

## Message from Natalie Edwards, Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a really fun term. The school has participated in 2 local football tournaments where we achieved great success and most importantly the pupils behaviour and attitudes were exemplary demonstrating fairness, team spirit and inclusivity (see included photos).

The school has also participated in national events including children's mental health week and safer internet day. The pupils did a series of focused activities and we have had some helpful and informative discussions around these really important topics. I have included at the back of this newsletter some newly released information for parents from the children's commissioner which provides some top tips for talking with your children about online sexual harassment.

We are delighted to be welcoming a number of new pupils to our school to our brand new Key stage 2 class after the half term we look forward to getting to know all the pupils and their families.

All parents/carers have received information regarding the schools Easter Holiday provision, a reminder that the deadline for expressing an interest is Friday 4th March 2022.

Next term we have many exciting events planned for the pupils. A highlight will be the schools participation in national careers week which will include a day off timetable focusing on different jobs and roles. If any parent or carer would like to volunteer to visit the school and talk to our pupils about their particular career please get in touch.

I hope you and your families have the most wonderful half term we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday 22nd February (residential return Monday 21st in the evening).

## Message from Richard Preece, Acting CEO

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a whirlwind of a term at St Mary's, with many interesting and exciting developments. We are approaching the end of term 3 with positivity and enthusiasm for the spring and summer ahead. We were delighted to note the positive feedback received from Ofsted in December, which reflected some of the significant improvements that have been made during the last two years and of course, where there are areas for development, we are working hard to improve these aspects of our provision. I am particularly pleased that in January, our staff at Key Stage 2 have been able to undertake intensive training in our approach to the teaching of Phonics.

We remain proud of our pupils this term, who have coped very well with the changes in school that have been necessary at times due to the Covid 19 situation. Our staff have also stepped up and have worked very hard to support our pupils as well as each other, sometimes at short notice, to make sure that everything in school happens as routinely as possible.

We will all be looking ahead to seeing what the government announces about what the Covid measures will be after the half term break. I'm sure we all share the hope that as we head towards spring and summer, we will see less disruption in our daily lives. We wish everyone a safe and happy half term and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4!

## Staffing

This term we have welcomed Jemma Tiller and Lily Heath to our team of Teaching Assistants. Barry Godden has joined us as our new Head of Care.

We are saying goodbye to Josie Brown, Occupational Therapist, and wish her all the best for the future.

## Principal's Worker of the Week

I have enjoyed sharing a lunch of their choice with each of the Principal's Workers of the Week. Lunches have included, burgers, steak and chips and chocolate cake!

Week 1 — Finlay — For a huge improvement in his attendance during lessons this week. He has been trying really hard in every lesson and approaching his studies in a calm regulated way. Well done Finlay, keep up the good work!

Week 2 — Vinnie — For consistently working hard and always being a polite, kind and thoughtful member of the class. He is always supportive, caring and helpful towards his peers. He is a wonderful asset to St Mary's school community and we are very proud of him. Well done Vinnie!

Week 3 — Emma — For always helping staff and supporting other pupils in college and the school. Emma always tries her best with her work and she is always willing to give things a go including difficult tasks. Emma is polite, kind and caring and we are proud she is part of the St Mary's community, well done Emma!

Week 4 — Oliver — Oliver could get this award every week, he is always kind and welcoming to new pupils and is a good friend. He engages well in all lessons and helps and supports others. Oliver puts so much effort into his work and participates well in lessons and is making great progress because of this. He is a model pupil and St Mary's is proud to have him as part of our school community.



## Key Stage 2 — Miss Crisp

English - Fantastic Mr Fox, Roald Dahl: Whilst studying 'Fantastic Mr Fox', the class have had the opportunity to develop sentence structure, persuasive writing and instruction writing. Initially, we explored the features of each type of writing before applying it to the book. The children persuaded the farmers to share their food with the foxes, to stop using tractors and wrote instructions to help the fox capture a chicken.

Maths - Shape, space and measure; number: The children began the term focusing on measurements. This included length, weight and capacity in a variety of contexts. We ensured that everyone could read a simple scale, measure accurately and make comparisons. Then later on in the term we progressed to multiplication and division. Everyone completed simple problems and explored the different ways we could work them out including grouping, skip counting and arrays.

Science - Living things (animals): Science has been very interesting this term and the class have been incredibly engaged. We began the term by classifying animals. This involved which type of animal (e.g., mammal, reptile, bird etc), their diet, their bone structure and their habitat. Within habitats, the class have explored how different animals have adapted, the problems different habitats are facing and micro-habitats. Finally, the class learned what is meant by a food chain and made different examples.

Geography - Human Geography: The class have explored many different aspects of human geography this term and how different infrastructures can impact people. Topics have included transport, education, tourism and healthcare. The pupils have also developed their reasoning and understanding of the world by deciding how these factors impact where people live, push and pull factors, and equality.

Art/DT - DT, sewing a puppet: Inspired by our text in English, 'fantastic Mr Fox' the class have designed and made hand puppets based on a character of their choice.

RE - Buddhism: This term, KS2C have been exploring Buddhism. They have learnt how Buddhism started and who was the founder, the key beliefs of Buddhists and what is important to Buddhists. Whilst learning about the Eightfold path, the class were able to identify lots of times when they had struggled to make the right choice and what they could have done instead.

PE - Gymnastics: Pupils have developed their gymnastics skills this term through a range of fun and exciting activities which have included balance, floor shapes, floor movements, apparatus, sequencing and routine. Pupils have been safe on equipment and learnt different ways to travel using different parts of their body.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position to use. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

Computing - Animations!: We started with thaumatropes to explore how animations began. Next, everyone made a simple PowerPoint animation by duplicating and slightly altering previous slides. Finally, we made stop motion animations by sequencing photographs.



