



Achieving Ambitions

We guide our pupils on to the path to achieving their ambitions.

On their journey they Love one another, Learn to achieve excellence, Laugh through enriching experiences and Live life to the full.

Dear Parents and Carers,

During our Monday assembly, we welcomed City Mission into our school to lead us in an assembly about Advent. Their thoughtful presentation beautifully highlighted the season's themes of hope, joy, peace, and love, encouraging us to reflect deeply on the true meaning of this special time.

The message shared reminded us of the importance of preparation, kindness, and anticipation as we journey through Advent. Well done to those children who supported our visitor and used some of their excellent oracy skills as they read important pieces of scripture.



A huge thank you to all the parents, carers, and families who joined us for our Christmas Fair! Your enthusiasm, generosity, and festive spirit helped make the event a wonderful success. It was lovely seeing so many of our past pupils coming back to visit the school during this event.



A special thanks to our PTA members who gave their time and energy to help make the event run smoothly—we couldn't have done it without you! A special thanks to Debbie Tucker and Claire Scoles, who led the team!

Wishing you a wonderful, hopefully festive weekend.

Nicola Ryan



Star of the Week

Reception	Matthew
Year 1	Beatrice
Year 2	Kitty
Year 3	Adelaide
Year 4	Abel
Year 5	Paris
Year 6	Karas
Wow Writers	
Thea	
Mathematician in the Making	
Elizabeth, Tala W	
Reading Certificate	
Soren N, Paris, Iggy	
Opal Star	
Louie	
Bike it Bear	
Aurelia	
Attendance	
KS1 - Reception	
KS2 - Year 4	

Makaton Signs of the week!



Angel



Angel

Blades of hands
tap chest twice.
Wrists remain in
contact throughout.

Luke 6:31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Catholic Social Teaching

On Friday, our school leaders attended the Diocesan Leaders Conference, where we hosted a tabletop presentation on Catholic Social Teaching. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase how CST principles have been introduced and embedded in our Newman Family of Schools.

Our presentation highlighted how Catholic Social Teaching aligns seamlessly with our Mission Statement, Gospel Values and our learning behaviours.



Attendance Update

Our target for school attendance is **96%**

Attendance this week is:

Reception	98.9%
Year 1	95.0%
Year 2	95.2%
Year 3	95.9%
Year 4	97.7%
Year 5	90.3%
Year 6	90.6%
School Average	Average: 94.8%

Book Fair

On Monday and Tuesday, the children enjoyed browsing a range of different books at our Book Fair. It was fantastic to see so many children leaving school with books from new authors and different genres. We have now been gifted lots of new books for the children to enjoy reading in their class book corners.



When we say it, we mean it!

I was delighted to hear some wonderful news from one of our past parents last week. She informed me that her daughter has just started training to be a paediatric nurse at one of the top universities. Our past pupils' life journeys are really important to us and we love to hear how they are 'Achieving their Ambitions' and making new friends along the way. We wish Maria every luck on her course and have no doubt that she will make an amazing nurse.



Fruit Kebab Sale

After the assembly about Mary's Meal last Monday, the Class Chaplains felt inspired to live out our Catholic Social Teaching of participation by raising money for this worthy charity. Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries.

To raise money on Thursday, 19th December, the class chaplains will be preparing and selling fruit kebabs during playtime, so we are encouraging all children to leave their snack at home that day and bring £1 instead to buy a delicious fruit kebab.



If your child feels inspired to help, they could also bring a small punnet of fruit to help ensure we raise as much money as possible for Mary's Meal.

INSET Dates 2025/2026

3rd Sept 2025

24th Oct 2025

5th Jan 2026

15th June 2026

22nd July 2026

Cultural Café

On Monday, St Mary's Diversity Council led their first ever Cultural Café. This event celebrated the different cultures we have at St Mary's and the important part that food plays in cultural identity. Many children brought in food and spoke very confidently about it and how it is linked to their culture. Thank you to our brilliant Diversity Councilors for this fantastic idea and to all of the families who made these delicious dishes!



Netball Success

The St Mary's netball team were in action this week as they headed to Goldstone for their first match of the school year. For some of the team it was also the first netball match they had ever played! Although you would never have known, as the team played some excellent netball throughout, showing fantastic movement and ball skills from start to finish. The team ended up victorious with a 12-6 win. Well done to all involved!



Inventors Workshop

On Thursday, Year 4 took part in a drama workshop to celebrate their topic 'A Journey into a World of Inventions and Inventors.' They learnt about a variety of inventors and how they have shaped our lives today. The children also considered which of our school's learning skills the inventors had needed to use to come up with their amazing inventions.



