



February 2023 Newsletter

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

OFSTED INSPECTION:

Many of you will hopefully have now read our Ofsted Inspection report which was published as we returned from the Christmas holidays. As you know, our inspection was a section 8 so the report is relatively brief, but I am pleased in the way the Inspector captured everything we have worked so hard to achieve for our children. The very recent headline in the Oldham Times "where pupils are 'unfailing polite'" and the subsequent comment: 'Their high standards of behaviour were a particular highlight with the inspector noting that pupils: "love coming to St Mary's", "work hard", "listen carefully to their teachers" "achieve well and have positive attitudes towards learning" are just some of the points we are particularly proud of.

As you can imagine, the language Ofsted uses in its reports must be very precise to ensure consistency across the country. The Inspector was not so constrained in his verbal feedback at the end of the inspection, referring to St Mary's school as a school with 'exemplary behaviour and personal development'. He also stated that the "Good" category is a very broad spectrum and St Mary's is 'at the very top of this'. We are very proud of this achievement.

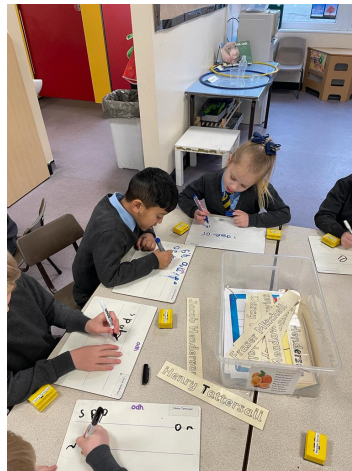
Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the Ofsted Survey offering kind words and positive comments. Our strong partnership with our families and the church is one of the key reasons St Mary's is such a successful school.

CURRICULUM UPDATE:

It is pleasing to see children right across school fully immersed in their learning this half term. Here are just some of the highlights

Reception had a visit from the Police as part of their learning about People Who Help Us. Thank you, to Mr Pickavance for facilitating this. The visit included an arrest which the children were in awe of. Sounding the sirens was also a highlight although our neighbours perhaps thought we had an emergency in school !





Early morning writing in Reception-

The pupils are amazing with their letter formation, and applying their phonic knowledge !

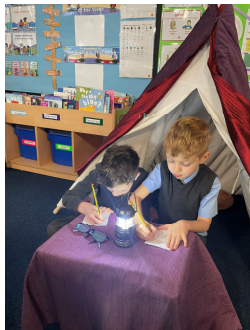
Year 1 are inspired by Monet as they complete their own paintings



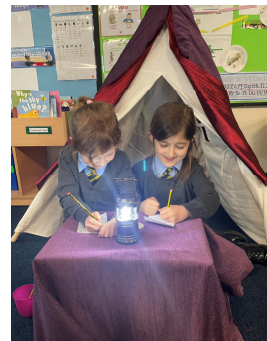
Year 2



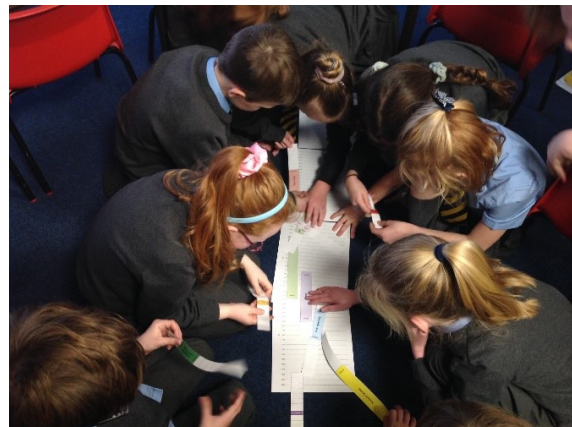
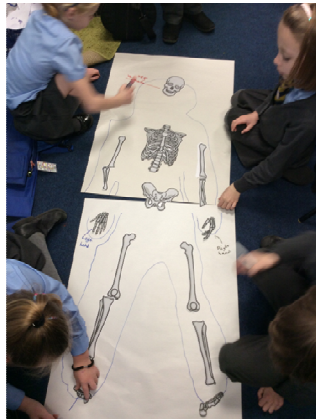
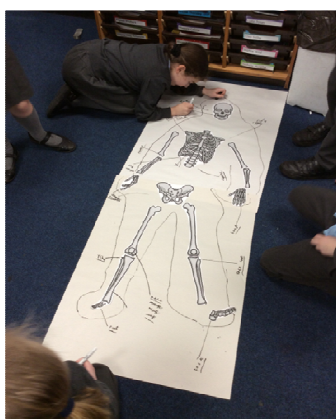
Year 2 loved learning the Samba and showing some fabulous carnival dance moves in PE ! They have been making links between the origins of dances and their learning on continents in Geography.



