

St. Mary's CE Primary  
School

Head Teacher:

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### TERM DATES

School Year 2022-23

#### Autumn Term

Half Term:

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Last day of Term:

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

#### Spring Term

INSET Day:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

First day of Term:

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Half Term:

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February to

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### Summer Term

INSET Day:

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

First day of Term:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Bank Holiday:

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Half Term:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Last Day of Term:

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

INSET Day:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

# IN TOUCH

Friday 20th January 2023

Issue 648



**VISION:** Delivering excellence, allowing all to flourish  
**MISSION:** Creating a culture of wonder, guided by Christian Faith  
**VALUES:** COMPASSION - ENDURANCE - THANKFULNESS

Mr Lett and I have had the pleasure of observing the teaching and learning of Science this week. We are due to continue to visit classes next week, but it has been really useful to measure the impact of the focused development work we are engaging in with STEM. In Year Two children were creating imaginary woodland creatures that were adapted to their habitat, Year Three were testing the strength of magnets, Year Four and Five were studying the states of matter with Year Five predicting what would happen to raisins once they were placed in lemonade and Year Six were learning about the Linnaean Taxonomy and how it is used to classify living things. We saw lots of awe and wonder in the lessons we observed. We look forward to visiting the remaining classes to complete our observations.

Activity clubs began this week. There are still places in the following clubs: on Tuesdays— Y1/2 and Y5/6 football, Y2/3 netball, Y1/2 tennis; on Thursday Y3/4 Tennis and Y5/6 Book Club and there are also places in Friday's Y5/6 basketball club. Please let the office know if your child would like to take up a place in any of the clubs listed above.

Many thanks to Reverend Helena Whittaker who led Phase One worship on Wednesday. Phase One were looking at the feeding of the five thousand, a story which Phase Two will revisit next week as they continue to explore the Eucharist service through worship.

Our Diocesan Link Adviser also visited school on Wednesday and spent some time observing our Early Years practice in Nursery and Reception. An outside pair of eyes is always very useful. The Link Adviser made many positive comments about our provision as well as some very useful suggestions.

Speaking of another pair of eyes, our governing board met on Thursday night. I am very grateful to Ms. Dunford, our Inclusion Manager, who attended the meeting to share our practice in SEND and how we support children with a range of additional needs across the school. As usual, the discussion throughout the meeting was varied touching on all aspects of the school's work. Thank you to all of our governors for the time they commit to this vital work.

Looking ahead to next week, the Key Stage Two Choir are heading to the O2 Arena on Tuesday for their Young Voices concert. The children have been practising songs and dance moves since last September and this will be an exciting showcase of all of their hard work. They are looking forward to parents, carers and families seeing them in action!

Also, next week is yellow family treat. Yellow Family were the winners of the Family Cup last term and so on Friday 27th January, all of the children in the Yellow Family are encouraged to wear yellow to school. They will enjoy a special treat during the day to celebrate their achievement—well done Yellow Family!

Finally, many of you will have seen the letter which came via ParentMail yesterday in relation to the planned strike action by the NEU. If you have not seen that letter, please make sure you check your emails. We are advising parent/carers to ensure that they have childcare arrangements in place on the 1st Feb, 2nd, 15th+16th March. More information to follow as soon as we have it.

As always, from everyone here at St. Mary's we wish you a very fun and relaxing weekend and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday!

Cheryl Payne—Head Teacher

### Whole School Attendance 2022-23

TARGET	97.0%
Autumn	95.2%
02/01	90.0%
09/01	95.6%
16/01	97.8%
23/01	
30/01	
06/02	
Total:	94.7%

### Family Points

397

419

303

381