ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Autumn 2026: Term 2, Week 3 **Friday 20th November 2026**

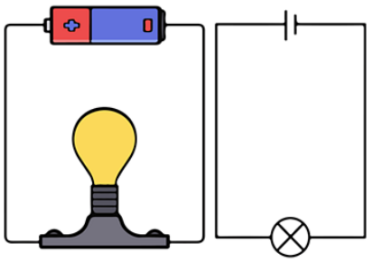


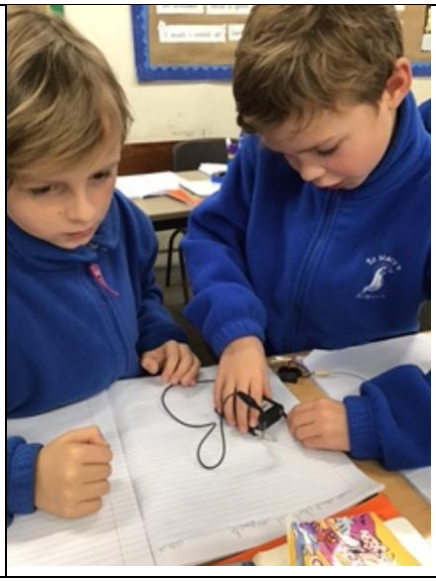
Science

Year 4 had a fabulous time in their Electricity topic trying to get their circuits to work.

The children were also excellent at working together and trying to solve problems when the circuits wouldn't work.

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:

	LOVE	LEARN	SERVE
Reception	Lydia	Afonso	Ezra G
Year 1	Atticus	D	M
Year 2	Jordan	Stanley	C
Year 3	Bella	Edward	David
Year 4	Sophia	Hector	Jesse
Year 5	Margot	Honor	Lizzie
Year 6	Sabina	Luca	Mary-May

Vacancy at St. Mary's Playgroup, Churchdown

Early Years Practitioner L2/L3

We are looking for an enthusiastic and caring practitioner to join our friendly team.
Experience in an Early years setting required.

Hours: Monday 8.30am–3.45pm and possibly Wednesday mornings.
With potential to increase dependant on numbers.

Fixed-term contract until 20th July 2027, term-time only. Possible continuation in September.

References and enhanced DBS checks required prior to commencement of employment.

Interested? Contact Marie Kilminster on 07706 496284 or email info@playgroupstmarys.org.uk for an application form.

Last week of clubs: **Multisports: Weds 2nd Dec. All other clubs, next week is the last week : 23 - 27 NOV**

FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE (Term 2): For Forest School children should wear their basic kit - with shoes, to school and bring wellies & long-sleeves / trousers in a separate (**named**) bag.

Reception class sessions take place every Wednesday afternoon

	Tuesday							Thursday						
Term 2	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	WK 6	WK 7
	3/11	10/11	17/11	24/11	1/12	8/12	16/12	5/11	12/11	19/11	26/11	3/12	10/12	18/12
	Y3	Y3	Y2	Y2	Y1	Y1	-	Y6	Y5	Y6	Y4	Y5	Y4	-

Gloucestershire Music Try an Instrument Day

Has your child wanted to try an instrument but not sure which one's for them? The come along to our Try an Instrument Day! We will have a wide range of instruments for you to try along with an expert team of tutors to guide you. Open to children of all school ages.

- **Saturday 21st November 2026**
- **10.00 - 12.00**
- Sir Thomas Rich's School, Longlevens
- Head for main reception - through car park **gate 1**
- FREE to attend
- Let us know you're coming at LIVE Portal

St Patrick's Christmas Fayre

The Christmas fayre takes place on Saturday November 21st 12-3pm
Craft stalls, raffle and tombola, cakes and hot food, music, dancing and Children's activities
£1 entry - children go free
St Patrick's Court, Brockworth, GL3 4HL

Year 3 trip

We had an awesome trip to Bishopswood last week. Year 3 learnt about how to start a real fire, make fishing nets and flour, and how to build fences from willow branches (just like in the Stone Age!).
We also tried our hand at hunting / gathering in the forest and built our own shelters!









First Holy Communion 2027

If your child is in Yr. 3 or above and has been baptised in the Roman Catholic Church, they are eligible to make their first Holy Communion next year. Application forms are available in the church narthex, or you can request it by email: fhc.churchdown.ourladys@cliftondiocese.com.

There will be a **meeting for parents** on **Saturday 12th December after 5pm Mass**. Please return the completed form to The Presbytery (or to the above email) with a copy of a baptismal certificate, if the baptism was not at Our Lady's, by Friday 11th December. Fr. Stephen.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS (Autumn 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

Last week of clubs: **Multisports club: Weds 2nd Dec**

All other clubs, next week is the last week : 23 - 27 NOV

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

Dinner Menu – Autumn Term 2, 2026

W/C : 2, 16 & 30 November		
Mon	Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red
Mon	Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Tue	Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread	Red
Tue	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green
Wed	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Red
Wed	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Thu	Pepperoni Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Red
Thu	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Blue
Thu	Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Wedges & Veg	Green
Fri	Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red
Fri	Quorn Nuggets, Chips & Veg	Green

W/C : 9 & 23 November, 7 December		
Mon	Pork Sausages, Mash, Beans & Veg	Red
Mon	Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Mash & Veg	Green
Tue	Pork Meatballs, Pasta, Veg & Garlic Bread	Red
Tue	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green
Wed	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Veg	Red
Wed	Cheese & Tomato Pasta Bake, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Thu	Home Made Chicken Nuggets, Cheesy Mash & Veg/Beans	Red
Thu	Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Fri	Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red
Fri	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Chips & Veg	Green

