



# St Mary's School

## Autumn Fruits

St Mary's CE Primary & Nursery School

Autumn Term 2025

'Growing Together in God's Love to Achieve Excellence'

### Christmas Highlights

#### PTA Pick a Present



The fabulous PTA elves have done it again! The computing room looked every inch the grotto and students had a whale of a time picking their presents. Thank you so much to both shifts of elves for all their hard work.

#### PTA Wreath Making Workshop

We are in full Christmas mode at PTA HQ! After another fun festive Pick a Present event on 25th November, we then continued our festive events with a gorgeous evening of wreath making on Friday 28th November.

Led by the wonderful expertise of Anita and Richard from Fleur de Vie, the school hall smelled divine as our event attendees began crafting their masterpieces. Blue spruce, ivy, holly, eucalyptus and pussy willow were woven into the moss wreath bases and adorned with a mix of natural finishing touches including pine cones, cinnamon sticks and dried orange slices. By the end of the evening the most stunning wreaths were ready to take home and hang on front doors - all beautifully unique but equally gorgeous.



#### PTA Christmas Parties

This December saw the return of the PTA Christmas party in a revamped format...with disco lights, Christmas cocktails and a party atmosphere. We hope you all enjoyed the start of your festive celebrations. A huge thank you to all of you who bought tickets and came along, we have received some lovely feedback and plans are already underway for next year's event.

Our party entertainer, Chris Mitchell, provided hours of festive fun and adapted his games to suit each party group. Highlights included festive limbo and a wrap the adults race! Our very special guest in a red suit enjoyed his visit and commented on how polite and friendly St Mary's children were. We finished the event with our raffle prize draw which included a huge hamper donated by school staff along with a wellness voucher and wine generously donated by parents.



#### Year 1&2 Knock, Knock the Nativity'



The Year 1 and 2 children have entertained us with their enthusiasm and energy all term, however the beautiful singing and wonderful performances in 'Knock, Knock the Nativity' really brought some Christmas spirit to St Mary's. The children acted and sang their hearts out and worked very hard to remember all of their lines and direction.

*'I really enjoyed the Yr 1&2 production this year, think it was one of the best I've seen. From acrobatic sheep to enthusiastic angels, the children were all on sparkling form. Their singing was lovely and it certainly left everyone feeling very Christmasy. I also managed to pick up a few knock knock jokes!' - Mrs Williams, Governor*

*'I have enjoyed learning and singing the songs and dressing up for the performance.' - Eva 1/2D*

*'I enjoyed the bit where my dad came to watch me. It made me feel warm and cosy inside.' - Aaron 1/2O*

#### Christmas Jumper Day, Santa Dash & Christmas Talent Show

We had a fabulously festive December 12<sup>th</sup> with Christmas jumper day, in aid of 'Save the Children', the Santa Dash, Christmas dinner and our Christmas Talent show!



Congratulations to Alice in Year 5 who won the Talent show with her beautiful and acrobatic dance performance.

The children fully got into the spirit and had a fantastic day as you can see from the pictures!

#### Toy Appeal 2025

In early December, the Salvation Army collected donations made by the St Mary's Community. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity and we know that these presents will make a real difference to the Christmas experience for families in need this year. Thank you so much.



# School Council Updates

## Reading Council

### Liz Pichon Virtual school visit



This term, the children in Year 4, 5, and 6 enjoyed being part of a virtual workshop with Liz Pichon (author and illustrator of the Tom Gates books).

Children were treated to hear Liz talk about her new Tom Gates book and had the opportunity to draw along with her.

*'I enjoyed drawing along with Liz Pichon during the workshop.' - Angus, Year 5*

### Reading Council Visit to Waterstones

What a wonderful visit to Waterstones! The reading council enjoyed a morning at the local bookshop exploring all of the different genres of books, meeting Racheal, the bookshop children's literacy expert as well as choosing books to purchase for our class libraries. The children were enthusiastic to share all of the reading experiences they have both in school and at home. They really showed off what an excellent reading school St Mary's is.

*'It was nice to pick books for our classroom.' - Orla, Year 6*

*'It was a really nice experience to visit a bookshop and see behind the scenes.'*  
- Elise, Year 6



## Sports Council – Leadership Academy

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, Year 5 members of the Sports Council attended the Sports Leadership Academy at UA92.