## Key Stage 2 — Mr Morgan

English: In English, pupils have been working on descriptive language and learning what alliteration is. The pupils described zoo animals from Dear Zoo and then described farm animals, before making their own class book – Dear Farm. Pupils also wrote their own Kenning 'Who am I?' poems describing animals.

Using the text Rosie's Walk, pupils were not only able to make good predictions, but also show good understanding with their explanations and reasoning for their predictions. Pupils have been engaged in our new phonics lessons and are showing good progress.

Maths: Great progress has been made by all pupils with their addition and subtraction this term. Pupils have used objects and moved on to understanding and using number lines to help aid their addition and subtraction skills. All pupils have moved from using 0-10, to 10-20 and some pupils have gone even higher.

We have revisited positional language this term, as our most recent book (Rosie's Walk) uses a lot of prepositions and these Maths lessons have linked well with our English work.

Science - Living Things: Pupils have been learning about different types of animals. They now know a mammal is an animal with hair, and even though a whale lives in the ocean; it is a mammal because it has hair. Pupils had fun learning whilst being detectives; sorting animals into the appropriate groups (mammals, reptiles, birds, fish). We have also been learning about what animals need to survive and their habitats and how a habitat is only suitable if it has suitable food, water, air and shelter. Pupils were able to identify the ocean as not being a good habitat for us as we breathe air and they could identify fish have gills to breathe under water.

History - Great Fire of London: Pupils were really engaged with this topic. We learnt using songs to help us remember the facts, such as where the fire started in Pudding Lane. They could compare fire fighters from then to now as well as compare the buildings. Pupils understand that the buildings burnt down so quickly because they were close together and made from wood. Pupils used <https://www.fireoflondon.org.uk/game/> and enjoyed the game of trying to put out the fire using a leather bucket.

Art & DT: Pupils began the term by making London skylines and painting backgrounds of fire. When put together, they looked amazing and it inspired us to learn more about the fire and the buildings.

Pupils looked at the features of Tudor houses and we decided to use cardboard and lollipop sticks as they were made from wood. We painted the lollipop sticks brown and black and used white paper to give them a similar look.

Finally, we burnt them and in doing so we could see what we have been learning about in action. The fire started in one box and spread because they were all placed together. We moved one a distance away to show how the fire couldn't spread to that building because of the distance.

RE - Islam: Pupils learnt key facts about the Islamic faith. They looked at the symbols, language and their beliefs. Pupils got to write their name in Arabic and watch videos of children their age speaking about the pilgrimage to Mecca. We made comparisons between different religions, looking at the different holy books each religion has and their places of worship.

PE - Gymnastics: Pupils have developed their gymnastics skills this term through a range of fun and exciting activities which have included balance, floor shapes, floor movements, apparatus, sequencing and routine. Pupils have been safe on equipment and learnt different ways to travel using different parts of their body.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

Computing: Pupils have been using Microsoft Word to write in a range of different fonts and sizes, as well as using WordArt. Pupils have also been inserting images and cropping, resizing and moving them. As well as this, pupils have been able to use the format selection and change the colour of the images and add borders around them.

Pupils have also started to use Microsoft PowerPoint and explore the different features of this program. They have been learning how to animate an image and transition from one page to the next with an animation.

Music: Pupils have progressed massively in music group sessions. They are waiting their turn and they are able to lead a session by changing the tempo of the music they are playing. The pupils are able to follow each other's tempo, resisting the urge to play at their own pace.



## Year 7

English: This term we have been reading Skellig, a book where a move into a new house coincides with the main character's baby sister's illness and his world seems to fall apart. Then, one day he ventures in to the old crumbling garage and he stumbles upon a strange creature, who needs his help to survive. Michael's world changes forever. The pupils greatly enjoyed creating their own 'Skellig'. We have also been researching different topics that the characters bring up such as evolution, as well as improving our grammar for example our sentence structure, joining words, homophones, adjectives, expanded noun phrases and understanding the differences between statements, questions and exclamations. It has been lovely to see the pupils engaged in such a fabulous book.

Maths: This term pupils have been studying 'Expressions, functions and formulae' topic. We have learnt how to use function machines, and pupils enjoyed being able to create their own function machines! We have also explored reading and plotting co-ordinates, and began to simplify expressions.

Modern music & dance: Pupils have studied different types of music (Hip hop, Pop and Disco funk) and learnt how to add movement and percussion to them. They have performed to their peers and reviewed their work.

Food Prep: Pupils have learnt how to make a jacket potato with beans and salad, flapjacks and beans on toast with cheese. They have been evaluating their work. They have taste tested cold meats, different fruits and vegetables as well as writing about what they have achieved.

