



Whole School Newsletter

February 2025

Living and Learning through Faith

Be courageous witnesses of the love of God our Father, who wants us all to be brothers and sisters. Let us set out together to be artisans of a new era of peace, justice and fraternity.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to congratulate Emilia in Year 6, who was the overall winner of our Mission Statement postcard competition. These special postcards are awarded every Friday to celebrate children who exemplify our Mission Statement and school learning behaviours. Well done, Emilia!



This year is a Jubilee Year; Pope Francis has called us to be Pilgrims of Hope. It is an invitation to renew our hope: a hope that comes from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are. A Jubilee is a significant moment in the life of the Church, occurring every 25 years. Biblically, it is a time of renewal, celebration, rest, and freedom. In Old Testament times: debts were forgiven, prisoners and enslaved people were freed, and even the land was given time to rest. Pope Francis calls on us to be signs of hope for others by living out Catholic Social Teaching; caring for our common home and supporting those affected by war, hunger, and poverty.

Finally, we extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Measham on the arrival of her beautiful baby, Henrietta Rose; we wish the family joy, love, and precious moments during this special time.

Warm regards,
Mrs Berry and Mr McGill

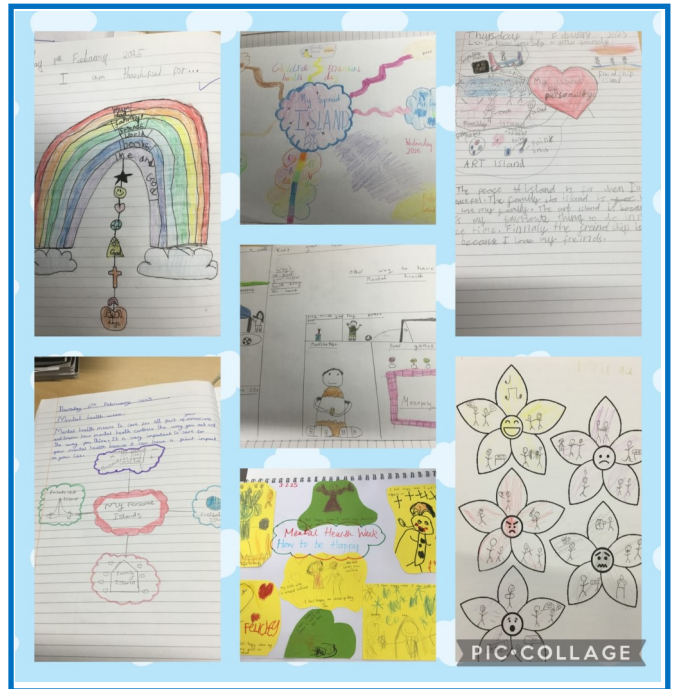


School Rules

Be Ready, Be respectful, Be Safe

Mental health Week– 3rd—7th February

During the week of the 3rd February each class completed activities focusing on mental health awareness. The focus this year was `growing`. Within our classes we completed activities such as creating our own islands of personality, where we considered what makes us unique. As well as this we thought about how we can look after our own mental health, acknowledging what we like to do and what allows us to find some calm throughout our day. We took time to appreciate that we all have mental health and some days it may require more support than others!



Mini Vinnies great book sale!

On Friday 6th December we held a book sale to raise money for `Help for Heroes`. This was a charity that the Mini Vinnies chose to raise money for, with their inspiration being the recent Remembrance Day. We were thrilled to raise £64.50 for this charity. We look forward to raising more money for good causes in the future. Thank you for your support with these!



Art Workshops

Some of the classes in our school were lucky to have Lily from the Uwu studio in Ipswich visit and run a 'design masterclass' with them whilst talking about her journey into being an artist and the things that have inspired her. This was an Art project funded by Thomas Wolsey 550 project which enables children to access free workshops and Art projects throughout Ipswich. We are proud to have



been chosen for these workshops and look forward to working with Thomas Wolsey in the future. The children gained so much from these, practicing new Art skills and talking about what inspires them in their artwork. Lily was a huge inspiration to many.



Jubilee Year of Hope

The Worship Council has been learning about the Jubilee Year of Hope and led the launch day on 24th January. They spoke about the Pope's letter for the Jubilee, encouraging us all to get involved, and shared what hope means to each of us.

They also explained the significance of the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, which is only opened once every 25 years. The opening of this door by the Pope marks the official beginning of the Holy Year.

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.



Latest Parish Newsletter

To read the newsletter for our parish church of St Mary's, please visit:

<https://www.stmarysipswich.org.uk/parishnews>



Ignite Team visit to St Mary's

The Ignite Team, the Youth Ministry team of the Diocese of East Anglia, visited on 29th November to support the training of our Worship Council. They delivered a superb training session, and the Ignite Team commented on how knowledgeable and confident our young people are in their roles.



As part of the morning, they led a whole-school Prayer and Liturgy focusing on the beginning of Advent. As always, we especially enjoyed the singing and enthusiastically joined in with the action songs.

Sporting News



St Mary's Girls Football

A group of girls represented St Mary's to play a match against St John's. We were really pleased with the girls' efforts as they achieved a draw at 2-2. Caris, who attended the session said, "It was great fun!"

Suffolk Games Basketball

St Mary's attended the Suffolk School Games Basketball in February, the children were amazing and won all the matches to get to the final. Unfortunately, we lost by one point in the final but despite our sadness we held our heads high as we left having experienced both the joy and disappointment sport bring us.



Netball Club

The netball club went to Sidegate for some friendly matches. The whole club came and it was a joy to see some much joy and good team work. An extra thank you to the year 6 girls who volunteered to help out those with less game experience





St Mary's Netball League

Well done for a great team effort on the first week back in the freezing cold. Despite losing at St John's, the girls improved during each quarter. We celebrated our good points and reflected on what we could improve on which demonstrated such a mature attitude towards the game we love to play!



Dodgeball festival

Eight children from Year 4 attended a dodgeball festival at Inspire Suffolk. There were fifteen schools there and we played lots of games. It was a wonderful morning with some accurate throwing, skilful dodging and amazing catching. Well done and thank you to parents for your support and lifts!



Upcoming Dates

World Book day	Dress up as a book character and bring a favourite book	6th March
Lenten Service	School Hall	7th March 9am
Science Week		10th March
Class Mass Y3 & Y4	School Hall	14th March
Parents Evening	Face to Face	18th & 20th March
Easter Liturgy	St Mary's Church	4th April 9am
Reception Class Share		30th April 2:30pm
Beginning of Term Mass	St Mary's Church	1st May 9am
Year 1 Class Share		7th Mat 2:30pm
Class Mass Y3 & Y4	School Hall	9th May
SATs week Year 6		12th May
Class Prayer and Liturgy	Reception, Y1 & Y2	16th May 9am
Celebration Assembly		23rd May
Non Uniform Day		23rd May

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Tuesday 22nd July

Bank holiday: 5th May

Half term: 26th May – 30th May

Staff Training day: 22nd April