CHRISTMAS DINNER WEEK (14 DEC)		
Mon	Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red
Mon	Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Tue	Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread	Red
Tue	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green
Wed	Roast Turkey and all the Trimmings	Red
Wed	Vegetarian Sausage and all the Trimmings	Green
Thu	Pepperoni Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Red
Thu	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Blue
Thu	Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Wedges & Veg	Green
Fri	Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red
Fri	Quorn Nuggets, Chips & Veg	Green

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)

Term 2 Events Calendar

Term 2: Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2026	
-Friday 13th November -Friday 27th November	***Reception class 2027-28 parent visits**** *9:15 and 10:00* *9:30 and 13:15*
Thursday 12th November	-United Nations Day 2026
Thursday 19th November	-FOSM lights disco (Infants 17-18:00 / Juniors 18:15-19:15)
Week of 23rd – 27th November	-Final after-school activity club sessions
Tuesday 24th November	-14:30 Year 4 Samba performance (hall)* (TBC)
Thursday 26th November	***-15:30-17:00 SEND reviews (parent meetings) ****
Monday 30th November	***-15:30-17:00 SEND reviews (parent meetings) ****
Friday 4th December	-Bring a Christmas hamper donation for non-uniform day
Wednesday 9th December	-14:00 Infant Nativity*
Thursday 10th December	-10:00 Infant Nativity *
Friday 11th December	-Autumn Term Pupil Assessment reports sent home to parents. -FOSM Movie Night event
Tuesday 15th December	-09:15 & 13:45 Junior Carol Concert* (Our Lady's Church)
Wednesday 16th December	-School Christmas dinner & Christmas Jumper day.
Friday 18th December	-09:15 Advent / Christmas service* (Our Lady's Church) -Final day of term. School closes 15:15.
Christmas Holidays: Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January.	**Pupils return to school on Monday 4th January**

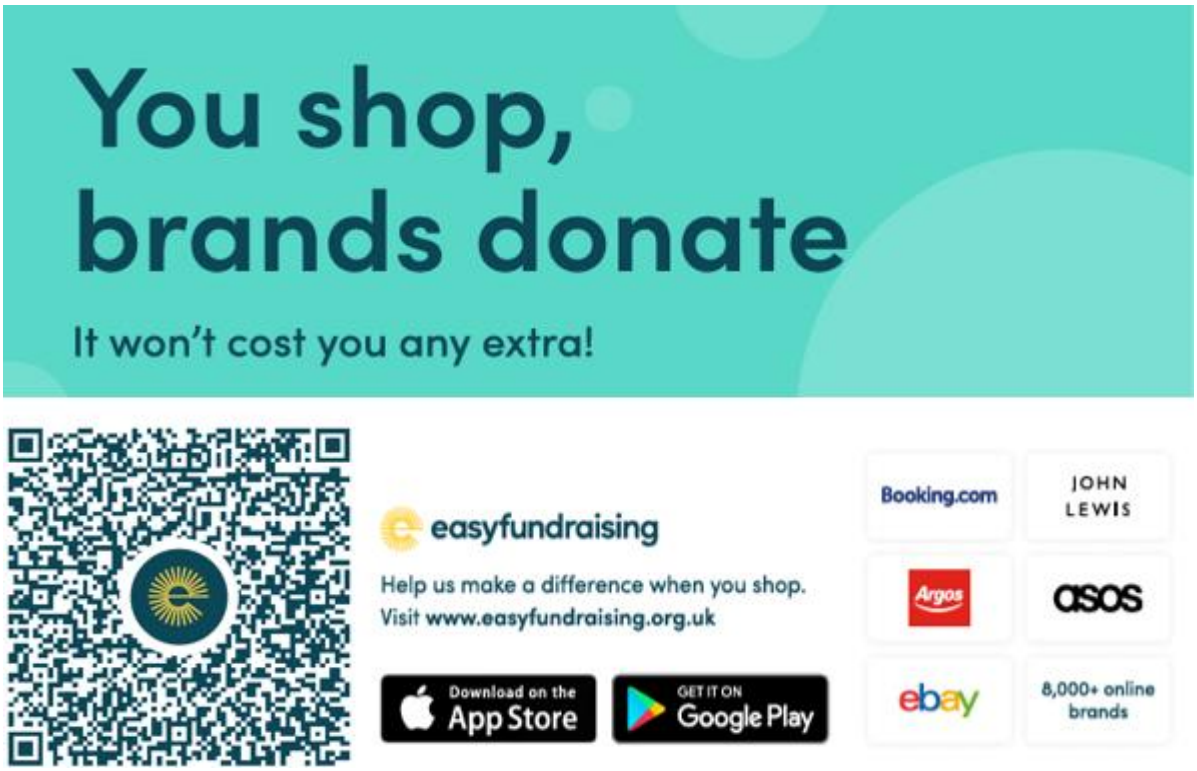
*Parents are welcome to attend these events

Easy Fundraising:

This is an extra way to help raise funds for St Mary's when you shop online using **easyfundraising**

Over 8,000 brands will donate - including big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more!

Just download the app or login via the website and every time you shop school will receive a donation at no extra cost to you. It's a FREE and easy way to support the school:



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):

Common condition	**Patient eligibility**
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