*'I enjoyed it when we got to take part in physical activities.' - George  
'I learnt exercises can help with your mental and physical health' - Ellie P  
'I enjoyed that we learnt about leadership.' - Ellie J  
'I enjoyed designing a game for the Year 2's' - William*

## Eco Council

We would like to celebrate the Eco-Council of 2024-25 for all their hard work, which resulted in the school achieving the Green Flag Award for 2025-2026.



The Eco Council decided to focus on three topics last year, they were:

- Energy
- Healthy living
- Bio-diversity

In order to address and make progress on these topics they organised and were part of the following actions:

- Running the eco-refill shop
- Recycling soft plastics and batteries at the Co-op
- Producing poster for each room in the school promoting switching lights off
- Planted herbs
- Introduced soup into the school kitchen to encourage less food waste

We hope that you would agree that they have achieved a lot in their year, well done!

*'When we ran the eco-refill shop I worked on the 'smelling station' and it was really fun talking to the customers and helping your friends.' - Freya, Year 4*

*'I enjoyed going into Sale and planting the bulbs in the St Mary's planter which was fun. I also really enjoyed running the Eco-refill shop.' - George, Year 4*



## Ethos Council

In November, the Ethos Council visited St Anne's CE Primary School to deliver a worship to children in years 1 to 3 at St Anne's on the message of 'Hope', the school value for this Half Term.

The council really enjoyed visiting another school and the discussion that they had with member of St Anne's Ethos Council after the worship.

Mrs Ashby and indeed the school are very proud of what they managed to achieve - well done!

*'It was great to meet another Ethos Council.' - Maria, Year 6*

*'I enjoyed getting to know the other children and the biscuits!' - Emily, Year 6*



## Sporting News

### Sale and Partington Football League

The team played brilliantly throughout the tournament, demonstrating excellent teamwork, a positive attitude throughout and always giving 100% effort to every game. They were unlucky not to qualify for the final on this occasion.



*'I enjoyed playing in a tournament with my friends' - Freddie W*

*'I enjoyed playing football matches outside of school' - William*

### Gymfinity Gymnastics

This term, Gymnasts from Year 1 to 6 took part in events at Gymfinity Gymnastics. All groups had a fantastic time and represented St Mary's demonstrating fabulous focus and skill. A massive well done to all of the children who took part.



*'I enjoyed jumping on the trampoline and going in the pit' - Harry, 1/2D*

*'I enjoyed going on the trampoline' - Felix, Year 4*

*'I enjoyed using all the equipment especially the trampoline track' - Frankie, Year 6*



### Basketball

KS2 have been lucky enough to play in three tournaments over the last half term and the feedback has been fantastic!



#### Boys Basketball - 10<sup>th</sup> November

The boys team performed heroically in the tournament, unbeaten during the group phase, winning four games and drawing one. Their performance in the final was strong, with them narrowly missing out on the win.

#### Girls' Basketball - 17th November

After last year's girls basketball team brought home the 1st ever all girls basketball trophy, we had high hopes for this year's strong, mainly year 5, team. St Mary's girls were dominant throughout and played (in Mr Jordan's eyes) the best basketball of the tournament. Unfortunately, they lost one game to the eventual winners, 4-2, which stopped them from advancing to the finals. But well done to an excellent team performance, we are proud of our girls and with so many strong years fives we look forward to taking the title back next year!

#### Mixed Basketball - 24th November

All members of the team played really well, in 6 very fast paced, 4 minute games. The team displayed excellent team work with great passing and interceptions. Although they didn't win their group, all their matches were very close and they held their heads high against stiff competition. They showed great sportsmanship and were wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's.

## Tag Rugby/Football – Year 5



During a morning's respite from the rain, our Year 5 children took part in an energetic tournament where over 270 children from local schools took part. St Mary's were victorious and made the most of the mud.

*'The coaches helped us to stay positive and I enjoyed playing against other schools' - Hugo*  
*'I really enjoyed playing Tag Rugby as a class.' - Tafara*

## Lacrosse – Year 3&4

The groups attitude was positive throughout the event and they took on board and applied all the that they were taught. The Lacrosse coaches were really impressed by the confidence of the children, well done Year 3 and 4!

