St Mary Federation Newsletter

Docking

December 2025

Important dates for your diary



Tuesday 2nd December: Robins Christmas trip to Holkham

Monday 8th December: Parent Consultations

Tuesday 9th December: GenR8 Christmas assembly

Thursday 11th December: Parent Consultations

Friday 12th December: Non-uniform in exchange for a tombola prize

Tuesday 16th December: Whole school Panto

Tuesday 16th December: Christmas Fair

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Lunch—children can wear Christmas Jumpers

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Disco

Friday 19th December: Christmas Service in Church, led by KS1 and supported by Reception (1.30pm)

Friday 19th December: Break up from school

Tuesday 6th January: Return to school

We are 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



As we enter the festive period, the school is already full of excitement and cheer. Our Robins had a truly magical trip to Holkham this week, and it was wonderful to see the joy it brought to the children. A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us and offered support—it is always greatly appreciated.

We have plenty of events to look forward to over the coming weeks, including our whole-school trip to the pantomime, Christmas disco, Christmas lunch, and of course, our Christmas Fair and raffle—there are some amazing prizes to be won!

We are also very excited about our Christmas Service and Nativity, led this year by the Swifts and supported by our Reception pupils. The children are working hard practising their lines and learning the songs. We cannot wait to see them perform.

As we come to the end of a term filled with change, I want to express my thanks to our staff, pupils, and parents for embracing new beginnings with such positivity. There has been a huge improvement with the healthy snacks at breaktime so thank you for your support with this! I am incredibly proud of our school community.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful Christmas break when it arrives.

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**

Pupil Voice

This term, we will be carrying out our annual pupil survey. Once the results are in, the School Council will review the feedback and work with us to help shape our next steps.

Parent Voice

As always, during our parent consultations, we will have iPads available to gather your valuable feedback. This will be analysed alongside our pupil survey and will help us shape our next steps as we continue to develop and improve.

Website

We are excited to share that we have been working behind the scenes to refresh and develop our school website, with the goal of making it as welcoming and user-friendly as possible. As parents are the main users of the site, your thoughts and feedback are extremely important to us. We would love for you to take a moment to explore the updated pages and complete the short feedback form—your ideas will help us continue shaping the website to best support our school community:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPuKbLnzRladTjx7wHzAkTXuoFgH05fJDbnMbxFmHSj2kYSA/viewform?usp=publish-editor

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

Our Value for this half term - Courage

We continue to focus on the value: **Courage** - the bravery to try new things, speak up when something matters, and keep going even when something feels a little daunting. Courage isn't always loud or bold; sometimes it's the quiet determination to do what is right or to face a challenge with a positive mindset.

As we approach the Christmas season, we are reminded of many moments of courage in the Nativity story—from Mary and Joseph's journey, to the shepherds and wise men who set out into the unknown. The Christmas story encourages us to believe in ourselves, trust others, and stay hopeful, even when the road ahead feels unfamiliar.

Try This at Home – Courage Stars ★

Why not take a moment as a family to think about courage together?

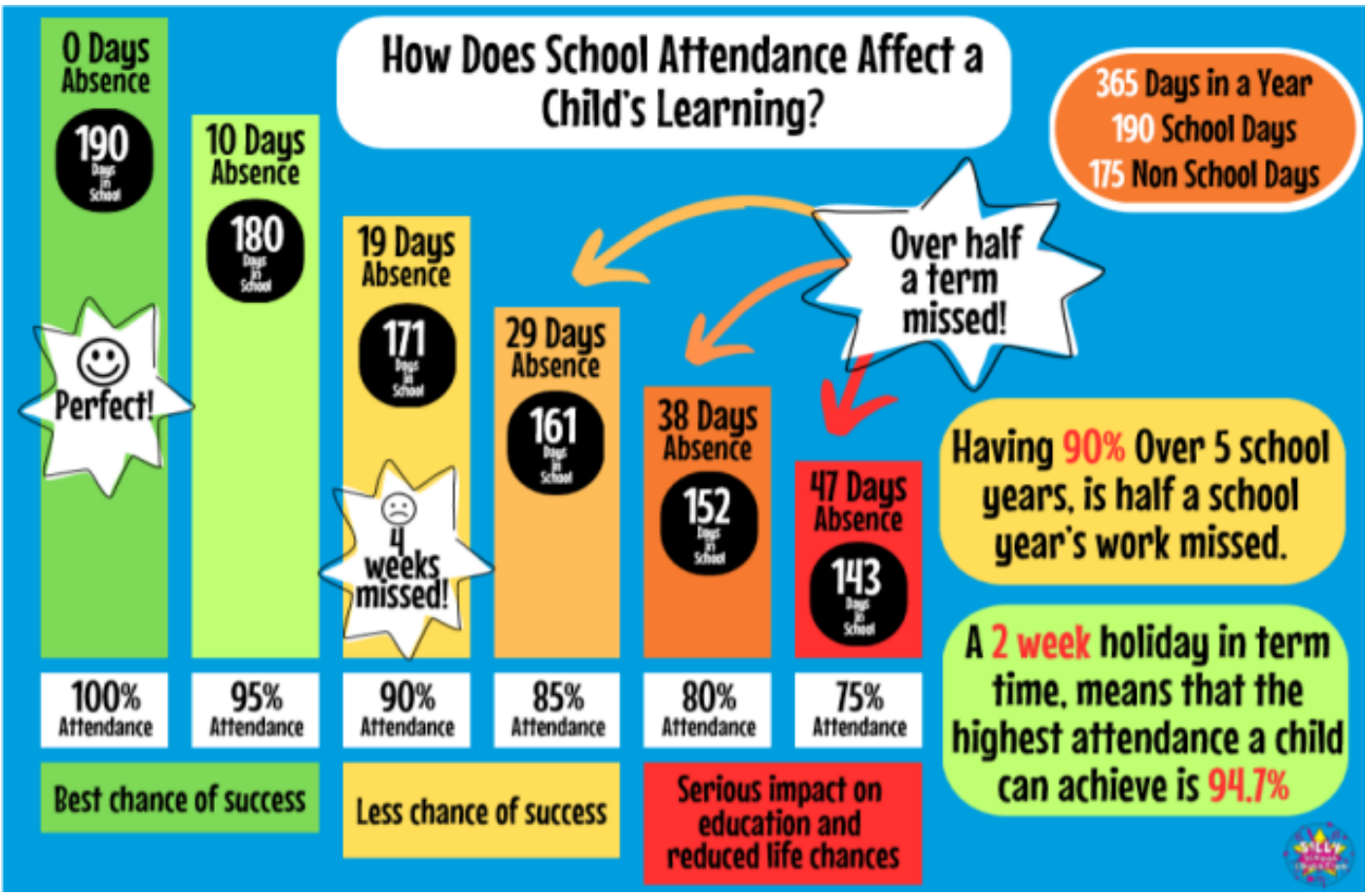
Talk with your child about a time they have felt proud for being brave—however big or small.

