determination and skill throughout all three matches. Leon and David were in outstanding form in front of goal, each scoring a hat-trick across the fixtures, while Samuel also got on the scoresheet with a well-taken goal. Kayden and Isaac showed excellent teamwork and understanding, creating numerous attacking opportunities with their clever interplay and passing.

At the back, the team was equally impressive. Lenny produced two clean sheets thanks to some confident goalkeeping, while Fiyin delivered a series of excellent defensive performances, making crucial tackles and helping to keep the opposition at bay.

The players should be extremely proud of their efforts. These results provide a great start to the league campaign and demonstrate the hard work, teamwork and positive attitude shown by everyone involved. Well done, team!

### Butterflies parent reading session



It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to our EYFS Parent and Child Reading Session. The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing stories with their families, and it was lovely to see everyone engaged in reading together. These special moments help to nurture a love of books, strengthen home-school partnerships, and create positive memories around reading. Thank you to all the parents who attended and helped make the session such a success.



# SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026/2027



| OCTOBER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | NOVEMBER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | DECEMBER                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | JANUARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | FEBRUARY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | MARCH                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Thursday 1st</b><br>2-3pm<br>KS1 Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 7th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 14th</b><br>9.15-9.45am<br>EYFS Reading in Class<br><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 19th</b><br>2pm<br>Parent Forum Meeting<br><br><b>Tuesday 20th</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Lion Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 21st</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Friday 23rd</b><br>9-9.30am<br>Leopard Class Worship | <b>Wednesday 4th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 11th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 18th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br>5.15-6.15pm<br>EYFS & KS1 Bedtime Story<br><br><b>Thursday 19th</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Doves Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 25th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br>4.45-5.45pm<br>KS2 Reading Under the Stars | <b>Wednesday 2nd</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Tuesday 8th</b><br>9.10-10.10am<br>EYFS & KS1 Nativity<br><br><b>Wednesday 9th</b><br>9.10-10.10am<br>EYFS & KS1 Nativity<br><br>2-3pm<br>EYFS & KS1 Nativity<br><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Thursday 10th</b><br>9-10am<br>All School Years English Forum<br><br><b>Wednesday 16th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Friday 18th December</b><br>1-3pm<br>Whole School Church Service | <b>Wednesday 6th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 13th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 20th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 27th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop | <b>Wednesday 3rd</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 8th</b><br>9am<br>Parent Forum Meeting<br><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Deers Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 10th</b><br>2.30-3pm<br>KS2 Reading in Class with Parents<br><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 22nd</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Leopard Class Worship<br><br><b>Tuesday 23rd</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Lion Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 24th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop | <b>Wednesday 3rd</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Thursday 4th</b><br>1.30-2.30<br>All School Years<br>Make a book with parents<br><br><b>Wednesday 10th</b><br>2.30-3-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 15th - Water Aid Week</b><br><br><b>Tuesday 16th</b><br>9am<br>Eagles Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 17th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Thursday 18th</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Bees Class Worship<br><br><b>Tuesday 23rd March</b><br>9-9.30am<br>Lamb Class Worship<br><br><b>Wednesday 24th</b><br>2-3pm<br>EYFS & KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade<br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Thursday 25th</b><br>1-3pm<br>Whole School Church Service |

# SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026/2027



| APRIL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | JUNE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | JULY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| <b>Wednesday 14th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Dolphins Class Worship<br><br><b>Thursday 15th</b><br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Butterflies Class Worship<br><br><b>Tuesday 20th</b><br>1.45-2.45<br>Whole School Crafts<br><br><b>Wednesday 21st</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 28th April</b><br>2.30-3pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br>2.45pm<br>Deers Class Worship | <b>Wednesday 5th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 10th to Friday 14th</b><br>Year 6 SATS Week<br><br><b>Wednesday 12th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Tuesday 18th</b><br>9-9.30am<br>Eagles Worship<br><br>3.20-3.50pm - Book Fair<br><br><b>Wednesday 19th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br>3.20-3.50pm - Book Fair<br><br><b>Thursday 20th</b><br>9.10-9.40am<br>KS1 Reading in Class with Parents<br>10-11.30am - KS1 Sports Day<br>1.30-3pm - KS2 Sports Day<br>3.20-3.50pm - Book Fair<br><br><b>Wednesday 26th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Thursday 27th</b><br>9-10.30am - EYFS Sports Day<br>2.45-3.15pm<br>Bees Class Worship | <b>Monday 7th</b><br>2pm<br>Parent Forum Meeting<br><br><b>Wednesday 9th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 16th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 23rd</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 30th</b><br>2.30-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop | <b>Wednesday 7th</b><br>2-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Wednesday 14th</b><br>2-3.15pm<br>EYFS Maths Forum & Phonics Workshop<br><br><b>Monday 19th</b><br>9-10am<br>EYFS Amazing Ambassador Awards<br><br><b>Tuesday 20th</b><br>9-10am<br>KS1 Amazing Ambassador Awards<br><br>2-3pm<br>KS2 Amazing Ambassador Awards<br><br><b>Wednesday 21st</b><br>9-10am<br>Doves Class Worship & Year 6 Amazing Ambassador Awards<br><br>1-3pm<br>Whole School Church Service | <b>OCTOBER HALF TERM</b><br>Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October<br><br><b>TRAINING DAY</b><br>Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November<br>Children not in School<br><br><b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b><br>Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> January<br><br><b>TRAINING DAY</b><br>Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January<br>Children not in School<br><br><b>FEBRUARY HALF TERM</b><br>Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February<br><br><b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b><br>Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April<br><br><b>BANK HOLIDAY</b><br>Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May<br><br><b>MAY HALF TERM</b><br>Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June<br><br><b>TRAINING DAY</b><br>Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July<br>Children not in School<br><br><b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b><br>Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July |



### What is The Ark?

The Ark is an after-school club run by our staff from 3.15 PM until 6:00 PM.

One parent shared:

"My child loves The Ark and says it's the best club you can go to. She wants to come even when I'm not working!"

### Opal Play Resources

Children have access to Opal resources at The Ark



### Does my child have to go every day?

No! Your child can attend only on the days and sessions they need.

### What if my child wants to attend a different club on the same day?

No problem! If your child is registered for another club, you can book The Ark from 4:15 PM onwards, once the other club finishes.



## The Ark

## Frequently asked questions

### Do they need to stay until 6 PM?

No, there are different session times:

Finish at 4:30 PM

Finish at 5:30 PM

Finish at 6:00 PM



Each session has a different price.

### Do the children have any food?

Yes! The Ark provides a daily snack, such as: Crumpets, Yogurt, Fruit, Pitta bread and dips

### What are the prices?

#### Session Time Price

3:20 PM - 4:30 PM: £4.00

3:20 PM - 5:30 PM: £7.50

3:20 PM - 6:00 PM: £8.50

4:15 PM - 6:00 PM: £5.50

Late collection:

(up to 15 mins): £5.00

Late collection:

(over 15 mins): £15.00



### How do I book?

Via Arbor app: Choose your desired day and session. Payment is required at the time of booking.

Bookings must be made 24hrs before. After this time, call the office to book once payment is made to your Arbor Top-Up account for wraparound

### Payment

Pay using Tax-Free Childcare, or claim up to **85%** back through Universal Credit



# St Mary's Primary School

Wrap Around Care

2026-27

## AUTUMN TERM



### TERM DATES

#### Starts:

Wednesday  
2nd September 2026

#### Half term

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday  
30<sup>th</sup> October 2026

