# St Mary Federation Newsletter

Docking

April 2026

## Important dates for your diary




Tuesday 14th April: Return to school

Wednesday 15th April: Y6 SATs Parent Meeting

Monday 21st April: Horstead Residential

Thursday 23rd April: Girls Football competition

Thursday 30th April: Y6 Crucial Crew

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

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 the summer term — our busiest and most exciting term of the year! We have so much to look forward to, including Sports Day, transition activities, SATs, school trips, a range of sporting events, and of course, the much-anticipated Horstead trip.

As the warmer weather arrives, please ensure that pupils are dressed appropriately for school. We recommend that all children bring a sun hat and apply sun cream on hot days. Staying hydrated is also very important, so please make sure your child brings a named water bottle to school every day.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We truly value the strong partnership between home and school, and by continuing to work together, we can ensure the very best experiences and outcomes for all of our pupils.

## Time Team - Pupils Step Back in Time with Archaeological Dig Visit.



Our Y3/4 pupils had the unique opportunity to visit a real archaeological dig alongside experts from the popular television programme Time Team.

The visit gave children a rare, hands-on insight into how archaeologists uncover the past. Equipped with trowels and plenty of curiosity, pupils explored the dig site, learning how to carefully excavate and record their findings—just like the professionals.

Members of the Time Team shared their expertise, explaining how artefacts are discovered, analysed and preserved. Pupils were fascinated to learn how even the smallest finds can reveal important clues about life many years ago.

The trip not only supported classroom learning but also encouraged teamwork, patience and careful observation—key skills for any budding archaeologist.

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

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

## Our Value for this Half Term – Collaboration

This half term, we will be focusing on our value of *Collaboration*.

Collaboration means working together, supporting one another, and valuing everyone's ideas. It is about listening carefully, sharing responsibility, and recognising that we can achieve more when we work as a team. When we collaborate well, we learn from each other, build strong relationships, and create something even better together.

**Collaboration in Action**

Our school value of collaboration reminds us that we are stronger together. The Bible teaches us about the importance of unity and working with others:

"Two are better than one… If either of them falls down, one can help the other up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10)

When we work together and support one another, we can overcome challenges and celebrate success as a community. Collaboration is not just about agreeing—it's about respecting different ideas and finding the best way forward together.

At school, collaboration might look like:

- Working as part of a team to solve a problem
- Listening to and respecting others' ideas
- Taking turns and sharing responsibilities
- Supporting and encouraging classmates

**At-home Activity**

**Collaboration Challenge**

Together at home, try an activity that involves working as a team. This could be cooking a meal, building something, completing a puzzle, or organising a shared task around the house.

Afterwards, talk together about:

- How did you work together?
- What helped you be a good team?
- How did it feel to share ideas and listen to others?

You might like to write or draw your "teamwork moment" and share it with your child's class.

Together, we can help our children grow in collaboration, learning to value others, work as a team, and build positive relationships that will support them throughout their lives.

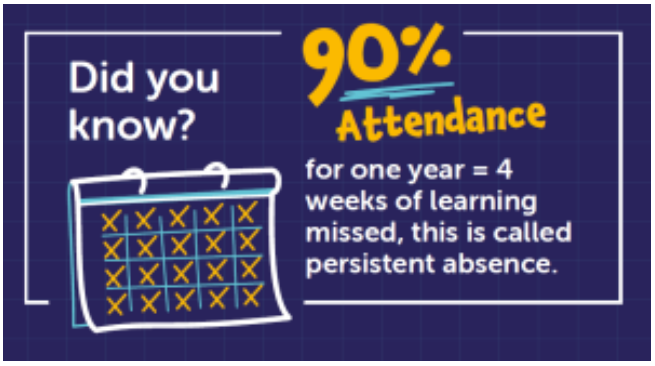


## Attendance

| | |
|---|---|
| 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 |

March has seen an improvement to our overall school attendance. Well done to the Red Kites for the highest attendance this month, they achieved 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 | 93.3% |
| Swifts | 94.4% |
| Plovers | 92.6% |
| Red Kites | 97.2% |




## 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:

**Netball:**

Our Y5/6 netball team played amazingly well in the inter-schools annual tournament. They did not concede and scored over 25, winning 1st place for the 3rd year in a row. Well done!



**Easter Service:**

A huge well done to our Year 3/4 class, who led our Easter Service so confidently. The singing, acting and retelling of the Easter story were all fantastic.

Thank you to all the families who attended to show their support—it was a wonderful way to finish the term.



**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