# St Mary Federation Newsletter

Docking

January 2026

## Important dates for your diary




Tuesday 6th January: Return to school

Thursday 15th January: Deadline for Reception Admissions (2026-27) applications

WC. 26th January: National Storytelling Week

Wednesday 28th January: Norfolk Steps for Parents - in person session at school 1pm

Thursday 29th January: 'Keeping Children Safe Online' - parents session online 4pm

WC. 2nd February: Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 3rd February: Parent Forum at 8.45am

Tuesday 10th February: Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February: Break up for half term

Monday 23rd February: Return to school

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

WC. 9th March: Science Week

WC.16th March: Parent consultations

Friday 20th March: Red Nose Day

Friday 27th March: Easter Service at 2pm led by Plovers

We are still awaiting an update re: swimming lessons, as soon as we know, we will notify you of the date that swimming will resume.

## Hello from the Head



Welcome back to all of our pupils, families and staff. We have returned to school during a rather chilly spell, but it has been lovely to see everyone back after the Christmas break. I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday, had time to rest and recharge, and are feeling ready for the Spring term ahead.

Please take note of the dates for the diary included in this newsletter, as we have a very busy and exciting term planned. I would also like to draw your attention to the parent sessions we are offering this term. These sessions are extremely beneficial, and I would highly recommend attending if you are able to do so.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to a positive and successful term for our whole school community.

## Shout Out!

A massive thank you to our PTFA for all of the support and fundraising done over the festive period. Over £2,000 has been raised for our school, which is a huge achievement!



## Just One Norfolk – Here to Help

Just One Norfolk offers advice and support for families on health, development, and wellbeing from birth to teens. If you have a question or need guidance, their friendly team and online resources are a great place to start. Visit **Just One Norfolk** to find out more.

Children & Young People's Health Services

JustOneNorfolk.nhs.uk

Norfolk & Waveney

0300 300 0123

**'Many people, one body, many gifts, working together'**

**Courageous** **Curious** **Confident** **Collaborative** **Compassionate**

## Keeping Children Safe Online

On Thursday 29th January at 4pm, we are offering an online parent session for 'Keeping Children Safe Online'. Please click on the link to access this session:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTdjM2YxZTctOWJkOS00N2ZlLWFiNGItNTA4MzM1ODE3Yjcy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%221419177e-57e0-4f0f-aff0-fd61b549d10e%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22589e0d2b-429c-4cdb-8451-5755a246b6d5%22%7d>

Meeting ID: 354 724 263 206 65  Passcode: tb22cu77

## Governors




**We are still recruiting governors!**

Do you care about education? If your answer is 'yes' then become a governor.

All schools need committed governors – people who are willing to take an active interest in the life of the school. It is important that governors reflect the local community.

**Why become a governor?**

Schools are more effective if there is regular and positive dialogue with parents and the school community. Being a governor is one of the ways that you can take part in the life of the school.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please see/message Mrs Woodrow to express your interest and ask any questions that you may have.

## Our Value for this half term - Curiosity

**This half term, we are focussing on our value, 'Curiosity'.** Curiosity means wanting to know more, asking questions, and wondering about the world around us.

## Curiosity in Action

Our school value of curiosity reminds us to ask questions and explore God's world. In the Bible, the Wise Men followed a star, curious to discover where it would lead, and their journey helped them find Jesus. Curiosity can lead us to wonderful discoveries too!

At home activity: On a clear evening this season, wrap up warm and step outside to look at the stars. Can you spot patterns, colours, or even the moon's changing shape? Talk together about what you wonder and what you discover in the night sky.

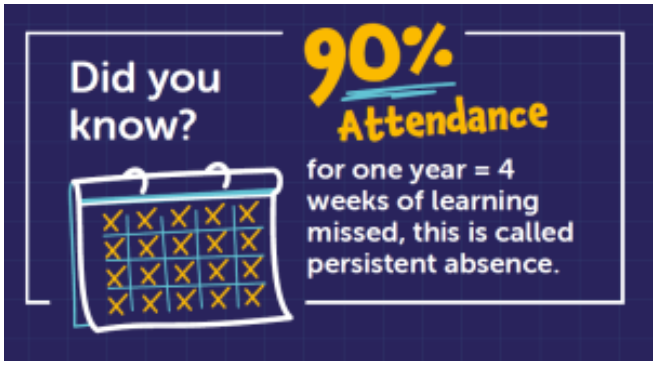


## Attendance

| | |
|---|---|
| 98-100% | • Excellent - Children are accessing all learning opportunities |
| 96-97% | • Good - Very few learning opportunities are missed |
| 94-95% | • Risk of underachievement<br>• Up to 10 school days absent in an academic year |
| 92-93% | • High risk of underachievement<br>• Up to 15 school days absent in an academic year |
| 90-92% | • Severe risk of underachievement<br>• Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year |
| < 90% | • Extreme risk of underachievement<br>• Upwards of 22 school days absent in the academic year |

Well done to the Plovers for the highest attendance this month. There have been a lot of bugs going around and we appreciate that some absences are unavoidable. Please visit **Is my child too ill for school?** for an up to date summary of illnesses and advice. Please also check our website **https://www.stmaryfederation.co.uk/st-mary-federation/term-dates** for term dates and avoid these when booking holidays.

