



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,

At the end of what has been a fantastic week filled with wonderful events and experiences for our children, we unfortunately had to make the difficult decision to cancel our KS2 Sports Day today due to the extreme heat.

We know how disappointing this was for the children, who were looking forward to taking part, and we appreciate the inconvenience this may have caused families who had made arrangements to attend. Please be assured that this decision was not taken lightly.

We only made the final decision during the afternoon set-up when it became clear that temperatures were simply too high. Even with the additional shade provided by gazebos, we did not feel that conditions were safe for children, staff or spectators. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our school community had to come first, and we firmly believe it was the right decision.

The good news is that our KS2 children will still get to enjoy their Sports Day on Monday 20th July, and we will make sure it is a memorable and enjoyable occasion for everyone. We know they will bring the same enthusiasm, determination and team spirit that they always do, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements together then.

We were fortunate that our KS1 Sports Day was able to go ahead in the morning. It was wonderful to see so many family members there supporting them, and the slight breeze provided some welcome relief as everyone enjoyed watching the different events.



Looking ahead to next week, the hot weather is set to continue. To help keep children as comfortable as possible, they may continue to attend school in their PE kits. Please also ensure that your child comes to school each day with a named water bottle, has sun cream applied before school, and, if possible, brings a small handheld fan. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we adapt to these challenging weather conditions.

Wishing you all a cool, safe and restful weekend.

Sarah Clayton



Star Shout Out!	
Reception	Milana
Year 1	
Year 2	Light
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	Sonny
Year 6	Reea
Wow Writers	
Mathematician in the Making	
Imogen, Rogue	
Reading Certificate	
Eve, Mauricio	
Opal Star	
Bike it Bear	
Attendance	
KS1 - Year 2	
KS2 - Year 5	

Makaton Sign of the week!



Athletics



Wrists twist as
hands pull apart

Athletics

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

Transition Day

Last Friday, the children enjoyed spending time in their new classrooms with the teacher and teaching assistant who will be supporting them next year.

The morning gave everyone the opportunity to become familiar with their new learning environment, meet their new adults and begin building positive relationships ahead of September. A range of activities helped the children feel settled, excited and confident about the year ahead.

Transition Day is an important part of ensuring children feel happy, secure and ready for the new academic year, and we were incredibly proud of how positively all of the children embraced the experience.

Attendance Update

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

Attendance this week is:

Reception	93.3%
Year 1	95.2%
Year 2	96.2%
Year 3	98.0%
Year 4	93.9%
Year 5	98.1%
Year 6	92.9%
School	95.4%

Year 5 Trip to the Planetarium

Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful trip to the South Downs Planetarium in Chichester on Tuesday. Despite the hot weather, the children thoroughly enjoyed travelling to and from the venue by train.

During their visit, they explored the night sky in the Sky Dome, learned about meteors and meteorites in an engaging talk, and rounded off the day with an interactive quiz. Throughout the visit, the children represented St Mary's exceptionally well, demonstrating their curiosity by asking lots of thoughtful and insightful questions about the universe.



World Cup Fun!

On Monday, the children gathered in the hall to watch England's World Cup Round of 16 match against Mexico. Many of the children had managed to avoid finding out Sunday's result, making their excitement, as England secured the win, even more special to witness.

The hall was filled with cheers and celebration, and we are all looking forward to supporting England again in their next match - at a slightly more family-friendly time!



Joseph

On Thursday, the children of St Mary's took to the stage for this year's Summer Concert, Joseph. This was our first performance in our wonderful new venue and what a fantastic setting it proved to be. The beautiful acoustics allowed every word, note and harmony to shine, making the performance even more memorable for both the audience and the performers.

The children were simply outstanding. Their confidence, enthusiasm and commitment were evident throughout the performance and they entertained us with their fantastic singing, acting and stage presence. It was wonderful to see the joy on their faces as they performed and they should all be incredibly proud of what they achieved.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated music teacher, Miss Lelean, who has worked tirelessly to bring the production together. The hours of planning, rehearsing and encouraging the children resulted in a truly professional performance that showcased not only the children's musical talents but also their teamwork, resilience and confidence.

