St Mary's CEVC Primary School Newsletter

You are the light of the world…Let your light shine

Matthew 5:14

Newsletter number 242

6th November 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Autumn 2. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Open Classrooms this week; I hope that you enjoyed seeing all of the work that your children have been doing.

We have been reviewing our Dojo, Social Media and Website usage, and what we post where and when. There has been a lot of discussion in the media around the use of children's images, and keeping children safe is one of our core purposes. We really want to continue to use our Facebook page positively, without sharing images of children. Therefore, you will notice that you will still see what the children have been enjoying doing, but you won't see their faces. It is getting increasingly difficult year on year to share photos as the numbers of children who do not have photo permissions are growing.

The Happiness Heroes have been kept very busy selling the Royal British Legion Remembrance merchandise, so a big thank you to you all for supporting this very worthwhile cause. The classes have all made Remembrance wreaths and bunting, and these are displayed in the School Foyer. Please do come and take a look if you have time, as they look incredible. There will be photos of the wreaths and bunting put onto Dojo and Facebook for you to see too. If your child attends a uniformed organisation such as Cubs, Brownies, Cadets or Red Cross, they are very welcome to wear that uniform next Wednesday 11th November.

Please do look at the dates at the end of the newsletter, as there is a lot coming up; it is always a very busy half term.

Kind regards,

Morwenna Dunstan

Headteacher

Staffing News

We are very pleased to welcome Amy Rowland to our Office Staff team. Some of you may already know Amy as her children attend St Mary's, but if you don't, then I am sure that you will get to know her as she speaks to you on the phone or at the Office.

Very sadly for us, but very excitingly for them, Mrs Barnett and Mrs Porter will be leaving us at Christmas. Mrs Barnett has been appointed as Expert Advisor for the Local Authority in a brand new role advising schools on inclusion and adaptive teaching. This is a huge role and is testament to her vast knowledge and experience in SEND.

Mrs Porter has been appointed as a Best Start in Life practitioner, another new role within the Local Authority. She will be working with families across the area to support them with parenting and other family issues. This is also a huge role and one to which she takes a wealth of skill, knowledge and experience.

I know that you will join me in saying congratulations to them both, even if it means that we will be losing two incredible professionals.

Georgina Chedgey is leaving Little Oaks for pastures new, at the end of November. She has been a brilliant Early Years Practitioner over at Little Oaks and we will all miss her, but wish her well on her new adventure.

All of these roles, plus a Midday Supervisor role for Little Oaks are advertised on the School Website: St Mary's CEVC Primary School - Vacancies

We take child protection extremely seriously at our school. If you have a concern, you can speak to any of the school's designated and trained Child Protection officers: **Mrs Dunstan, Mrs Layton, Mrs Barnett or Mrs Porter.** Alternatively, you can ring Children's Social Care on: **0300 123 2224** or **email childrens@somerset.gov.uk**

Christmas Fundraisers



Mrs Dibble will be holding a pre loved toy, soft toy and games sale on the last Friday of November (27th). It will take place in the School Hall from 2.30pm and we will happily hold onto items that you might want to collect at a later, more surreptitious time! If you are having a sort out before Christmas and have any good quality items that you would like to donate, please drop them into the School Office or the Nursery, whenever is convenient for you.

Also, Mrs Dibble will be running a sweet stall from 3pm out near the green gate on the three Fridays of December – 4th December, 11th December and 18th December.

All proceeds will go into the PFA funds, supporting the children directly.

Padlet

Just a reminder that our Padlet has a wealth of information and huge number of resources to help you as families. We have two Padlets, one with resources for adults to support their children and one giving support and advice for parents and carers.
We understand how hard parenting is, and whilst we don't have a magic wand, the resources on our Padlet are tried and tested and rooted in research. Just scan the QR codes to access them:

Supporting Your Child

Support and Advice for Parents and Carers

Packed Lunches on Nativity Days

On the FS, Year 1 and Year 2 nativity performance days, the children will spend all day down at St Mary's Church. Just to let you know that the packed lunch option is now available on School Grid, so please make sure that if you want your child to have a school packed lunch on that day, you have ordered one.
Many thanks.
Tuesday 8th December - Year 1
Wednesday 9th December – Year 2
Friday 11th December – Foundation Stage (Sunflowers and Bumblebees)

Key Dates

November 2026	
Tues 10th	Year 5 trip to St Mary's Church - am
Wed 11th	Remembrance Day – children who attend uniformed organisations may wear this uniform to school (eg sea cadets, brownies, cubs)
Wed 11th	Rugby festival Yr 5 & 6 - 1.00pm
Thur 12th	Athletics Large School Qualifier
Fri 13th	Children In Need – Non-uniform day £1 suggested donation

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Fri 13th	Yr 4 to cinema
Tues 17th	Yr 3 trip to Taunton Museum
Tues 17th	Dance Festival Y4,5 & 6 all day
Wed 18th	Bookwagon Book Sale in hall 1.30pm – 4.30pm
Tues 24th	Yr 5 Evacuation Day
Fri 27th	Pre loved toy, soft toy and game sale 2.30pm in the School Hall
Mon 30th	Indoor Football Skills Festival KS1 Girls
December 2026	
Tues 1st	Indoor football skills festival
Thurs 3rd	Athletics Indoor Festival KS1 pm
Fri 4th	Christmas Experience Y3 & 4 at church
Fri 4th	Sweet stall from 3pm by the green gate
Mon 7th	Little Oaks Nativity
Tues 8th	Yr 1 Nativity
Weds 9th	Yr 2 Nativity
Weds 9th	Cross country Y3 & Yr 5 BCA
Thurs 10th	Cross country Y4 & Yr 6 BCA
Fri 11th	BB's & SF's Nativity
Fri 11th	Sweet stall from 3pm by the green gate
Week beginning 14th	No after school clubs will run during this week
Wed 16th	Snapshot Reports Home to Parents and Carers
Wed 16th	KS2 Christmas Lunch
Wed 16th	Carol Concert – St Mary's Church – Shining Stars, Choir, Yr 6
Thurs 17th	LO, FS and KS1 Christmas Lunch
Fri 18th	Sweet stall from 3pm by the green gate
Fri 18th	School finishes for the Christmas Holidays
January 2027	
Mon 4th	INSET Day – School closed to children
Tues 5th	School reopens for the Spring Term

We will endeavour to stick to the proposed dates and times. However, there could be times when events/dates will need to be changed. If this does happen, we will give you as much notice as possible.

Term Dates for 2027-2028

Please see the website: Somerset School Terms and Holidays 2027-28

Thank you for continued help and support.

Morwenna Dunstan
Headteacher

Somerset YCiS AWARD

Recipient of the 2025-26 SHWF Award

Somerset Health & Wellbeing Framework

SCHOOL GAMES GOLD 2025/26

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