Careers: Pupils have started their unit on Aiming High and learning about how to complete work with pride, paying attention to detail, and being able to recognise when they are doing well and when they find something too hard.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

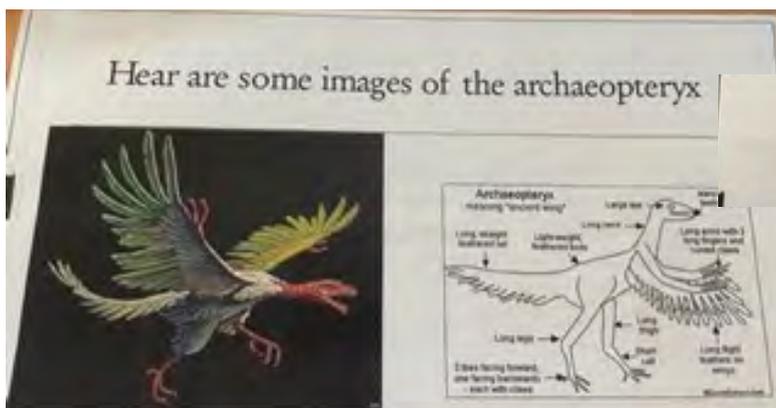
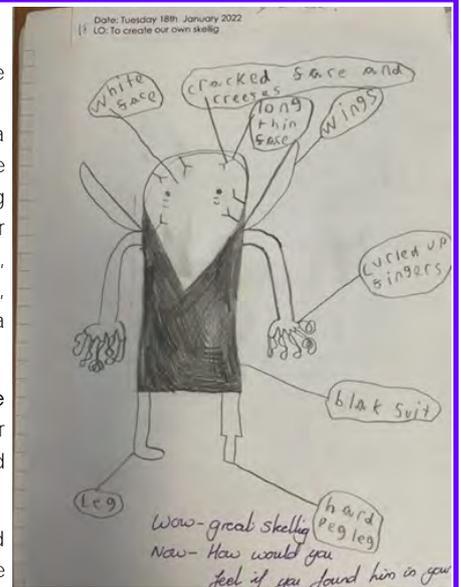
PE - Health, fitness and games: Pupils have been developing their understanding of their own bodies, fitness and the effect of exercise. They have implemented these skills through team games which has helped develop their understanding of heart rate, speed and reaction time, agility and co ordination, teamworking, effect of exercise and problem solving within games.

Science: This term we have studied sound and light. We investigated the properties of both using a variety of practical lessons to support pupils' understanding and stimulate interest. We discussed the properties of materials as being opaque, transparent or translucent depending on if light can travel through the material. We discussed the light experiment that we did looking at reflecting and refraction. We also made a coin placed under a glass disappear by adding water. We looked at how a prism causes light to disperse into the seven colours of the rainbow and attempted to memorise these seven colours, ROYGBIV.

Geography - What is an Economy: Pupils have investigated the different type of industry in the UK. Pupils developed their decision-making skills by looking into the reasons that factories choose their locations. This will help them in life working out the cost/benefit of decisions in either purchasing items or in their jobs. They have identified why the UK is a good place to work and live.

History - The Norman Conquest: Pupils have been able to identify the key power struggles during the Norman Conquest era. They have identified why the Anglo-Saxon army were not successful in their defence of England following the defeat of the Viking army in the north of England. They have been able to look at different people who had a claim to the throne and make decisions on why they feel one person was more suited to the role.

Art: Pupils have learnt about Rangoli Art and how it is used in Diwali and other Indian festivals. They have designed and made clay candle holders, created an outdoor sculpture, and created a Rangoli design using coloured dots.



Archaeopteryx  
by Steven Jeeves

## Year 8

English: We have really enjoyed the start of our book War Horse. It has been hard at times to hear how awful the conditions of WW1 were, however it really helped us to understand how the different owners of our main character (Joey) would be feeling. We also learnt about homophones, commas for lists, contracted words and adverbs. The pupils are really progressing with their writing and are starting to understand how to edit and improve their work.

Maths: This term pupils have been introduced to fractions, decimals and percentages. We spent time looking at what each number in a fraction represents, and learnt how to add and subtract fractions. Additionally, we have started studying transformations. Pupils have enjoyed using mirrors and tracing paper to transform shapes in different ways. Some pupils have continued to develop their number skills, including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and place value.

Science: This term we have been learning about the universe. We rediscovered the order of planets in the solar system and then watched videos to illustrate the size of different stars. We wrote our intergalactic address considering our place in the universe and investigated the role of gravity in helping planets to maintain their orbit around the sun. We found out that the Earth's axis is tilted and as a result we have winter and summer depending on if we are tilted towards or away from the sun. Finally, we investigated meteorite collisions with the Earth by dropping marbles into sand. Unfortunately, the sand was quite wet so the craters were fairly small.

Computing: We have been looking at simple computer programming using Scratch. Pupils are able to change the character (sprite), change the background and create a story using this computer package. Pupils have had to carefully consider the ordering of events in their story to get the program to work in the expected way. This involved reviewing and improving their work.

Modern music & dance: Pupils have studied different types of music (Hip hop, Pop and Disco funk) and learnt how to add movement and percussion to them. They have performed to their peers and reviewed their work.

Food Prep: Pupils have learnt how to make Rocky Road cakes, Greek style pitta breads and cheese scones, they have learnt how to evaluate their work. They have taste tested cold meats, different fruits and vegetables as well as writing about what they have achieved.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

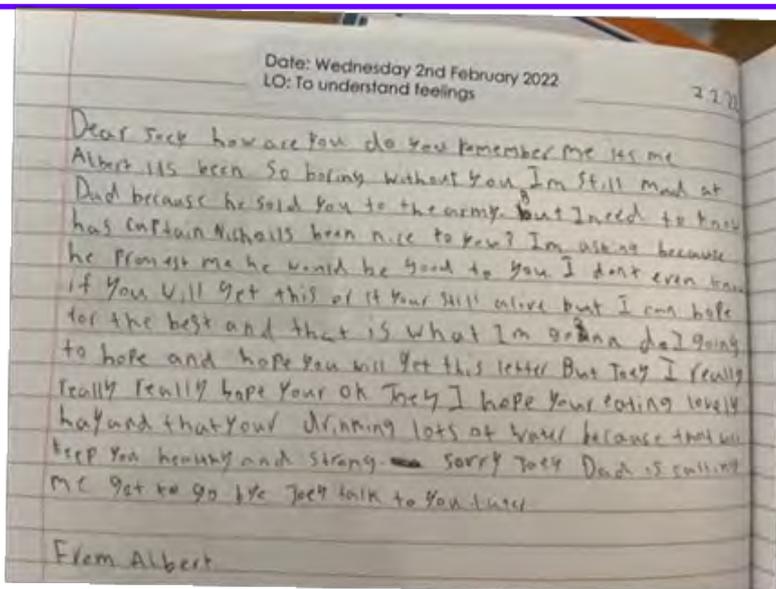
PE: This term pupils have been developing their net and ball skills through a variety of games and activities. Pupils have been developing their use of holding the racket and delivering different shots with their racket. Pupils have been practicing using a range of different sports including badminton, volleyball and tennis. It has been lovely to see their development in such a short amount of time.

