ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Autumn 2026: Term 2, Week 4 **Friday 27th November 2026**

United Nations of St Mary's Day 2026

The children all looked really colourful for our United Nations Day! Thank you to everyone who entered the flag competition – the entries were of a really high standard and our school council had a hard time picking a winner!

Our 3 runners-up were Nilan, Maisie and Elizabeth W. and our overall winner was Maks. It was really lovely to see how hard children had thought about representing St. Mary's and all the different cultures represented in our school community.

Mrs Lansdown









After school activity club have now finished : The only exception is: **Multisports: Weds 2nd Dec.**

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	-

Maths challenge

A group of children from Year 5 & 6 chose to enter the Primary Maths Challenge. This is a national competition with 25 incredibly difficult questions that often combine a number of mathematical skills in one question.

It's fantastic to see children loving Mathematics and I was so pleased to see so many put themselves forward and enjoy stretching themselves.

A huge well done to everyone who took part and we celebrated their achievements in assembly on Friday. In addition, some children did exceptionally well, achieving high awards and my huge congratulations go to:

A fantastic show of resilience and budding mathematicians!

Mrs Crowley



Gold award: Jayden, Charlie, Seb, Harvey
Silver award: Pearl, Adeline, Henry Y5, Sabina
Bronze award: Ollie, Hugo, Henry Y6, Rome, William, Michaela, Shriyan.

🍰 **PLAYGROUP CAKE SALE – THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER** 🎄

Come along from 3pm onwards and treat yourself to something delicious! Find us on the green next to Father Stephen's bungalow.

We'll have lots of yummy sweet treats to choose from, with prices ranging from just 50p – £3.00. Whether you fancy a cake, cookie or something sweet, there'll be plenty to tempt you! 😋 Bring along some spare change and support our lovely playgroup.

B Team football

We had a great (albeit very chilly) afternoon of football at Oxstall's Sports Centre, on Thursday. The fixture list looked tough but the team performed excellently and were undefeated in their four matches, scoring in every game!

In the games against Finley and Meadowside, we were leading one nil until the dying seconds only to concede with the final kick of play.

The children showed great effort and endeavour throughout, from goalkeepers right through to strikers. We enjoyed every goal scored and the victory in the final match was just what the team deserved.

Results:
St Mary's 1:1 Abbeymead; St Mary's 1:1 Meadowside;
St Mary's 1:1 Finley; St Mary's 2:0 Upton

Players' players of the tournament: Ollie & Seb
Manager's players of the tournament: Andrej & Jayden

B Team squad



Ollie, Andrej, Henry, Raphael, Seb C, Carlos, Luke, Dylan & Jayden.

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	Alarah	Fabien	Misha
Year 1	D	M	Irenosen
Year 2	Eleanor	Harry	Cyrus
Year 3	Isabel	Yolanda	R
Year 4	Daniel	Harry S	Lizzie
Year 5	Sierra	Darla	Elias
Year 6	Krish	William	Henry

Netball



The Netball squad has been very busy the last two weeks.
Last week we played Parton Manor and Shurdington at home, winning both matches 13-0 and 7-1 respectively.
On Tuesday the whole of Netball club (plus a special shout out to Lucy in Y4!) travelled to Churchdown Village to play their A and B teams.
The B team had a very entertaining match, playing with lots of energy and enthusiasm, winning convincingly with a 9-1 victory. It was great fun and lovely that all our club players could get a game.
Meanwhile, the A team match was a crunch one; we were both unbeaten in the league and in our previous match we had drawn 4-4. We knew it would be a tough match and it was level-pegging at half time. However, our players were laser-focused and really stepped up a gear in the second half and we came away with a 7-3 victory.
We are currently top of our league and looking forward to the knock-out stages after Christmas.
We are super proud of all our players who have been wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Miss Harrison & Mrs Fredrickson

Year 4 Samba sessions

The children are making great progress with their samba skills (and having lots of fun along the way! The class are eight session in to their tuition (led by a peripatetic teacher from Gloucestershire Music) and working towards their performance for parents (that will take place on Tuesday 8th December).













Winter Water Safety assembly

Through the hot summer months, the risks of children accessing open water became all too apparent (with many tragic deaths across the country).

The children previously learned about the general water safety (related to lakes, rivers, canals and sea) but this week's assembly specifically focussed on winter related water safety considerations. As always, the children listened really well and had great questions to ask.

After school activity club have now finished : The only exception is: **Multisports: Weds 2nd Dec.**

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.

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

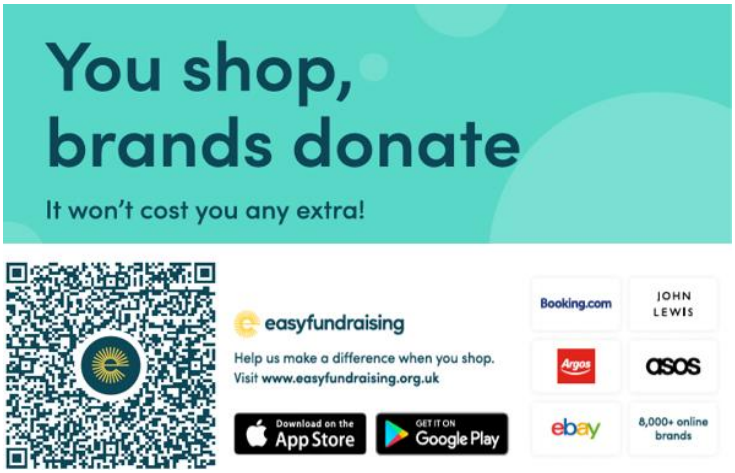
	CHRISTMAS DINNER WEEK (14 DEC)	
Mon	Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red
Mon	Macaroni Cheese, Garlic Bread & Veg	Green
Tue	Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread	Red
Tue	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans & Veg	Green
Wed	Roast Turkey and all the Trimmings	Red
Wed	Vegetarian Sausage and all the Trimmings	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

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:



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	
Week of 23rd – 27th November	-**Final after-school activity club sessions,** **-except Multi-Skills last session - Wed 2nd Dec**
Monday 30th November	***-15:30-17:00 SEND reviews (parent meetings) ****
Friday 4th December	-Bring a Christmas hamper donation for non-uniform day
Tuesday 8th December	-14:30 Year 4 Samba performance (hall)*
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

Infant Nativity Wed 9th/Thurs 10th Dec: Attendance is limited by the size of the school hall, please look out for the email sent to infant parents for the link to book your place by Thursday 3rd December 22:00.

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