*'I really like learning how to shoot, throw and catch the ball. I liked the games and I would like to join the school's Lacrosse club.' - Phoebe, Year 4*

*'I enjoyed learning to play Lacrosse and I liked the shooting.' - Dominic, Year 4*



## Outdoor Adventurous Activities – Year 3



This term, Year 3 were given a fantastic opportunity to visit Ashton on Mersey School to use their facilities and take part in a fun activity morning facilitated by the students of Ashton on Mersey School. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the inspirational multi-skills events which tested their agility, teamwork skills and resilience.

*'I enjoyed rock climbing because we were playing games and climbing.' - Reuben*  
*'I liked the team running races - Tabitha'*

## Trips and Events

### Harvest Festival Visit to Oakfield Care Home – Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful afternoon singing harvest songs and decorating biscuits with the residents at Oakfield Croft. A wonderful time was had by all!

*'I really enjoyed singing to the residents.' - Alfie H*  
*'It was great. We did biscuit decorating too.' - Ffion*



### Young Shakespeare – Macbeth

In October, Years 5 and 6 welcomed the Young Shakespeare Company into school and thoroughly enjoyed their energetic and engaging rendition of 'Macbeth'.

*'I thought all to focus would be on Macbeth, I didn't think about the fact that the play was a tragedy - It was really scary in a fun, exciting way.' - Ellis J, Year 5*  
*'I thought that Macbeth was going to be friends with the other characters and I was Surprised that Macduff wasn't more suspicious of him.' - Jude - Year 5*

### Geography Field Trip – Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful morning on their Geography Field Trip in early October. The class looked at land use in Ashton Village and conducted Geographical surveys of the area, working in small groups.

*Liberty - 'I liked looking for the land uses.'*  
*Lyra - 'I took photos of houses and businesses.'*



## Blue Planet- Year 1&2

### KS 1 TAKE A DEEP DIVE!

The children had a wonderful day out at Blue Planet Aquarium, earlier this term, learning about sea creatures and their habitats. The day was filled with ooohs and ahhs as the children came face to face with the fascinating creatures and the watery world they live in. Coming close up and personal with the sharks and octopus being the highlight of the day. In addition, there were lots of enthusiastic questions when meeting the marine biologists and the children also got an opportunity to show off their already in-depth knowledge of the world around us.

*'I learnt that star fish have two stomachs. They store food in one so they can move it over if they are hungry' - Lizzie P. 1/2D*

*'I liked going through the shark tunnel' - Patrick - 1/2O*



## Jodrell Bank - Year 5

The Year 5 team had a fabulous time visiting Jodrell Bank. It was fascinating to learn more about space and our solar system. Mrs Smith especially enjoyed watching the children's excitement and curiosity as they explored and discovered new things.

*'I really enjoyed it when we went into the room with the plasma ball.'*  
- Georgia

*'There were loads of fun activities, they helped me to learn because it was so interactive, it was like a big puzzle!' - Ellie P.*



## Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple – Year 4

Year 4 had a really interesting morning at Gita Bhavan learning about Hinduism.

*"At the temple I enjoyed seeing the statues of the gods and the paintings.*

*I am a Hindu and I have visited the Temple before'*  
- Kabir

*'I found out that even if you have a different religion, we are all the same.'*  
- Paris



## Anti-Bullying Worship -Year 3

Year 3 worked very hard and performed an informative and entertaining worship on respect.

*'Our worship was about odd socks and anti-bullying.'*  
- Liberty

*'I enjoyed the rehearsals, dancing, singing and funny lines. We asked people to be kind'*  
- John



## Autumn Term Fundraising

We have had a fantastic term for fundraising and have raise the following for various good causes:

- 'Be the Change' Week £192.40
- Children in Need - £111.33
- Book Fair - £709.45
- Poppy Appeal - £194.37
- Save the Children (Christmas jumper day) - £70.40

Thank you for your support, we couldn't do it without you!

## Christmas Tableau - Reception

The Reception Christmas tableau really helped us to get into the Christmas Spirit! Parents were able to enjoy a hot drink and some shortbread courtesy of the fabulous PTA and the Reception children showed off their hard work through beautiful seasonal songs and a very well rehearsed performance of the Christmas story. 'Legend' the donkey also managed to melt everybody's hearts with rides at the end.



# Nursery News



**Thank you.** Once again we should like to thank all the parents who ferry the children to and from the various matches and to all those who accompany the children on school trips, we couldn't do it without them! We should also like to thank all the teachers of after school activities for their hard work and dedication, especially for the outdoor activities, battling the elements this term.