Geography - Population Growth: Pupils have been able to develop their understanding of why places around the world have different numbers of people living in them. The pupils have looked at how we show different population changes in a country in the form of special graphs. We have also looked at why some countries choose to limit the number of children born and if this is successful.

History - The Industrial Revolution: Pupils have been studying the Industrial Revolution and how changes in farming allowed for the growth of factories. Pupils were able to see how factories have supported the development of towns and cities and how canals and railways allowed all of the goods made in factories to be transported around the country.

Careers: After our success with learning through our new online platform (Skills Builder) during previous terms, pupils are progressing well and are now focussing on their third employability skill of 'Staying Positive'. Pupils have been given the knowledge to enable them to think reflectively about what positive and negative emotions are and how these manifest within themselves, enhancing their intrapersonal understanding. From there, pupils have applied this knowledge to others' thoughts and feelings, allowing them to develop their interpersonal skills. Our pupils have found this level of critical thinking difficult at times, but have persisted with the challenges faced, which in itself has proved their ability to 'stay positive'.

Art: Pupils have learnt about Rangoli Art and how it is used in Diwali and other Indian festivals. They have designed and made clay candle holders, created an outdoor sculpture, and created a Rangoli design using coloured dots.



## Year 9

**English:** The pupils have really engaged with our book – Holes, in which Stanley gets sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile detention camp, for a crime he did not commit. Stanley and the other boys at the camp are forced to dig large holes in the dirt every day. The pupils have enjoyed finding out that Stanley and the boys are digging holes because the Warden is searching for something. The pupils have also learnt about possessive apostrophes, understood new words, how to punctuate direct speech and how to use a dictionary and thesaurus.

**Maths:** Pupils have been exploring angles and shapes this term. Pupils were able to recognise the different types of angles, and learnt to use a protractor to measure and draw angles. Pupils have enjoyed using mirrors to find the lines of symmetry in shapes, and have shown excellent resilience solving perimeter and area problems.

Some pupils have continued to develop their number bonds to 20, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and they have begun to identify 2D shapes.

**Modern music & dance:** Pupils have studied different types of music (Hip hop, Pop and Disco funk) and learnt how to add movement and percussion to them. They have performed to their peers and reviewed their work.

**Food Prep:** Pupils have learnt how to make Rocky Road cakes, Greek style pitta breads and cheese scones and they have evaluated their work. They have taste tested cold meats, different fruits and vegetables as well writing about what they have achieved.

**Careers - Staying Positive:** After our success with learning through our new online platform (Skills Builder) during previous terms, pupils are progressing well and are now focussing on their fourth employability skill of 'Staying Positive'. Pupils have been given the knowledge to enable them to think reflectively about what positive and negative emotions are and how these manifest within themselves, enhancing their intrapersonal understanding. Pupils have then applied this knowledge to others' thoughts and feelings, allowing them to develop their interpersonal skills. Our pupils have found this level of critical thinking difficult at times, but have persisted with the challenges faced, which in itself has proven their ability to 'stay positive'

**Swimming:** Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

**PE - Health, fitness and games:** Pupils have been developing their understanding of their own bodies, fitness and the effect of exercise. They have implemented these skills through team games which have helped develop their understanding of heart rate, speed and reaction time, agility and co ordination, teamworking, effect of exercise and problem solving within games.

**Technology - Food Preparation:** Pupils have learnt how to make Rocky Road cakes, Greek style pitta breads and cheese scones, they have learnt how to evaluate their work. They have taste tested cold meats, different fruits and vegetables as well as writing about what they have achieved.

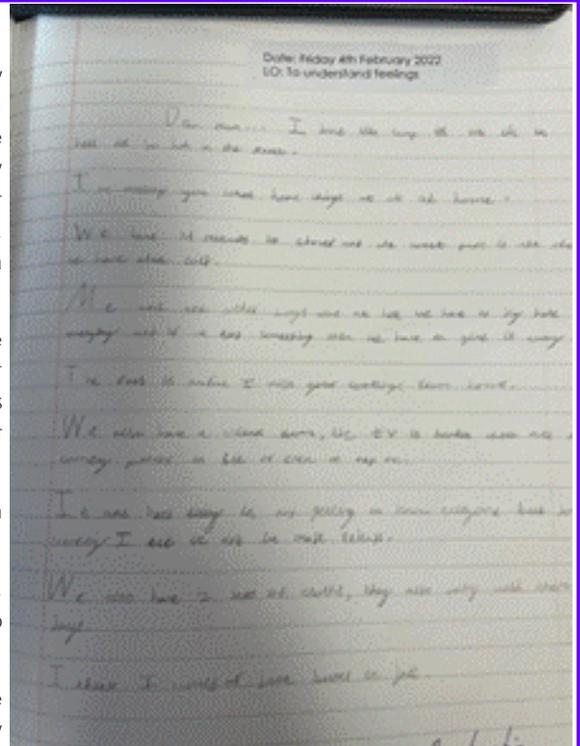
**Science:** This term we have continued to learn about evolution. We have talked about extinction and why the Dodos could not survive on the island of Mauritius. We talked about adaptation and why some animals fit in better than others. We also investigated which beak is best using a variety of apparatus as beaks, trying to move a food item (marble) to a different place. We found that test tube holders were the best beak. This illustrates that the design of animals and plants is dictated partly by their environment.

