St Mary Federation Newsletter

Docking

May 2026

Important dates for your diary



Monday 4th May: Bank Holiday

W.C. 11th May: Y6 SATs

Tuesday 19th May: Dynamos Cricket

Friday 22nd May: Break up for half-term

Monday 1st June: Return to school

Monday 1st June: Level 2 Bikeability

Tuesday 2nd June at 4pm: 'New Parent' meeting for our 2026 Reception Intake

Wednesday 17th June: Purcell Music Visit

Thursday 18th June: Governors meeting

Thursday 18th June: Cycle Races

Friday 19th June: Y5 Music Day

Thursday 25th June at 9.30am: Sports Day

Tuesday 30th June: Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd June: Transition Days

Monday 13th July: Dockings Got Talent

Tuesday 14th July: Y6 Leavers' Trip

Wednesday 15th July: School Discos

Friday 17th July: Leavers' Service at 9am

Friday 17th July: Break up for summer holidays

Thursday 3rd September: Pupils return to school



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



It has been lovely to see the improving weather, and as temperatures rise, please ensure pupils come to school dressed appropriately, with named sun hats, water bottles and sun cream as needed.

You will see from the extensive list of events to the left just how much is planned over the coming weeks—there really is something for everyone. We look forward to sharing these experiences with the children and thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Value - Collaboration

This half term, we have been continuing to develop our value of *Collaboration* across the school. We have been recognising when pupils are working together positively—sharing ideas, supporting one another and taking pride in their teamwork.

Collaboration is about recognising that we achieve more together. By listening carefully, respecting different viewpoints and sharing responsibilities, our pupils are building important skills that will support them both in school and beyond.

We are reminded in the Bible:
"Two are better than one… If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10) and this message is evident in classrooms every day, where children are learning that success is not just about individual achievement, but about helping others to succeed too.

We encourage you to continue supporting this value at home by providing opportunities for teamwork—whether through shared tasks, games or problem-solving activities.

Together, we are helping our children grow into thoughtful, cooperative and supportive members of our community.

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

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

Horstead Residential - A Truly Unforgettable Experience

Our recent residential trip to Horstead was an incredible success, with pupils demonstrating so many of our school values throughout their time away.

The children showed great **courage**, pushing themselves to try new and sometimes challenging activities such as the zip wire, climbing wall and crate stacking. Their enthusiasm and determination were wonderful to see.

They were **curious**, embracing every opportunity to explore new surroundings and take part in a wide range of activities, including orienteering and canoeing. Each day brought new adventures and plenty of excitement.

For many pupils, this was their first time staying away from home, and they showed real **confidence** in doing so. They adapted brilliantly, supporting one another and making the most of the experience.

Collaboration was evident throughout the trip, particularly during team challenges like crate stacking and orienteering, where pupils worked together, communicated effectively and encouraged one another to succeed.

We were especially proud of the **compassion** shown by the children, as they supported and looked out for each other every step of the way.

Most importantly, fun was had by all! The trip was filled with laughter, new friendships and unforgettable memories. As the pupils themselves said, "*Best trip ever!*" and "*It was awesome!*"

A huge well done to all involved—this was truly an amazing experience for everyone.











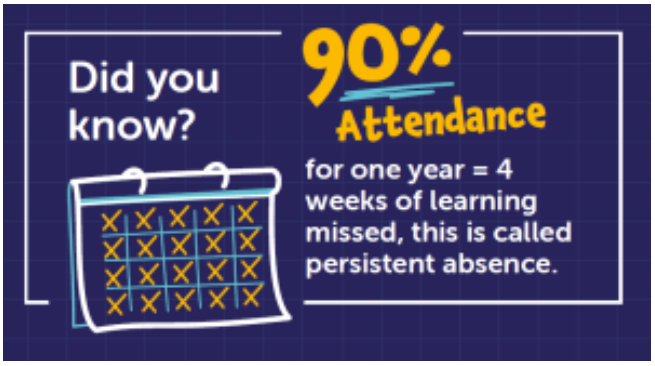


Attendance

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

April has seen an improvement to our overall school attendance. Well done to 3 of our classes for achieving our target of 96% - well done! 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	96.6%
Swifts	99.2%
Plovers	94%
Red Kites	95.5%



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.

Let's Celebrate:

Girls Football:

The Y5/6 girls took part in the Girls' Football tournament and showed fantastic sportsmanship and resilience. They worked well as a team, demonstrating our current value - collaboration and won the tournament - Amazing achievement!



Musical Talents:

Well done to Olly and Miss O'Quigley for demonstrating their musical talents in our Friday Celebration Collective Worship. It is so important to recognise all of the different ways that our pupils shine. Anyone else who plays an instrument outside of school who would like to perform, please speak to Ms Davidson and we will make it happen.



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