

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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Spring Term 2026: Term 4, Week 2

Friday 6th March 2026

World Book Day

We celebrated WBD 2026 in grand style with children dressing as book characters (or wearing bedtime story attire) and the staff embracing a 'Matilda' themed dress-up. The day started with a story time assembly and each class then paired-up with a younger/ older age group in the hall for partner reading.

Thank you for supporting the day – the children really seemed to enjoy the activities.

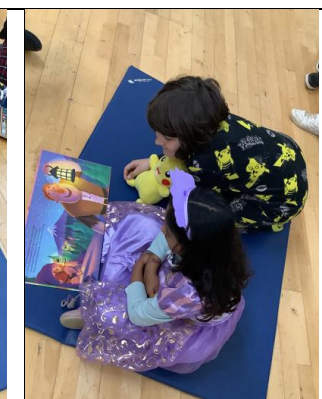
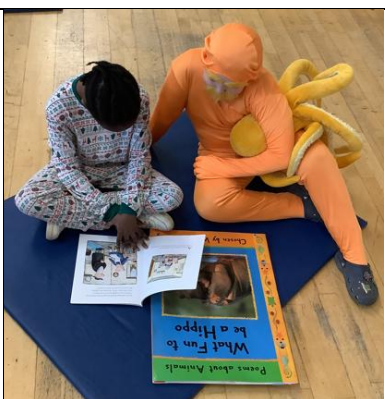
During awards assembly, we presented certificates to the children who completed the FOSM 'Bookworm Bingo' with special prizes for the top fundraisers (thanks to everyone who participated).



Special WBD breakfast club



Storytime assembly



Big Lent Walk

The children have been giving 100% in the first week of our Big Lent Walk (to raise funds to support farmers in Bangladesh). The event continues through next week and you can support the fundraising by sponsoring your child and / or donating directly via Just Giving.



St Mary's Big Lent Walk Just Giving page:

Scan the QR code to donate



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	Irenosen	Agnes	Theo
Year 1	Oskar	Imogen	Nieva-Mae
Year 2	O	Pola	Saley
Year 3	MacAllan	Khalissa	Sophia
Year 4	Nilax	Anna K	Jacob
Year 5	Alesia	Arthur	Reuben
Year 6	Lloyd	Samvidha	Sai

Year 4 science

The children loved the Science experiments this week exploring vibrations in their Sound topic. They were amazed how simple things create huge noises and made water move! They easily witnessed how sound travelled through liquids, gas and solids.





In the Net

Year 4 met with other local schools to watch a very entertaining performance about internet safety.

The fabulous crew taught the children how we should be using it safely, especially the consequences of acting irresponsibly.

This will be followed up in class with further discussions.

The children walked a mile there and a mile back, crossing many roads and their behaviour and maturity was exceptional! I was very proud!"



FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE (Term 3): For Forest School children should wear their basic kit, with shoes, to school and bring wellies & waterproofs (plus any extra clothing items) in a separate (**named**) bag.

Reception class Forest School: Wednesday afternoons

	Tuesday PM						Thursday PM					
Term 4	WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5		WK 1	WK 2	WK 3	WK 4	WK 5	
	24/2	3/3	10/3	17/3	24/3		26/2	5/3	12/3	19/3	26/3	
	Y3	Y3	Y2	Y2	Y1		Y6	Y6	Y5	Y5	Y4	



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS (Spring 2026)

Spring term clubs are now running as per the table below;

The final sessions are in the week of 16th – 19th March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Gymnastics Y2 – Y6 Infant Football Y1-Y2	Chaplaincy Y2 – Y6 Netball Club Y6	Rugby Club Y3 – Y6	Football Club Y1 – Y6 Bridge Club Y5 – Y6

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

Spring Term Events Calendar

Term 4: Monday 23 rd February – Thursday 26 th March 2026	
Thursday 26 th February	-09:15 Reception / Year 1 shared Liturgy of the Word* (school hall)
Week of 16 th – 20 th March	-Last week of after-school clubs for the term
Monday 16 th March	-15:30-19:00 Parents consultation evening 1*
Thursday 26 th March	-15:30-19:00 Parents consultation evening 2*
Monday 23 rd March	-Year 1 ukulele performance * (hall) <i>TIME TBC</i>
Thursday 26 th March	-9:15 end of term (Lent) mass* (Our Lady's Church) -Last day of term. School closes at 15:15
Friday 27 th March	-Staff training day (no pupils).
<u>Easter Holiday: Friday 27th March – Friday 10th April</u>	
<u>Pupils return to school on Monday 13th April</u>	

*Parents are welcome to attend these events

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)

Dinner Menus – Term 4, 2026

W/C : 23 FEB, 9 & 23 MARCH			W/C : 2 & 16 MARCH		
Mon	Pork Sausages, Mash, Veg & Gravy	Red	Mon	Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red
Mon	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans	Green	Mon	Macaroni Cheese, Veg & Garlic Bread	Green
Tue	Pork Meatballs, Pasta, Veg & Garlic Bread	Red	Tue	Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread	Red
Tue	Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Potato & Veg	Green	Tue	Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans	Green
Wed	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Red	Wed	Roast Gammon, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Red
Wed	Veggie Sausage, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Green	Wed	Veggie Sausage Roll, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg	Green
Thu	Home Made Beef Burger in a Bun, Potato Wedges & Veg	Red	Thu	Pepperoni Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Red
Thu	Jacket Potato & Cheese/Beans	Green	Thu	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Wedges & Veg	Blue
Fri	Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red	Thu	Jacket Potato & Cheese/Beans	Green
Fri	Cheese and Tomato Pizza, Chips & Veg	Green	Fri	Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg	Red
			Fri	Quorn Nuggets, Chips & Veg	Green



Five Rivers

FOSTERING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- >There are Children in **Gloucestershire and surrounding areas right now** who need a safe loving home.
- >You don't need to be perfect – just patient, caring and willing to learn.
- >Could fostering be something you've never considered... but should?

Fostering Myths-Busted!

- You must be married **X**
- You need a spare mansion **X**
- You must be a stay-at-home parent **X**
- You **can** be single ✓
- You **can** work ✓

You just need a spare room and a big heart
Contact Five Rivers Fostering – 0333 0603 962
carer.enquiries@thefosteringcompanyneltld.co.uk

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

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

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>