**ICT:** We have been studying animation. We tried a process known as onion skinning using a program called Flip Anime, where a picture is reproduced several times with small changes to each picture creating the impression of movement when view in rapid succession. We also used a program called Blender which makes the computer do a lot of the intermediate stages in animation.

**Geography - How does Ice Change the World?** In this unit, pupils have developed their knowledge of the areas of the world covered by glaciers and ice sheets. They have learnt how ice has created landscapes and shaped the world around us. Pupils have also learnt how areas covered in ice present opportunities and challenges for people in their lives. The impacts of global warming on glaciers has also been investigated and turned the pupils into detectives as they solved a murder that happened over a thousand years ago and was hidden in ice.

**History - Cold War:** Pupils have been investigating the events in the world post World War 2. Following the surrender of Japan and the end of the Second World War, the threat of communism created a Cold War between the USA and USSR. Pupils have investigated the different theatres that the USSR and USA engaged in conflict across Asia.

**Art:** Pupils have learnt about Rangoli Art and how it is used in Diwali and other Indian festivals. They have designed and made clay candle holders, created an outdoor sculpture, and created a Rangoli design using coloured dots.



## Year 10

English: The pupils have all really engaged with our book – Animal Farm. The GCSE pupils have responded exceptionally well to the link to the Russian Revolution, as well as trying to find quotes from the book to evidence their understanding of events. Not to be left out, the Functional Skills pupils have been practising their skills and should all be proud of what they produced in the first round of their Functional Skills exams.

Maths: This term, GCSE pupils have learnt how to break down and solve linear equations and inequalities. We started our topic on 'angles', in which pupils have practiced using a protractor to measure and draw angles, and explored the different types of angles. Functional skills pupils have developed methods of multiplication and division, using arrays. They have also enjoyed our topic on 'time', particularly using the clocks to show different times.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes and knowing the correct body position. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting position, one knee and standing position.

PE: Health, fitness and games Pupils have been developing their understanding of their own bodies, fitness and the effect of exercise. They have implemented these skills through team games which have helped develop their understanding of heart rate, speed and reaction time, agility and co ordination, teamworking , effect of exercise and problem solving within games.

Science: This term we have covered the units titled 'Reproduction' and 'Acids and Alkalis'. We have made an indicator and used litmus and universal indicator. We have investigated which antacid tablets are best for acid reflux. In the reproduction unit we talked about how babies are conceived and how contraception can prevent unwanted pregnancy. We discussed the stages in human development from zygote, to embryo, to foetus to baby.

Careers: Year 10 have spent this term looking inward, reflecting on themselves, their capabilities and possible support needs in the future whilst completing their 'vocational profile' document. This document is designed and recommended by ISEND, The Careers and Enterprise Company, East Sussex Careers Hub and East Sussex County Council. The hope is that this document can be amended and altered as our learners grow and support their future development specifically in the world of work. Pupils have had a very mature and open attitude to this unit of work.

## BTEC Vocational Studies

This term our BTEC Vocation group have been finalising work surrounding their 'environment and us' unit. We began the term by installing our bug hotel on the school site and pupils have enjoyed witnessing for themselves bugs and spiders making use of the five star facilities!

A highlight from the term, for a number of our transport enthusiasts was conducting a traffic survey! We tallied and plotted methods of transport predominantly used outside St Mary's and linked with the knowledge surrounding emissions and pollution, also developing skills pupils require for their Functional Skills Maths. Our young adults also did a survey of our school population to enquire on modes of transport predominantly used by them – speaking with other pupils was another highlight for many.



### Key Stage 4/5H

English - Entry Level 1-3: Pupils have studied a selection of English topics including reading comprehension, writing sentences, extracting information, email texts and spelling and punctuation. They have used these skills to then practice completing past exam papers in reading and writing, with supportive texts.

Maths: Pupils have continued to strengthen their fundamental Maths skills in addition and subtraction. We have worked on our number bonds of 10 and 20 sequencing and have become more confident. Using shapes we have demonstrated our understanding of simple fractions. We have also practiced our use of clocks and reading times.

Swimming: Pupils developed their stroke work this term and also started to learn to dive and develop their diving techniques. They have covered a range of activities which have included recognising the correct arm position to use for a range of strokes, knowing the correct body position to use for a range of strokes. Pupils have also learnt the correct technique required to dive from a sitting, one knee and standing position.

PE - Gymnastics: Pupils have developed their gymnastics skills this term through a range of fun and exciting activities which have included balance, floor shapes, floor movements, apparatus, sequencing and routine. Pupils have been safe on equipment and learnt different ways to travel using different parts of their body.

Computing: In ICT we have been completing the programming coursework component for our entry level qualification. We have looked at the use of scratch and managed to change characters (sprites) and backgrounds. We are continuing to work on controlling the sprites using different codes

Careers: 5H have continued their explorative journey on 'being organised', trying out new ways to be and stay organised throughout their lives. We have utilised our school iPads to set alarms and timers in order to develop our time management. The ICT theme has continued with pupils consciously arranging and organising their personal drives on our school network, by means of appropriately placed and named files and folders. Pupils have also touched upon what a diary is, why this is useful and gave it a go, planning their own schedule using symbols.