#### Ends

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 2026

### EVERY SESSION INCLUDES



Fun & Engaging  
Activities



Healthy  
Snacks



Safe & Caring  
Environment

### EACH WEEK WE WILL...

Get creative

Mark making

Explore & discover  
Build & construct

& creating  
Listen, read & share

Play tabletop games

Learn through ICT  
Get active outdoors

## THEME: ADVENTURE & DISCOVERY



**Week 1:** New Beginnings

**Week 2:** Travel with the Ark

**Week 3:** Coding without  
Computers

**Week 4:** Justice

**Week 5:** Autumn Abundance

**Week 6:** Reaching for the Stars

**Week 7:** Pirates and Treasure

**Week 8:** All the fun of the  
Circus

**Week 9:** Sparks and crackles

**Week 10:** Remembering those  
who served

**Week 11:** Discovering our  
planet

**Week 12:** Science investigation

**Week 13:** Winter warmth

**Week 14:** Life skills

**Week 15:** Christmas countdown

# AUTUMN TERM IN DETAIL



## Week 1 - 02/09

- Icebreaker games
- "All about me" crafts
- Setting goals for the term
- Singing - Who built the ark

## Week 2 - 07/09

- Making Arkpassports
- Creating their own challenge sheets
- School values activities
- Team building games
- Music

## Week 3 - 14/09

- Story sequencing
- Coding cups
- Coding obstacle course
- Magic mazes
- 14<sup>th</sup> - Roald Dahl Day

## Week 4 - 21/09

- Activities linked to Justice
- Identifying foods that are fair trade
- Making cardboard planes
- Making fairtrade foods from clay

## Week 5 - 28/09

- Art activities linked to autumn colours
- Apple bobbing
- Making bird feeders
- Harvest-themed snacks

## Week 6 - 05/10

- Building rockets
- Making space-themed crafts
- Learning about planets & astronauts
- Stargazing

## Week 7 - 12/10

- Making treasure chests
- Creating jewels for the treasure boxes
- Pirate themed games
- Making pirate ships, personal pirates with personal pirate names

## Week 8 - 19/10

- Clown face painting
- Learn circus tricks
- Create a big tent
- Making balancing acrobats

## Week 9 - 02/11

- Making sparklers from paper
- Printing with bonfire colours
- Firework inspired art
- Listening to bonfire night stories

## Week 10 - 09/11

- Making poppoes
- Learning about Remembrance Day
- Listening to stories about war
- Friendly football lined to WWI

## Week 11 - 16/11

- Making maps
- Map jigsaws
- World food snacks
- Animals around the world
- Creating world buildings

## Week 12 - 23/11

- Discover how things work
- Gravity investigations
- Skittles rainbows
- Paper roller coasters
- Make a square bubble
- Looking after our bodies

## Week 13 - 30/11

- Making hot chocolate
- Make a hibernating hedgehog
- Building a blanket fort
- Calming music
- Creating winter art
- Building playdoh snowmen

## Week 14 - 07/12

- Sewing activities
- Making our own food
- Create a bag
- Environment &
- Respecting others activities
- Setting the table & making placemats
- Yoga & Just Dance

## Week 15 - 14/12

- Christmas crafts - Decorations & cards
- Christmas songs & carols
- Baking Christmas treats
- Make my own elf on the shelf
- Christmas Party



North  
Northamptonshire  
Leisure

# HALLOWEEN XPLORER

Halloween Xplorer is a family friendly navigation challenge that is educational and fun and gives children a sense of adventure as they explore the park to find markers.

**MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 10AM-MIDDAY**

Wellingborough, Swanspool Gardens (NN8 1BD)

**MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 1-3PM**

CORBY, KINGSWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE  
MEET BY PLAY PARK (NN18 9HU)

**TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 1-3PM**

KETTERING, THE GREEN PATCH (NN16 OLU)

**WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 1-3PM**

CORBY, ATHLETICS TRACK (NN17 2FB) **NEW**

**THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 10AM-MIDDAY**

CORBY, THE BOATING LAKE (NN17 2UN)

**THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 10AM-MIDDAY**

RUSHDEN, HALL PARK (NN10 9ES)

**THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2-3:30PM**

THRADSTON, PEACE PARK (NN14 4JT)

**FANCY  
DRESS  
WELCOME**



**FREE TO JOIN  
NO NEED TO BOOK**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
[activefamilies@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:activefamilies@northnorthants.gov.uk)



**freedomleisure**  
where you matter