Thank you to all the families who came along to support the children, your encouragement means so much to them. It was a wonderful afternoon and a fitting celebration of the incredible talent we have here at St Mary's.



Newman Festival

Last Friday, members of our school choir represented St Mary's wonderfully at the Newman Festival. We were proud to join four other local primary schools from our

Newman Family of Schools to form a combined choir. The children performed a song composed by Newman students during the 'Regeneration Day for the Environment' at the Attenborough Arts Centre.

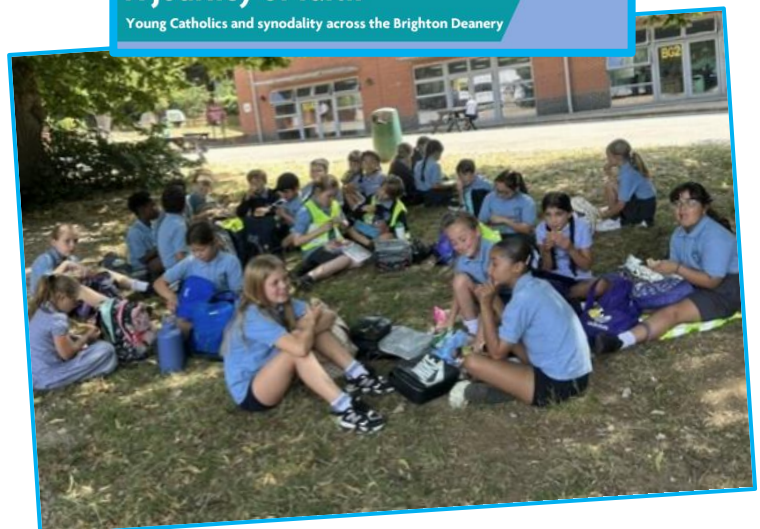
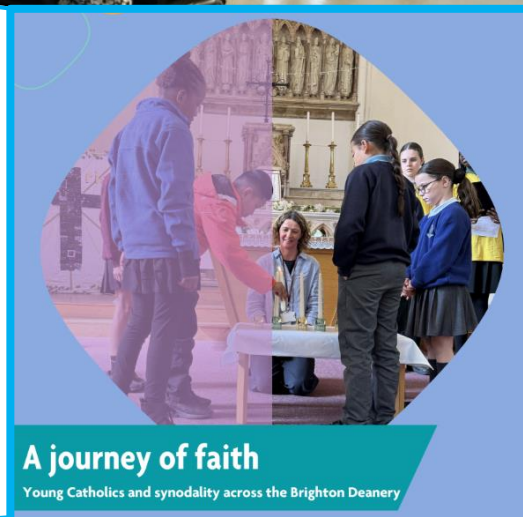
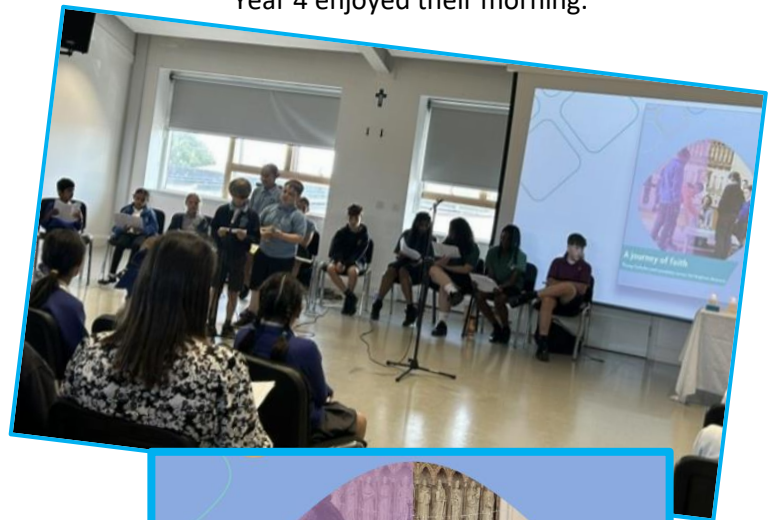


As well as the beautiful singing, it was a joy to see so many families coming together to enjoy the Newman Festival on a sunny Friday afternoon. A huge well done and thank you to all of the children for taking part and representing our school so brilliantly at this special event.