Cut out or draw paper stars and write acts of courage on them (e.g., "I tried a new sport," "I asked a question in class," "I made a new friend").

Hang the stars somewhere at home—a window, a tree, or even on your Christmas tree!

This is a lovely way to celebrate everyday bravery and see how courage grows.

We are looking forward to exploring this value across the school and celebrating the many brave moments—big and small—that make us proud of our children each day.



Attendance

Well done to the Swifts 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	95.8%
Swifts	96.8%
Plovers	94%
Red Kites	90.2%

Hello from our Governors

We are delighted to share that our new Local Governing Board has now been successfully established. The governors have already been active in school, carrying out monitoring visits with a focus on safeguarding and SEND. It has been a pleasure to spend time in classrooms, meet staff and pupils, and see firsthand the fantastic work taking place across the school.

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to continuing to support and challenge the school as it grows and develops.

We do still have vacancies on our governing body. We would love more of you to be involved in the life of our school.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please speak to Mrs Woodrow. There are just four meetings per academic year, held in person — and yes, cake is always available!



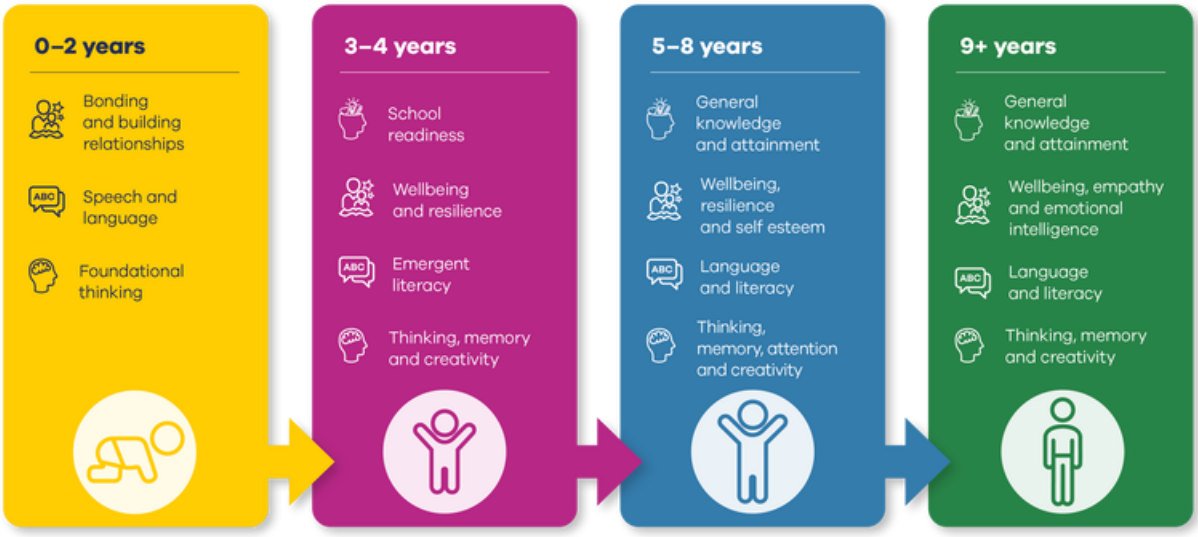
Reading Challenge:

Reading with your child at home is incredibly valuable—not only for developing their reading skills, but for supporting learning across all areas of the curriculum, as well as creating a special opportunity for connection and quality time together.

Recently, children from Year 2 upwards took part in a Reading Survey. While the majority spoke positively about reading, the results showed that the number of children reading outside of school decreases as they get older. We also noticed a decline in the number of children who reported reading regularly with an adult at home.

With the festive season upon us, Advent could be a wonderful opportunity to reignite a love of reading at home. You might enjoy reading a story together each day, sharing a chapter before bedtime, or even setting a family challenge to see how many pages you can enjoy together in the run-up to Christmas. A few minutes each day can make a big difference—and create memories along the way.





Community Shout Out

A massive thank you to the Parish Council for erecting and decorating the Christmas tree on our Field of Dreams with beautiful lights. It has brought such joy and excitement to the children (and staff!) as they see it sparkling across the field.

The pupils have also been busy adding their own creative touch, making hand-crafted decorations during their Forest School sessions.

We are very grateful to everyone involved for helping create something so special for our children to enjoy. I'm sire you will agree it looks truly magical.