### BTEC Hospitality

Pupils have started their new Unit on Serving Food and Drink and have enjoyed using the Vocational Centre to support them with this process. The pupils have practiced asking for help, using eye contact and asking the customer what they would like to order correctly, as well as the weekly tasks such as money skills, setting up equipment and making sure safe hygiene practices are followed.

### Duke of Edinburgh

In Duke of Edinburgh this term we have been learning about first aid. We have been doing role play around phoning the emergency services and we have been learning about the different first aid equipment and the pupils learnt how to apply a bandage.



### BTEC Sport

Unit: Contributing to running a sports event

Pupils have started to learn about the different sporting events and the organisation needed for a successful event. They have practiced making their own micro events and recognised the importance of team working skills within this. Pupils have been able to solve problems and look at past sporting events which have gone wrong and asked why this has happened.

### BTEC Art

Unit AD8: Designing a product

Pupils have started their new Design Brief on product design and exploring designs for different packaging with the theme of British Icons. They have learnt a selection of different Art techniques and learnt a keyword each week.

## Key Stage 4/5W

English - Entry Level 1-3: Pupils have studied a selection of English topics including reading comprehension, writing sentences, extracting information, email texts and spelling and punctuation.

They have used these skills to then practice completing past exam papers in reading and writing, with supportive texts.

English - GCSE: Pupils have completed lots of revision work on A Christmas Carol, including understanding the characters and themes from the text. They have also taken on board advice on how to answer exam questions, as well as improve them. Towards the end of the term, we have also look at analysing some unseen poetry and again the pupils have been fantastic at understanding what they need to complete an answer.

Maths: We started the term by learning how to break down and solve linear equations and inequalities. During our second topic we have explored properties of angles, including calculating missing angles in polygons. Pupils continued to show fantastic resilience when tackling GCSE style questions, and have all made progress with their exam technique in Maths.

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PE - Health, fitness and games: Pupils have been developing their understanding of their own bodies, fitness and the effect of exercise. They have implemented these skills through team games which have helped enhance their knowledge of heart rate, speed and reaction time, agility and co ordination, teamworking, effect of exercise and problem solving within games.

Science: This term we have started work on the OCR Entry Level Science units, entitled 'Body Wars', 'Heavy Metal', and 'Our Electricity Supply'. Wherever, possible we have been using practical work to help support the pupils and their understanding in science, they have really engaged with this and thoroughly enjoyed this way of learning.

Careers: To start the term, pupils threw themselves into the deep end with their planned event, the cake sale. With support from our school community, we were able to raise just over £140.00 for pupils chosen charities! KS4/5W should be really proud of themselves! Our KS4/5W class are currently split for careers, allowing various groups to focus on units they require to complete varying levels of BTEC qualifications. A small number of pupils are furthering their work 'working with others' and are functioning with less direction and more independence to plan another school-based event /club. The remainder of pupils have started on our 'being organised' topic. Initially we have explored the concept of organisation – why this aspect of our lives is important and how it may feel or look. Together we have mind-mapped all organisational techniques we can think of and look forward to exploring these in more depth over the coming terms.

## BTEC Land Based Studies

### Developing Estate Maintenance Skills

Pupils have been carrying out maintenance tasks at Little Gate Farm. They have been learning about the proper protective equipment and clothing needed for different tasks. Pupils have also been able to identify hazards and plan appropriately what tools they need to complete the tasks needed. The pupils continue to clean out the stables for the horses but also carried out tasks for the goats. They fixed the fence, added new layers to the fence for their safety and to stop the goats from escaping and they cleared out new areas for the goats.



## BTEC Digital Media

### UNIT 5: Creating a Storyboard

During this term we have learnt about the different components of storyboards, such as camera angles and movement, the use of audio and sound, and the transitions between shots. We have discussed how these components create meaning for the audience and how to get feedback information about our storyboard from the audience.

## BTEC Construction

The pupils have embraced our new topic, having benefited from their previously learnt construction knowledge, specifically focusing on the painting and decorating trade. Pupils have not only developed their knowledge surrounding tools and materials but have delved deep into the careers aspect following a supported interaction with a professional within the industry. Pupils were able to take advantage of the opportunity to quiz our guest and thoroughly enjoyed doing so! Through the later part of the term we have started to get our hands dirty by preparing our allocated area on site to practice our newly obtained skills, the pupils particularly enjoyed wearing our new protective overalls!



## Therapy

In KS2 pupils have enjoyed playing games to learn positional language. They have also used music and songs to strengthen social relationships. In music therapy group pupils have improved their listening and turn taking skills. In sensory circuits pupils have learnt routines and developed their ability to work within a group. Some have begun to introduce new elements to their circuits. Pupils have also worked on developing listening, turn taking and shared attention. They are building their ability to listen to instructions. Other pupils in KS2 have continued their work on 'Zones of Regulation'. They have focused on how they feel in response to different scenarios. Role play has also been used to explore facial expressions. Pupils have demonstrated the ability to use the 'Zones' board in their classroom to support them to express how they are feeling.

In KS3 pupils have explored conflict. They have learnt about different types of conflict and how they respond to or handle these. Activities such as 'Conflict Jeopardy' and the story 'The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors' have been used to support pupils to engage with the topic and to broaden their understanding. Other pupils have focused on completing their 'Zones of Regulation' booklets and have made up their own coping toolboxes. Using the Superflex scheme pupils have explored the characters 'Brain Eater' who distracts you (making it hard to complete everyday tasks, like getting ready for school or listening in class) and 'Space Invader' who makes the person's body move into other people's personal space, (not understanding how uncomfortable this makes them). Other pupils have focused on what it means to be passive, aggressive and assertive, taking a role in planning and identifying activities to build their skills and understanding. Our KS4 pupils have developed their abilities in relation to trust and negotiation. They have also worked on building their skills thinking of solutions to problems.

