



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Tel 01452 714053 / 855305

E-mail: admin@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk / head@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

Web Site: <http://st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk/>

Autumn 2026: Term 1, Week 5

Friday 2nd October 2026

National Poetry Day

As part of National Poetry Day, the school took part in a live assembly with the Hot Poets and Michael Rosen. The theme was 'wonder' and pupils were encouraged to run with the theme in class. Year 6 spent some time after the assembly composing their own poem as a class. We are pleased to share their finished piece and hope you will agree that it is indeed full of wonder!

Wonder is fantasy, wonder is love
Wonder is peace, a gift from above
Shimmering seas, the grass and the trees
This mysterious world; flowers and bees

Blankets in the sea like sky
Mother moon and father fire
Fantasy
Mystery
Feathery phoenix and flame spitting
dragon
Cheese from the moon

Warm hugs by a fire on a cold chilly night
The big and the small
The dark and the light
Hurricanes and rainbows that whirl
The smashing of waves
Snap, crackle and swirl

Stars in the infinite sky
Pretzels and raspberries and warm
cottage pie
Beautiful bananas
Tiny toes so small

Although I wonder, if wonder
Is the greatest gift of them all?

Visiting speaker assembly

Great friend of the school, Gordon Rea, visited us last week to share one of his amazing assemblies. Gordon uses art, drama and lots of audience interaction to bring the gospel story to life. This time Gordon shared the story of Jesus calming the seas.



FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE (Term 1): For Forest School children should wear their basic kit - with shoes, to school and bring wellies & long-sleeves / legs in a separate (named) bag.

Reception class sessions take place every Wednesday afternoon (from week 3)

	Tuesday								Thursday						
Term 1	WK2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8		WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 8	
	-	15/9	22/9	29/9	6/10	13/10	20/10		17/9	24/9	1/10	8/10	15/10	22/10	
	-	Y3	Y3	Y2	Y2	Y1	Y1		Y6	Y6	Y5	Y5	Y4	Y4	





Mrs Crowley's daughter, Ella, completes her charity run!

An enormous thank you for sponsoring Ella's fundraising run. She is passionate about the impact of the Palestine-Israel conflict on innocent children, so she chose, off her own back, to run 22 miles for the 22,000 children who have lost their lives.

Ella planned to run it in July, but the heatwave sadly postponed it. The weather was pretty kind, starting at St Mary's, through to Bishops Cleeve, Swindon Village, Down Hatherley, The Reddings, Leckhampton and finishing off at Pittville Park.

She was thrilled to complete it without walking once and, even with the aches on Monday, she is still smiling about raising almost £1000 for such a fabulous cause.

Thank you so much for your support. Mrs Crowley



Values Role Models

Each week, class staff identify three pupils who are truly representative of the school values (in their learning, play and / or by contributing to the wider life of the school).

This week's values role models are:

			
Reception	Ezra	Trixie	Noah
Year 1	Janaya	Agnes	Rowan
Year 2	Darcie	Bonnie	Teddy
Year 3	Annabel	Edward	Emily
Year 4	Sophia	Kiyaara	Seb
Year 5	Margot	Lillie	Shyla
Year 6	Hugo	Fin	Seb

Dinner Menus – Term 1, 2026

W/C : 1, 14 & 28 Sept, 12 Oct		W/C : 7 & 21 Sept, 5 & 19 Oct	
Mon Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red	Mon Pork Sausages, Mash, Beans & Veg	Red
Mon Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green	Mon Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Tue Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread	Red	Tue Pork Meatballs, Pasta, Veg & Garlic Bread	Red
Tue Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green	Tue Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Potato & Veg	Green
Wed Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Red	Wed Roast Gammon, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Red
Wed Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green	Wed Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Thu Pepperoni Pizza, Wedges, Veg & Salad Bar	Red	Thu Home Made Chicken Nuggets, 1/2 Jacket Potato & Veg	Red
Thu Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Wedges, Veg & Salad Bar	Blue	Thu Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green
Thu Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans, Veg & Salad Bar	Green		
Fri Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red	Fri Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red
Fri Quorn Nuggets, Chips & Veg	Green	Fri Cheese and Tomato Pizza, Chips & Veg	Green

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS (Summer 2026)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Gymnastics Y2 – Y6 Rugby Y1-Y6*	Netball Club Y6	Multisport Y3-Y6	Football Club Y1 – Y6 Art Club Y5 & Y6

*rugby club runs from 5th October to 9th November

If your child is unable to attend their club session please make sure an adult informs the office.

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE:

Absences should be reported **daily**, by 9.15am **via email** to admin@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk please put your child's full name and year group in the subject line. Also include: **pupil name & year group with reason for absence, including symptoms of illness** (not just unwell/under the weather)

CLASS EMAIL ADDRESSES

>If you need to contact your child's class teacher (to ask questions, share information or for general contact), you can do this directly by emailing the year group account:

Reception Class : reception@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 1: year1@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 2: year2@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 3: year3@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 4: year4@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 5: year5@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

YEAR 6: year6@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk

'You Won't Know Until You Ask': Helping Families Talk About Online Content:

The government has launched a new campaign called You Won't Know Until You Ask. It is designed to help parents and carers talk to children about harmful or upsetting content they may see online — things like body-shaming, unkind posts, or videos designed to shock. Research shows that many parents have never talked to their child about this, even though most 11-year-olds now have a smartphone. Many adults say they are not sure what their child is seeing online.

The campaign gives simple, easy-to-use help, including:

- step-by-step guides for safety settings
- quick conversation ideas
- tips for talking about false or harmful information



These small conversations can make a big difference. They help children understand what they see online and know they can talk to a trusted adult.

You can find the campaign here: <https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk>

Online Safety advice / guidance for parents. What you need to know to keep your child SAFE online

Here are some reputable resources offering comprehensive advice for parents:

1. NSPCC: Online Safety

The NSPCC provides guidance on supporting children of different ages with technology use and offers tips on initiating conversations about online safety.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

2. Internet Matters: Online Safety Guide

Internet Matters offers a detailed guide covering topics like setting parental controls, managing privacy settings, and addressing online issues your child may encounter.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide>

3. UNICEF: Keeping Your Child Safe Online

UNICEF provides advice on setting clear ground rules, having honest conversations about online interactions, and helping children understand the importance of a positive digital footprint.

<https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-care/keep-your-child-safe-online>

4. Childnet: Parents and Carers Toolkit

Childnet offers resources to help parents and carers support their children in navigating the online world safely, including guidance on various online safety topics.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

5. UK Safer Internet Centre: Advice for Parents and Carers

The UK Safer Internet Centre provides free internet safety resources tailored for parents, helping you stay informed about the latest online safety practices.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can go to their local pharmacy with their child and ask for help.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over