



THE ST MARY'S MESSENGER

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026

THIS WEEK

Dear Parents and Carers

On Monday, our OPAL Lead visited school to support us on our playtime development journey. We would be grateful for any donations of toys, dressing-up clothes, accessories, art and craft materials, small-world play items, or loose parts for imaginative play.

Our Worship Warriors shared the story of Daniel, reminding us of the importance of integrity. Daniel was someone who did the right thing even when no one was watching. We encourage all our children to live out our school values through kind hands, kind feet and kind words.

Lion and Dove Class had a fantastic visit to Cadbury World, which linked beautifully to their current writing topic on How Chocolate is Made. The trip provided lots of first-hand experiences and inspiration for their learning.

Lion Class led a thoughtful class worship based on Romeo and Juliet, sharing the important message that division and conflict can cause harm, but love, understanding and forgiveness can help bring people together.

Leopards Class presented a brilliant worship showcasing their incredible writing – well done.

Please book a parent's evening appointment for the first week back if you have not done it. You can do this via arbor.

With blessings

Diane Wright

HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET

"Freddie is a Pop Star, his singing is so good"

"Mrs H. is a lovely teacher"

"Vani is a good friend, she makes me happy and I like her"

"Molly is so kind to me every day, I hope that we are friends forever"

"Mary and her friends are playing with me and they make me smile"

"Moriam, Moridya and Cora cheered me up when I was sad"

"Riley is so creative "

"Zainab is very kind, I love to play with her, she is the best"

KEY DATES

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

3rd November – Return to school

3rd November – Parents consultation evening

5th November – Parents consultation evening

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

18th November – 5.15pm – EYFS & KS1 Bedtime story

19th November – 2.45pm – Doves class worship

25th November – 4.45pm – KS2 Reading under the stars

8th December – 9.10am – EYFS & KS1 Nativity

9th December – 9.10 am & 2pm – EYFS & KS1 Nativity



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YEAR 6 PARENTS!

Please make sure that you apply for your child's secondary school before the **deadline on 31st October**. If you do not apply before this date, there is a good chance that your child will not get the secondary school they would like. To apply for a school, please go to:

<https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/secondary-school-places/apply-secondary-school-place>

COMIC BOOK DRAWING ACTIVITIES

Our Comic Club members have been bursting with creativity this term! Inspired by the fantastic stories, artwork and characters, like Bunny vs Monkey or The Doughnut Squad, from The Phoenix Comic, children have been developing their own drawing skills, creating original characters and exploring different comic-strip techniques. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and imagination grow each week.

As we head into half term, families may enjoy some of the free activities available on The Phoenix Comic website, including their excellent How to Draw and Draw Along guides. These step-by-step activities are a great way for children and parents to enjoy drawing together at home.

Take a look here:

www.thephoenixcomic.co.uk

How to Draw & Draw Along activities:

<https://thephoenixcomic.co.uk/category/how-to-draw/>

We hope our young comic creators continue to be inspired and keep drawing over the holiday!



DOVES AND LIONS ENJOY A SWEET ADVENTURE AT CADBURY WORLD!



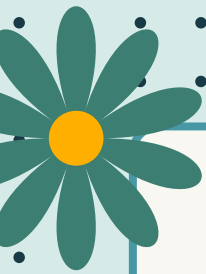
Our Doves and Lions classes had a fantastic day out at Cadbury World, where learning and fun were perfectly blended together!

Throughout the day, the children discovered the fascinating history of chocolate and learned how cocoa beans are transformed into the delicious treats we enjoy today. They explored a variety of interactive zones, watched chocolatiers demonstrate their skills, and even had the chance to enjoy some tasty chocolate samples along the way.

One of the highlights of the visit was the exciting 4D Chocolate Adventure, where the children joined Freddo on a thrilling journey complete with moving seats, special effects and lots of laughter. They also enjoyed exploring the different exhibition areas, learning about the story of the Cadbury family and how the company grew into one of the world's most famous chocolate makers.

The children showed excellent curiosity, enthusiasm and behaviour throughout the trip, asking thoughtful questions and engaging brilliantly with all the activities on offer. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring learning to life outside the classroom, and many happy memories were made.





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Staying Safe as the Evenings Get Darker

As we move further into autumn and winter, the evenings are becoming darker much earlier. This is a good opportunity to remind children about simple ways to stay safe when playing outside, walking home from clubs, or travelling with family.

Please encourage your child to:

- Wear bright or reflective clothing when out and about so they can be seen more easily by drivers and cyclists.
- Stay with friends or a trusted adult whenever possible.
- Stick to well-lit paths and familiar routes.
- Put away distractions, such as mobile phones, when crossing roads.
- Remember to stop, look, listen and think before crossing.
- Let an adult know where they are going and when they expect to return.

If your child rides a bike or scooter, please check that lights and reflectors are working properly and that a helmet is worn correctly.

By working together and reinforcing these simple safety messages, we can help keep all of our children safe and confident as the darker evenings arrive.

BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN



MR COLLINS SAYS...

"NOW IT IS DARK IN THE EVENINGS, MAKE SURE THAT YOU WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHING AND STICK TO WELL LIT CROSSINGS AND AREAS TO PLAY WHEN YOU ARE OUT WALKING, RUNNING OR CYCLING."



WWW.STMARYSPRIMARYKETTERING.CO.UK



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 26th - Friday
30th October 2026

Ends

Friday 18th
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
- 14th - 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



freedomleisure
where you matter

