THE ST MARY'S MESSENGER

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2026

THIS WEEK

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we have taken the time as a school community to pause, reflect and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of others. We also remember the families and communities whose lives have been shaped by conflict, both past and present.
Rememberance is about more than looking back; it is about considering the world we want to create for the future. it reminds us of the importance of kindness, compassion, courage and above all, peace.
The Bible offers us powerful words to reflect upon: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9 and: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13.
As we remember, let us encourage our children to understand the importance of standing together, caring for one another and choosing peace over conflict. May we honour the past not only through remeberance but through the way we live our lives today.
We will remeber them.
With Blessings
Diane Wright

School Photos

Reminder our school photos will be taking place on Monday 16th November. Please make sure that your child is wearing correct school uniform.
Thank you

HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET

Yawe is a very good friend, she is very kind and caring. She loves sharing and making sure everyone has a turn.

Ciara makes me laugh a lot. I like it when we go to Brownies together.

Amarnie is really kind.

AJ always says good morning to me and checks that I am ok.

Fiyin was really helpful in craft club.

Liliana S worked really hard on her french this week.

KEY DATES

16th November - School Photos
17th November - 10am & 5pm - School tours for new EYFS intake 26/27
18th November - Gudwara Trip
18th November - 5.15pm - EYFS & KS1 Bedtime story
19th November - 2.45pm - Doves class worship
25th November - 4.45pm - KS2 Reading under the stars
4th December - Non-Uniform Day - Wear something festive - bring an item for the Christmas Hamper Raffle
8th December - 9.10am - EYFS & KS1 Nativity
9th December - 9.10 am & 2pm - EYFS & KS1 Nativity
10th December - 9 - 10am - Whole school English Forum
10th December - School Disco - 4.15 - 5pm EYFS, 5.15pm - 6pm KS1, 6.15pm - 7pm KS2

The Ark
Frequently asked questions

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

Childrenhave 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 yourchildis registered for another club, you can book The Ark from 4:15 PM onwards, once the other club finishes.

Do they need to stay until 6 PM?

No,therearedifferent sessiontimes:

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 - 5:30PM: £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: Chooseyour 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
- Explore & discover
- Build & construct
- Play tabletop games
- Mark making & creating
- Listen, read & share
- 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

Week2 - 07/09
- Making Arkpassports
- Creating their own challenge sheets
- School values activities
- Team building games
- Music

Week3 - 14/09
- Story sequencing
- Coding cups
- Coding obstacle course
- Magic mazes

- 14th - Roald Dahl Day

Week 4 - 21/09
- Activities linked toJustice
- 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 sparklersfrom paper
- Printing with bonfire colours
- Firework inspired art
- Listening to bonfire night stories

Week 10 - 09/11
- Making poppoes
- Learning about Rememberance Day
- Listening to stories about war
- Friendly footabll 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 howthingswork
- Gravity investigations
- Skittles rainbows
- Paper roller coasters
- Make a square bubble
- Looking after our bodies

Week 13 - 30/11
- Making hot chocolae
- 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