



the children are at the heart of everything we do

Spring

Spring 1 Half Term: Blein Vie Noa diu! Happy new year to all our families. I hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

New Starters: If you have a child due to start at the school, in September 2024, please register at the office as soon as possible. The deadline for registration is the 31st January. If you know any parents who have a child due to start here, please pass the message on to register ASAP!

Fundraising: During last term we took part in several fundraising events. As a school we raised:
£232 for Children in Need
Poppies - total TBC
We also donated all the unopened party food to the IOM food bank. Many, many thanks for all your contributions.

Clubs: A new club timetable will be put on the school's website. There are some new clubs starting this half term. <https://stmarys.sch.im>
Many thanks to all staff who run these clubs in their own time.

Projects this half term: Please see your child's class letters with information about what exciting learning will be taking place this half term. They will be emailed out by Friday 12th January.

Dinners/Milk: Dinners this half term are £2.40 per day. Milk this term is £14.04 for the whole Spring term. Please pay via your parent pay by Friday 13th January. Items such as new ties and book bags can also be purchased on parent pay.

FOSMS Thanks: A huge thank you to the FOSMs who have held several fabulous events for the children during the first term, especially over the Christmas period. The children are very lucky to have lots of dedicated parents who fundraise for the school. FOSMs have already subsidised several trips for classes to reduce costs for parents and to allow the children to access educational visits. Many thanks to parents who attended events and supported them with donations.

PE Kits: **Please can all the children have correct P.E. kits in school by Friday. P.E lessons have started from the first day back.**

Swimming: If your child is not swimming a written note must be provided by parents each week. Swimming is compulsory and part of the KS2 P.E. curriculum. It can not be missed as a precautionary measure. If your child is not well enough to swim, they shouldn't really be in school for that day.

Sporting Events: Last half term we were Badminton champions! Well done to all the team who took part. We also took part in the Douglas Rugby Tag Rugby competition and one team made the final.



Well done to our girls too, who took part in the non competitive Girls' Football competition. All represented the school tremendously. Many thanks to Mrs Quinn for organising and accompanying the children to the events.

Website: We have a comprehensive school website. Each week photos are posted on the blog. Each class has their own page too. All letters are on there and photos of what the children are doing in class. All newsletters and policies are on the site. All forms - leave of absence, administration of medicine form can be downloaded from the website and emailed into school. This is a huge source of parental information. <https://stmarys.sch.im>

Absences: Please fill in a leave of absence request if your child is off during term time. All absences need to be authorised. Illness - please email or phone the office on each day of absence to inform us that your child is off with illness. This also ensures we know the children are at home, safe, and not missing from school.

Reading: We are continuing to have a focus on Reading. Home learning tasks were replaced with reading activities that are sent home each week. These are recorded in your child's Reading Planners. Please read at home each week with your child. At school we ensure that every child is heard read once a week by an adult. For more information please see attachment with this newsletter about how we teach Reading. If you could give any time to come in and read with children on a regular basis, please get in touch. We would love your help!

Tesco Grant: Thanks to collecting the blue tokens at Tesco we were awarded £1000 from Tesco grants. Eco club have taken charge of this money and we will working to adding an eco area to the school field.

Curriculum: This term the focus for the next project will be Discover (History focus). Your child will be immersed in researching and learning about a specific period in time. We deliver each termly project using a mastery model where children can explore content in increasing depth and complexity as they move through school. Propositional and procedural knowledge are developed through termly projects that are framed with a philosophical enquiry question. This approach allows us to make connections across the curriculum, whilst also developing the children's understanding of what makes each subject distinct and unique. If you would like to read more information about our curriculum, please read here: <https://stmarys.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/8/Curriculum%20>

Thinker of the Week: You may have heard your children talking about Thinking Moves which they use in class to develop their metacognitive thinking. This half term will see a certificate being awarded to 'Thinker of the Week' in each class during Friday assembly. This will be a recognition of a child whom has used their Thinking Moves in lessons to help them in their learning. Again, more information can be found here: <https://stmarys.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/1188/Thinking%20at%20St%20Mary%27s%20School>

Christmas Concerts: These were great success and the children were all brilliant. Thanks again to all the adults who came to watch and all the staff for their hard work in putting these together. Please see below important dates for your diary for this half term. Regards, Mrs Martin



Spring 1 - Dates for your Diary

DATE:	EVENT:
Monday 8th January	All P.E. Kits in school
Tuesday 9th January	MSR Club - 3.30 - 4.15pm Badminton Year 4 and Year 5
Wednesday 10th January	Swimming Y3 to Y6
Friday 12th January	Class letters to be emailed home
Thursday 18th January	Isle Listen Session in Year 4/5 SNHS Year 6 Roadshow at St Mary's 4pm Start for parents of SNHS starters
Wednesday 31st January	Starters for September 2024 must be registered by today
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday
Friday 16th February	LAST DAY OF HALF TERM
Monday 26th February	School Reopens