In KS5 pupils have worked on developing their conversation skills. They have also focused on developing their understanding of different types of relationships, linking emotions to friendship scenarios, and on recognising what makes a good friend. Pupils have practiced using different sensory strategies and have built their confidence in making hot drinks and simple snacks. Other pupils in KS5 have considered the values and attributes that they find important in a friend. They have also explored what respect is, how we demonstrate it, and why it is important in relationships.

Safer Internet Day  
Tuesday February 8th 2022

While the internet brings many invaluable benefits such as education, entertainment and media, we should remember that it can also be used by some individuals to take advantage of others. At St Mary's, pupils' safety is upmost in our list of priorities. This week, pupils have been making an extra effort to learn about staying safe online. Our ICT lessons were focused on this issue and a whole school quiz at the end of the week tested how much we had learnt, with extra credits going to the highest scoring classes. One of the main messages is that honest and open conversations about the internet should be encouraged. There are many resources available to support parents/carers in keeping children safer on the internet. Some useful links are included below:

Links for Parents

Toolkit

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/>

Leaflets

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/foster-carers-and-adoptive-parents/>

Family Agreement

file:///C:/Users/jagot/Downloads/Family-Agreement.pdf

Screen Time

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/screen-time-and-healthy-balance-quick-activities/>

Chinese New Year  
Tuesday 1st February



To celebrate the Chinese New Year on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February, we changed the menu and pupils celebrated by having Chinese food at lunchtime. Leading up to this, pupils made decorations for the hall and masks in celebration of the year of the Tiger!

National Careers Week

As part of national careers week we will be participating in a range of activities from the 7th to 11th of March 2022.

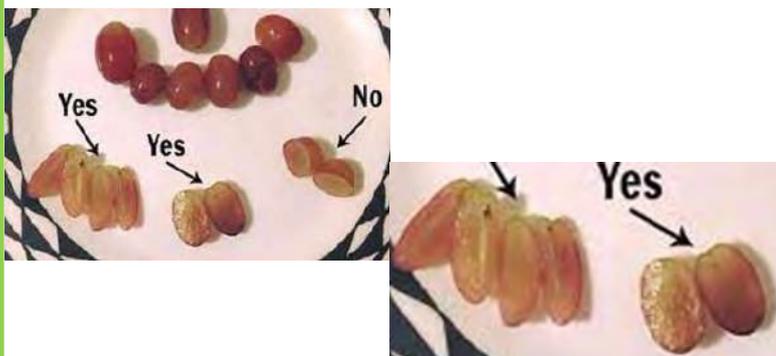
On Monday the 7th of March, we will be collapsing the timetable for the day and will be having a Careers day in school, we will be inviting visitors into the school to talk about different jobs and we will be welcoming some past pupils to the school to talk about their experiences beyond St Mary's.

Health

Why are grapes so dangerous?

The size and shape of grapes means it can completely block a young person's airway. The tight seal produced by the grape's smooth surface makes it difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques.

Due to the risk of choking, if you are providing your child with grapes, please cut this in half/quarter lengthways.



School Council

In School Council pupils have heard about some of the changes that have been made, or that are due to be put in place in response to their suggestions. These have included the introduction of milk once a week at lunchtimes, a printer club to allow pupils to develop their skills using the 3D printer, upcoming credit boost days, and the development of a College library. As part of developing a College library, pupils have considered what might be needed to make it appealing, e.g. comfortable seating, magazines, books aimed at teenagers with a range of reading abilities. Our School Council Representatives have also been involved in thinking about strategies to avoid footballs being lost, and in finding out about the experiences of new pupils. They have also shared suggestions for upcoming cultural celebrations.

We look forward to hearing more from our Classes and their Representatives at our next School Council meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## North Lodge

Our residential pupils have been working really hard on their Living skills targets, cooking, laundry and joining in with all of the group activities which are available to them.



Pupils continue to have an opportunity every week to share information, forthcoming events, make requests for activities which they would like to be available to them as well as discussing more formal things such as, fire evacuation procedures and different aspects of health and safety.

We have welcomed Barry Godden, our new Head of Care, this term. The pupils are really enjoying getting to know him and have welcomed his participation in some of the evening activities.

We look forward to some upcoming events that we will be celebrating on the house next term, including Pancake Day and our Easter Egg Hunt.

We wish you a happy half term holiday.

## Football Tournament's

This term we have had the opportunity to represent the school at two football competitions hosted by Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club. Year 9 and 10 were first to compete and played well against pupils who were a lot older than them, scoring a lot of goals and finishing in fourth place.

Two weeks later it was the turn of year 7 and 8 pupils who were playing together for the first time. There was a great team spirit and attitude on the day with some great goals scored and brilliant saves, each pupil went home with a medal.

On both occasions pupils represented St Mary's and showed how well our pupils followed sportsmanship and fair play, well done both teams!