One Voice

On Wednesday evening, the One Voice choir performed at the Brighton Centre as part of the One Voice Festival of Singing. Over 30 schools took part in this event and it was an amazing experience to perform as part of such a large ensemble!

Our children sang their hearts out and definitely did St. Mary's proud with their wonderful singing!



In preparation for Christmas

Please remember that it doesn't matter what everyone else is doing or others' expectations as you know what's best for your family, with the stress triggers around and the calmers necessary at this time of year. We, as the adults, are the stress regulators needed. Here are some ideas of what might help...

- Scaffold the days with some usual routines to support stability, security and safety as Christmas can be very triggering.
- Be explicit about the fact that it is ok to feel sad, upset or to grieve over Christmas. That whatever feelings they feel during the season can be felt alongside you, as their fellow traveller. Our children can sometimes feel pressure to be all joyful and sparkly. Encourage authenticity.
- It can be tempting to book in lots of special events during the festive season. Less is best so do spread out special events with home family days. Ensure the calendar is easily accessible and ensure everyone knows that plans might change as the adults will keep an eye on stress levels.
- Try and space out seeing different people to allow for downtime too.
- If you have a child who is looked after and there is planned contact over the Christmas period – indirect or direct – do ensure you are part of the decision making. Share what you think your child can manage. Your opinion matters.
- Try and connect with the outdoors at regular intervals – the countryside, the forest or the beach during the festive season. Go for a walk, have a Christmas picnic or play outdoor games.
- Create your own rituals and traditions. It is helpful for our children to have the familiarity of the same day/date each year to increase familiarity.
- If you do feel your children would benefit from a visit from Santa, focus on his safe, kind, generous unconditional positive regard for children and consider together with the children where you would like him to drop off their gifts, leaving a note about this on the front door or making him a special trail to follow: in the shed outside, in the porch, in the living room, in the conservatory... It doesn't have to be the bedroom.
- Make the most of all the possibilities for sensory comfort during the colder weather, for example cosy hot water bottles, throws and oversized hoodies and onesies!
- Optimise connection opportunities over mugs of hot chocolate or other hot drinks.
- Drive about and check out the local light displays around your area. Treat it like a competition. Top prize, second and third etc. Being in the car together sometimes means good connective conversations as no eye contact is required.
- Facilitate collaborative problem solving together as a family – jigsaw puzzles, Jenga towers, Lego construction, technical builds, gaming...
- Due to how sensitive our children are to sugars try to alternate special meals or days with usual diet meals and days too.
- Build in some quiet down time for everyone – colouring, dot to dot, crosswords, word searches, journaling, reading...

Louise Michelle Bombèr | November 2024



December 2024		
Monday 09.12.2024	Reception Nativity	09.15 – 10.00
Tuesday 10.12.2024	Key Stage 1 Nativity	09.15 – 10.30
Wednesday 11.12.2024	Key Stage 1 Nativity	09.15 – 10.30
Wednesday 11.12.2024	Advent Service at the church	18:00-19:00
Thursday 12.12.2024	Elf on the 12th	All day
Thursday 12.12.24	School Nurse drop in	15:10
Wednesday 18.12.2024	Christmas Dinner	12:00 - 13:00
Thursday 19.12.2024	Fruit Kebab Sale	10:30 – 10:45
Friday 20.12.2024	Last Day of Term	All day
Monday 23.12.24 – Friday 03.01.25	Christmas Holidays	Inclusive
January 2025		
Monday 06.01.2025	Start of the Spring Term	All day
Friday 31.01.25	INSET Day	All day
February 2025		
Friday 14.02.25	Last Day of Term	All day
Monday 17.02.25 – Friday 21.02.25	Half Term	Inclusive
Tuesday 25.02.2025	Celebrating 100 Days in Reception	14:00 - 15:00
March 2025		
Thursday 06.03.2025	World Book Day	All day
April 2025		
Friday 04.04.25	Last Day of Term	All day
Monday 07.04.24 – Monday 21.04.25	Easter Holidays	Inclusive
May 2025		
Monday 05.05.25	May Bank Holiday	All day
Monday 12.05.25 to Friday 16.05.25	Year 6 SATS	Inclusive
Friday 23.05.25	Last Day of Term	All day
Monday 26.05.25 – 30.05.25	Half Term	Inclusive
June 2025		
July 2025		
Monday 14.07.25	KS1 Graduation	14:00 - 15:00
Friday 18.07.25	Leavers Assembly	09:15 - 10:15
Monday 21.07.25	INSET Day	All day
Tuesday 22.07.25	INSET Day	All day