As part of their learning on peaceful places to talk to God, Year 2 also enjoyed writing their own prayers and special messages to God in their own Tabernacle! They ensured that the lamp kept burning throughout the day as a symbol of the presence of God.



Year 3



Year 3 have been enthusiastic scientists this term working in small groups to identify and label the bones in the human body.

Also, expert historians- Year 3 have worked together to put several civilisations onto the same timeline so that they could see that other things were taking place at the same time as the Ancient Egyptians. They also used this to recall prior learning from KS1.

Year 4

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed their debate on where Shaw Market should be located. The pupils put their arguments for and against Shaw market remaining on the High St or returning to back behind the shops on the carpark. There was a majority decision at the end of the debate to return Shaw Market back to its original location behind the shops !



**Year 5**

Year 5 have been deepening their knowledge and understanding of Viking life with a visitor into school for the day.



As designers, Year 5 have designed and made their very own cushions. Lots of intricate sewing and designs and certainly lots of resilience with the threading of needles!

**Year 6**

To enhance the Year 6 science curriculum, Oldham 6th Form College spent the afternoon investigating light.

Please ask your children about some of the things they know, are trying to learn and what they remember from their topic so far, this half-term?

**Themed Weeks:****W/C 6th Feb - E Safety Week**

Although e-safety is integral to any of our learning when technology and the internet are used, we will be marking the importance of staying safe on line as part of Safer Internet Day this week. The theme is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. The theme

highlights the need for those positive on-line connections and knowing when, where and how to seek support and help. Ask your child to tell you how they can stay safe online.

The link below also provides useful resources for parents.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/top-tips-for-parents-and-carers>



We also have a section on our website dedicated to Digital Parenting and Online Safety to help keep you up to date keep of this ever changing and emerging technological world!

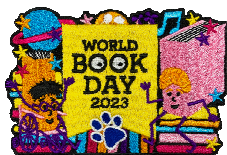
W/C 6th Feb - Children's Mental Health Week:

This year's theme is 'Let's Connect'. Connections are essential for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections - to our family, friends and others - this can support our mental health and sense of wellbeing. **Let's connect**, is about making meaningful connections. Pupils will explore this through their RSHE lessons. We will finish the week on **Friday 10th February** with a non-uniform day to make our very own 'Rainbow Friday' in school. Pupils are invited to send a voluntary donation of £1:00 donation

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out the free resources for families below. <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>



World Book Day 2nd March:



World Book day and reading is an important part of our curriculum. However, we appreciate that whilst some children relish the opportunity to dress up, for others, this is the worst thought in the world. For parents it can also be an additional financial pressure particularly whilst we are in a cost of living crisis. Therefore, we have decided that World Book Day will be a non-uniform day and children are welcome to dress up in whatever way they like - many book characters are just ordinary people in ordinary clothes or even school uniform, although I am guessing this may be a less popular choice!

Mr Day is finalising our plans for World Book Day but the day will focus upon the benefits of reading for pleasure.

ATTENDANCE:

Good attendance is of great importance for all our pupils and something we celebrate at the end of each term with badges presented to individual pupils. Each month on the school newsletters we will also celebrate great attendance by class.

The class with the highest attendance this month **continues to be Year 1** with 97.2% attendance!

Well done Year 1, keep up this magnificent achievement !



THEMED LUNCH DAYS:

This term pupils have enjoyed a themed Lunch Day for the Chinese New Year. We are busy planning the next themed day for after half term with the School Council so please look for further communication as we return after the half term holiday.



LINKS WITH ST. MARY'S CHURCH and WORSHIP IN SCHOOL:

Mother Katy and Mother Bec have continued to lead Worship and Circle Time each week for which we are extremely grateful.



In worship we have revisited our school vision statement 'Love one another, as Jesus Loved us' and we have been thinking about our core Christian value - Love. The children have thought about Love in three parts - Love One Another, Love God and Love Ourselves. We have learnt new songs to help us to remember what each of these mean and how we can show love for one another in the choices we make and how we choose to live our lives.

Next half term our Christian Value and focus for Worship is Faith. We will also focus on Lent and Holy Week in the lead up to Easter.