## Key Dates Term 4

Day	Event
Monday 21st February 2022	INSET day
Tuesday 22nd February 2022	First day of term 4
Thursday 3rd March 2022	World Book Day—Dress up as pupils favourite book characters
Monday 7th—11th March 2022	National Careers Week
Friday 18 March	Red Nose 'Non School Uniform Day' £1 donation
Friday 1st April 2022	Last day of Term 4
Monday 4th—Friday 8th April 2022	Easter Provision

## Spring Term Menu

### Week 1

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	SUPPER
MON	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Vegetarian Pasta Bolognese (V) Tuna, Cheese, Baked Beans Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts	Fish Finger Sandwiches with Tartar Sauce Mixed Salad A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
TUES	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Sausage in a Roll or Vegetarian Sausage in a Roll Oven Chips, Beans Ham, Cheese, Tuna—Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts	Wrap Selection with Tinned Soup Mixed Salad A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
WED	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Pork Chop or Lentil Loaf (V) Roast Potatoes, Parsnips, Cabbage Beef, Cheese, Egg Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll Chocolate Brownie A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts	Omelette Mixed Salad A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
THURS	Crumpets, Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee, Orange or Apple Juice	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce or Vegetarian Meatballs in Tomato Sauce (V) Homemade Quiche, Tuna, Turkey, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of fresh Fruit and Yoghurts	Sausage & Beans Mixed Salad A Selection of Fresh Fruit and Yoghurts
FRIDAY	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Breaded Haddock or Vegetable Burger(V) Oven Chips, Baked Beans, Spaghetti Ham, Egg Dairy Lea Triangles, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit	

### Week 2

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	SUPPER
MON	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread Baked Beans, Cheese, Egg Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Bacon Baps Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
TUES	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Beef Hotpot or Stuffed Peppers (V) Cauliflower, Green Beans Ham, Tuna, Dairy Lea Triangles, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Sandwich Selection with Tinned Soup Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
WEDS	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Roast Gammon or Lentil Loaf (V) Herbie Diced Potatoes, Cabbage & Carrots Chicken, Pilchards, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll Sponge Cake A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Pasta Bake Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
THURS	Croissants, Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee, Orange or Apple Juice	Pasta Bolognese or Vegetable Pasta Bake (V) Homemade Quiche, Corned Beef, Prawns Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Scrambled eggs on Toast Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
FRIDAY	Porridge Wholegrain Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Fish Fingers or Vegetable Fingers (V) Jacket Wedges, Spaghetti Hoops & Peas Cheese, Tuna, Egg Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	

### Week 3

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	SUPPER
MON	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Vegetable Fingers (V) New Potatoes, Carrots & Peas Cheese, Egg, Baked Beans Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Taco Boats with Minced Beef Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
TUES	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Chicken Curry or Vegetable Curry (V) Rice Ham, Tuna, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Sandwich Selection with Tinned Soup Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
WEDS	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh fruit Tea, Coffee	Roast Chicken, Sage & Onion Stuffing Cheese & Celery Loaf (V) Roast Potatoes, Cabbage & Swede Beef, Salmon, Egg, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll Rice Crispy Cakes A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Jacket Potatoes with a Selection of Toppings Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
THURS	Pan Au Chocolate, Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee, Orange or Apple Juice	Shepherds Pie or Vegetable Pie (V) Broccoli & Carrots Homemade Quiche, Chicken, Tuna, Cheese Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts	Hot Dogs in Rolls Mixed Salad Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
FRIDAY	Porridge Wholemeal Cereals White or Wholemeal Toast A Selection of Fresh Fruit Tea, Coffee	Breaded Cod, Vegetarian Burger (V) Oven Chips, Baked Beans & Peas Egg, Cheese, Ham Jacket Potato or Wholemeal Roll A Selection of Fresh Fruit & Fruit Yoghurts	

THE THINGS I  
WISH MY  
PARENTS  
HAD KNOWN

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVICE  
ON TALKING TO YOUR  
CHILD ABOUT ONLINE  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

## Summary of top tips

- 1 Start speaking to your children about these issues before you first give them a phone or set up a social media account. This might feel very early, but you can do it in an age-appropriate way. It is better to be proactive than reactive.

**Don't wait for the crisis.**

- 2 Keep the conversation going. Adapt to your child so you can support them.
- Don't mention it once and think that's enough.**

- 3 Keep it casual, find everyday opportunities to speak about these issues with your child – like when you're walking or driving somewhere.

**Don't scare them with 'the big talk'.**

- 4 Focus on your child's emotions first and work out what they may have seen online. By listening to your child and understanding if they accessed harmful content, you can help to support them.

**Don't punish them before listening and understanding.**

- 5 Keep curious about the technology your child is using and stay up to date with platforms, apps and trends.

**Don't pretend these issues don't exist**

- 6 Set boundaries. Use filtering tools to limit your child's exposure to harmful content. Decide on rules and boundaries with your child, allowing them to input. Explain which monitoring and filtering tools you are using, and why.

**Don't leave your child unsupervised online without using monitoring and filter tools. You wouldn't leave them alone in the park or the street, apply the same level of protection online.**

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Our full guide shares information  
on each of these topics:



**Pornography**

"I feel like the best time for parents to have a conversation about porn is a bit earlier for boys than girls. From my experience of male friends, they definitely see porn earlier than my female friends. I mean like early: year 4, year 5, year 6."



**Sharing nudes**

"A lot of parents might just blame the child instantly instead of trying to support them."



**Sexualised bullying**

"A lot of my male friends feel like they can't do certain things as they feel like they will get bullied, or even worse than bullied... they feel like they're in danger if they don't do a certain thing."



**Editing photos and body image**

"It is still as damaging ... you know it's edited, you still wanna look that way. It is hard to get over the fact you don't look that way. It's hard to navigate through that."



**Peer pressure**

"You see people like those comments and get lots of likes. It makes you think to post more comments like that, you see people like them so you start posting more hateful comments."

All quotes from young people aged 16-21