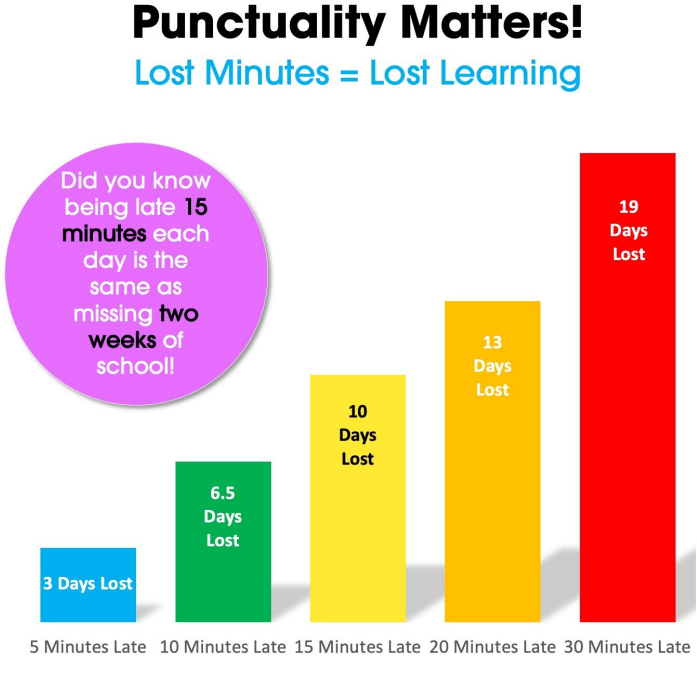
| | |
|---|---|
| Robins | 93.8% |
| Swifts | 95.1% |
| Plovers | 95.7% |
| Red Kites | 95.6% |




## Morning registration

We have noticed that some pupils are arriving late to school on a regular basis. It might only seem like a few minutes each day but these few minutes adds up and can have a huge impact one your child's learning, as well as the learning of others. Early morning work is carefully planned and it is important that pupils are present for this every day.

**Children should be in school by 8.45 am.**



**Pupil Voice:**

We completed our annual KS2 pupil questionnaire and the results are as follows:

| |
|---|
| 96.4% of our pupils enjoy school. |
| 100% of our pupils agree that teachers help them do their best. |
| 96.3% of our pupils agree that teachers give them work that challenges them. |
| 94.4% or our pupils agree that teachers listen to what they have to say in lessons. |
| 96.3% of our pupils agree that there is an adult in school who they can talk to if something is worrying them. |
| 96% of our pupils agree that the behaviour of other pupils in their lessons is good.* |
| 91.7% of our pupils agree that the behaviour of other pupils around the school is good.* |
| 89% of our pupils agree that bullying is not a problem at our school. |
| 100% of our pupils agree that they feel safe at school. |
| 96.2% of our pupils agree that school helps them to look after their physical health.* |
| 98% of our pupils agree that school helps them to look after their emotional and mental health.* |
| 100% of our pupils agree that school encourages them to be independent and take on responsibilities.* |
| 100% of our pupils agree that school encourages them to respect people from different backgrounds and to treat everyone equally. |
| 96.3% of our pupils would recommend this school. |

* pupils who neither agreed nor disagreed have been removed from this data

**Parent Voice:**

Thank you to all of the parents who completed our Parent Questionnaire—this was completed by 60 parents in total and out of this sample, the results are:

| |
|---|
| 98.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school. |
| 100% of our parents agree or strongly agree that their child feels safe at school. |
| 96.7% of our parents agree or strongly agree that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. |
| 90% or our parents agree or strongly agree that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year. |
| 91% of our parents who have raised concerns agree or strongly agree that they have been dealt with properly. |
| 88.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that the school has high expectations for their child. |
| 93.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that their child does well at this school. |
| 93.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that the school lets them know how their child is doing. |
| 95% of our parents agree or strongly agree that there is a wide range of subjects. |
| 93.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that their child can take part in clubs and activities. |
| 93.3% of our parents agree or strongly agree that our school supports their child's wider development. |
| 98.3% of our parents would recommend our school. |

While we are delighted with these results, we will continue to work closely with both parents and pupils to build on this feedback and make further improvements wherever possible. School council have already started working on the results of the pupil questionnaire.