This week Year 2 are also looking forward to visiting St Mary's Church to explore the inside of our church and all its features.

CHRISTIAN VALUES AWARD:

This term we have launched a new certificate and award to recognise pupils who are living out our Christian Vision. Pupils have been chosen for their own action in charity work, to acts of kindness and compassion and bringing joy to others. We look forward to more pupils receiving these awards in the coming weeks. Look out on Twitter for the next pupils to receive this special award.

The Citizenship Challenges:

The citizenship challenge continues. February's challenge has been to help care for wildlife and pets. The challenge for March will be announced on Friday, and pupils will bring home further information. The new challenge will focus upon making a difference globally, and the plight of refugees.

A reminder those pupils completing 8 of the challenges (there are a possible 10) will receive a prestigious Citizenship Award Badge at the end of the academic year.

CITIZENSHIP

Thank you for supporting St Mary's in making a small difference to our world.

Calling all Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs, Guides and Scouts:

If your child belongs to any of the above groups they are very welcome to wear their uniform to school on World Thinking Day - 22nd February. This is the joint birthday of both Lady and Lord Baden-Powell who were the founder members of the Guide and Scout organisations.



Address: Rushcroft Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7PP

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E-mail: info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr S Day BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL

ST MARYS' CHURCH AND SCHOOL CIRCUS SUMMER FAIR:

There is an open invite to everyone to attend a meeting on **Thursday 23rd February at 7:00pm in St Mary's church** where school and church members plan to come together to begin organising a Circus Summer fair.



Please come along and bring your ideas, enthusiasm and support and be a part of the shaping of this community event. **Everyone is warmly welcome and your offer of help and support however large or small will be gratefully received.**

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

The next meeting for the Parent Support Group is on Thursday 23th February at 6:30pm in St Mary's Church. **Please come along all new ideas and new members are warmly welcome.**

The next events for the Support Group are

- A sponsored pancake flip on 21st February
- Easter Raffle (details to follow) to be drawn on 31st March at the Easter Service.
- Musical Evening - Friday 21st April - please save the date details to follow but will include all musical groups in school and the school choir as well as a joint performance with Oldham Community Wind Band
- Ladies night - Friday 28th April

Winning numbers at the last 150 club draw: 144, 85, 92, 130, 123, 140. Congratulations to all the winners. The next draw will be on Friday 24th February. **We still have vacant numbers if you wish to purchase a number please enquire at the school office.**

ASDA GREEN TOKEN SCHEME:

A huge thank you to everyone who voted for St Mary's school. We did receive the highest votes and PSG will receive £500

SAYING GOODBYE:

We say goodbye to Miss Heron, one of our Teaching assistants, as she takes on a new role outside of schools. A huge thank you for all her hard work and we wish Miss Heron the best of luck in the future.

UP TO DATE DETAILS:

Please remember to keep the office informed of any changes in medical conditions, emergency contact numbers and email addresses via the school email address info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk or in writing.



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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT HALF TERM:

Monday:	Groundbreakers	12:25 - 12:55 Yr2-6
Tuesday:	Infant Fun Club	12:00 - 12:30pm
	Junior Fun Club	12:30 - 1:00pm Yr3 - 4
	Multi skills	3:30 - 4:30pm Yr 3,4,5,6
Wednesday:	Choir	3:30 - 4:30 Y3 - Y6
Thursday:	School Band	8:30 - 9:00
	Anna's Dance	3:30 - 4:15 Y1, Y2 Y3
Friday:	Gymnastics	3:30 - 5:00

FORTHCOMING DATES:

Tues 21 st Feb:	Sponsored Pancake Flip (PSG information sent)
Wed 22 nd Feb:	Thinking Day for Uniformed Organisations
Wed 22 nd Feb:	SAT's Information Evening Y2 and Y6 parents
Thurs 23 rd Feb:	6:30 PSG Meeting in Church
Thurs 23 rd Feb:	Church and School Circus Summer Fair Planning Meeting
Thurs 2 nd March:	World Book Day (Details to follow)
Fri 3 rd March:	9-9:30 Reception Stay and Play Morning
Fri 17 th March:	Y3 Visit To Bolton Museum - Egyptians
Fri 17 th March:	9-9:30 Reception Stay and Play Morning
Wed 22 nd March:	Y1 visit to Salford Museum - Victorians
Fri 31 st March:	Easter Church Service

13th - 17th Feb closed for Half Term Holiday.

Kind regards,
P.A Hartley
Headteacher