Year 4 Trip to Cardinal Newman

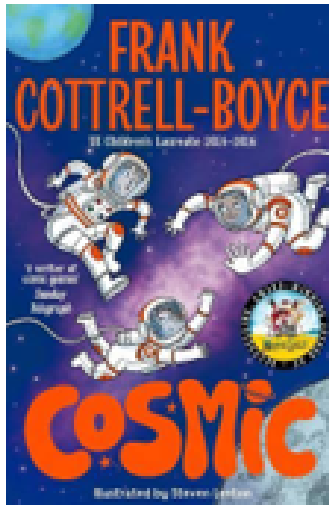
As you may already know, this year St Mary's have been part of one of the biggest synodal processes of its kind across England and Wales. There has been a growing sense that our Church communities could do better in including, enabling, and really listening to and learning from our younger members - who are, after all, fully Christian from their baptism! During this work, children from our school have been giving their thoughts, ideas and opinions on ways forward for the Catholic Church.

On Monday, there was a big celebration morning of this process at Cardinal Newman Secondary School in Hove, where all of the schools who had been involved were invited to come together along with clergy and representatives from the diocese. Year 4 accepted the invitation and it was fantastic to have Austin, Finnian and Tahalya present as part of the assembly! Thank you to parents who facilitated the children being able to attend this special event and we hope that Year 4 enjoyed their morning.



Reading Recommendations: July

Every month, a teacher will be sharing book recommendations, chosen to inspire a love of reading and help children discover some fantastic new stories. These books have been chosen by Miss Westwick.



Cosmic

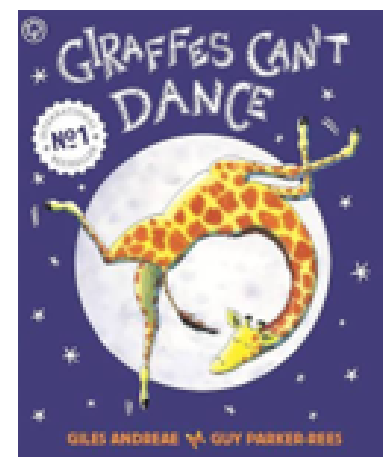
Recommended age: 9–12

This exciting and humorous story follows Liam, a boy who looks much older than he really is. When he is mistaken for an adult, he finds himself on an incredible space adventure. Filled with laughter, friendship and unexpected challenges, the story explores themes of growing up, responsibility and believing in yourself. It is a fun and imaginative read that will keep readers entertained from beginning to end.

Giraffes Can't Dance

Recommended age: 4–7

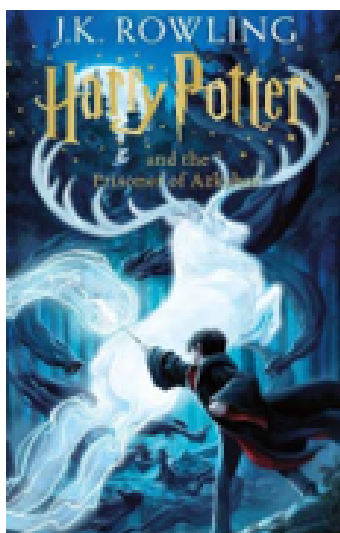
This heart-warming picture book tells the story of Gerald the giraffe, who longs to dance but struggles because he feels different from everyone else. Through encouragement and determination, Gerald discovers that everyone can shine in their own way. With beautiful illustrations and a positive message about confidence and self-belief, this story encourages children to celebrate their unique talents.



Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Recommended age: 9–13

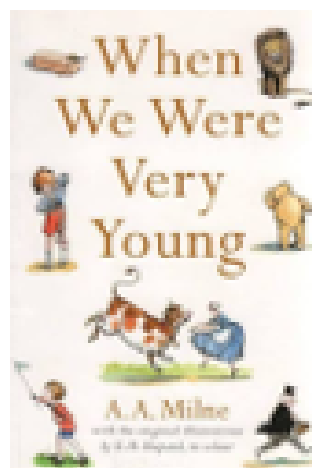
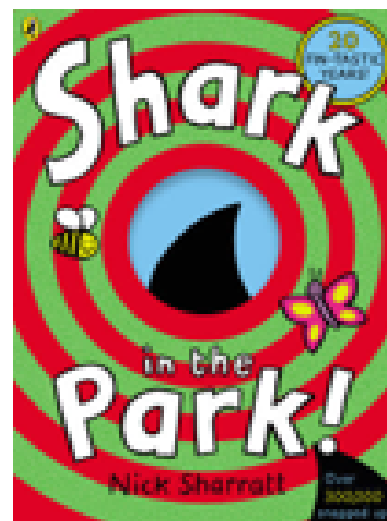
In Harry Potter's third year at Hogwarts, mysterious events begin to unfold as an escaped prisoner appears to be searching for him. Filled with magic, adventure and suspense, this captivating story introduces new friendships, surprising discoveries and exciting twists. It is an unforgettable read that encourages bravery, loyalty and the importance of uncovering the truth.



Shark in the Park

Recommended age: 3–6

This fun and engaging story follows Timothy Pope as he looks through his telescope and thinks he can see a shark in the park. Young readers will enjoy joining in with the repeated phrases and guessing what Timothy will spot next. With colourful illustrations and plenty of humour, it is a wonderful book for developing confidence with reading and encouraging participation.



When We Were Very Young

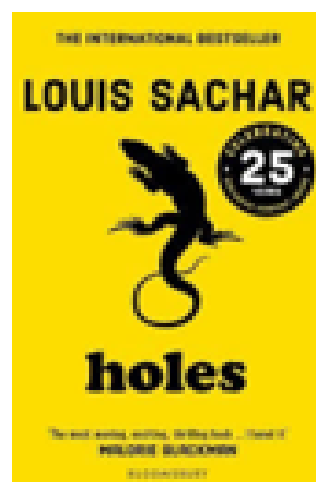
Recommended age: 5–8

This charming collection of poems captures the wonder, imagination and adventures of childhood. Through playful rhymes and memorable characters, readers are invited into a world of curiosity and fun. The poems are perfect for sharing aloud and encourage children to enjoy language, rhythm and creative thinking.

Holes

Recommended age: 10–14

This gripping and thought-provoking story follows Stanley Yelnats, who is sent to a camp where the boys spend their days digging holes in the desert. As secrets from the past begin to emerge, Stanley discovers that there is much more to the camp than it first appears. Filled with mystery, friendship and unexpected twists, this unforgettable story keeps readers engaged until the very last page.



The Colour Monster

Recommended age: 3–7

This gentle and imaginative picture book helps children understand and talk about their emotions. Through colourful illustrations, the Colour Monster learns to recognise feelings such as happiness, sadness, anger and calmness. The story provides a simple and reassuring way for young readers to explore their emotions and develop emotional awareness and understanding.

July 2026		
Sunday 12.07.26	Leavers Mass at St Theresa's	09:00 – 10:00
Tuesday 14.07.26	KS1 Graduation Day	14:00
Tuesday 14.07.26	Year 6 Production Rehearsal at Shoreham Centre	12:30
Friday 17.07.26	Year 6 Production	6:30
Monday 20.07.26	KS2 Sports Day	9:15
Tuesday 21.07.26	Leavers Assembly	tbc
Wednesday 22.07.26	INSET DAY	All day
Thursday 23.07.26	Summer Holidays	Inclusive
September 2026		
Tuesday 01.09.26	INSET DAY	All day
Wednesday 02.09.26	INSET DAY	All day
October 2026		
Monday 05.10.26	Year of St Francis Celebration Day	All day
Friday 09.10.26	Flu Vaccinations	9:00
November 2026		
Friday 20.11.26	Individual Photographs	9:00
Friday 27.11.26	INSET DAY	All day
December 2026		
January 2027		
Monday 4.01.27	INSET DAY	All day