



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'

Upcoming dates

15th September
Class Talks

18th September
Cheese and Wine
night – new
reception
parents.

**21st – 28th
September**
Harvest
Collection –
please give
generously.

28th September
Harvest Festival
Mass 9.15am

2nd October
FOSM – Race
night

**5th October – 9th
October**
Isle of Wight
Residential (Y6)



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful first few weeks we have had at St Mary's! We have been absolutely delighted with the way the children have returned to school. They have come back looking incredibly smart, ready to learn and with such positive attitudes. Walking around the school, it has been lovely to see classrooms full of children who are happy, settled and so engaged in their learning.

As this is my first newsletter as Headteacher of St Mary's, I would also like to take the opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for the incredibly kind words, messages and good wishes I have received since taking on the role. The support shown to me by our parents, the parish and wider community has meant a great deal, and I genuinely appreciate the warmth and encouragement I have received. It is a privilege to lead a school and community that means so much to me, and I am very much looking forward to all that we will achieve together.

As we begin this new academic year, we continue to be guided by our mission to "Love God, love others and love ourselves." We are incredibly proud of the caring, joyful community we have at St Mary's, and the children have certainly demonstrated those values in the way they have welcomed one another back and embraced the opportunities of a new school year.

Every member of our staff is working incredibly hard each day to provide the very best for our children – academically, spiritually and in supporting their health, happiness and wellbeing. Everything we do is centred around the children in our care and helping them to be the best they can be. As we encourage our children to live out our mission of "Love God, love others and love ourselves," we ask our whole school community to do the same. Please remember that our staff are people too, working hard and with the very best intentions for your children. We therefore ask that all members of staff are always treated with the kindness, respect and grace that we expect everyone within our St Mary's family to show one another.

Love God, love others and love ourselves.

With every good wish,

Mrs Sharkey
Headteacher



Plenty to Celebrate!

Congratulations to the children who have just set off on the next step of their academic journey. Our 2026 SATS results were fantastic!

% of Pupils	St. Mary's	National Average
Exp or above for combined: reading, writing, maths.	89% (greater depth:20%)	63%
Exp or above: reading	94.4% (greater depth 50%)	75%
Exp or above: writing	90.1% (greater depth 26%)	73%
Exp of above: maths	97% (greater depth: 39.4%)	75%
Exp or above: SPAG	100% (greater depth: 53%)	74%



Our Year 1 phonics screening results were also fantastic.

Year 1 Phonics	St Mary's Year 1 children	National Average
	93.3%	80-82%

Our EYFS children also wowed us with their end of EYFS results!

	St Mary's Reception children	National Average
Literacy	90%	Not made available to schools
Maths	83.3%	
Overall Good Level of Development (GLD)	83.8%	68.5%

We are incredibly proud of the wonderful academic results achieved by our children. St Mary's continues to be a high-performing school, and these outcomes reflect the hard work, determination and commitment that we see every day.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to ensure that every child is supported, challenged and given the opportunity to flourish. We are equally proud of our children, who approach their learning with enthusiasm, resilience and a real desire to do their very best.

Excellent results do not happen by chance. They are the result of high expectations, excellent teaching, strong relationships and a shared commitment to giving our children the very best education possible. Thank you all for your support at home! We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributes to this success and immensely proud of all that our children have achieved.

At St Mary's, academic excellence sits alongside our commitment to nurturing the whole child, helping each one to grow academically, spiritually and personally and to become the person God calls them to be.

Autumn Term
11th September 2026



A warm welcome to our new reception families. We have welcomed in twenty of our thirty new little faces and there has not been a single tear. Thank you to the families for choosing us and for giving us the opportunity to watch your children grow and develop into the wonderful people God has chosen them to be. Well done St Therese Class!



We are extremely proud to share that St Mary's has achieved the Gold School Games Mark Award in recognition of our commitment to sport and physical activity.

PE is an exceptional part of our curriculum and something we are incredibly proud of. Our children have so many opportunities to be active, develop new skills, represent our school and, most importantly, discover the enjoyment that comes from sport and physical activity.

A huge thank you must go to Mr Johnson, whose enthusiasm and commitment ensure that sport continues to thrive at St Mary's. We are also enormously grateful to our parent volunteers, who generously give their time to support fixtures, competitions and sporting opportunities. Without this support, we simply would not be able to offer our children the breadth of experiences that we do.

And, of course, congratulations to our children. Their enthusiasm, teamwork, determination and excellent sportsmanship are what make this award so well deserved. We are incredibly proud of you all!



"For I was hungry
and you gave me
something to eat ..."

Matthew 25:35

Small acts
of kindness
make a big
difference.



Harvest Festival

GIVE THANKS ♥ SHARE HOPE ♥ SUPPORT OTHERS

Together as a school and parish community,
let us give thanks to God for all that we have
and support those in need.

What to donate?



We are collecting toiletries
and dry goods.

Please leave on the trolley
outside the school gate from 21st
September



Option for the Poor

As Catholics, we are called to
look out for and stand with
those who are most in need.

Our Harvest collection is a
way of putting our faith into
action, showing love, solidarity
and care for our local
community.

Where will it go?



St Vincent
de Paul Society
*Turning Concern
into Action*

All donations will be given to
the St Vincent de Paul food bank
to support local families
in need.

Thank you ♥



Harvest Festival Mass

Monday 28th September
Our Lady of Grace and St Theresa
of Avila Church.
9.15am

Please join us as we come together to give thanks to God
and to support those in our community.

Faith
in action
changes
lives

"Let us not love with words or speech
but with actions and in truth."

1 John 3:18

FAITH | COMMUNITY | KINDNESS
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW TOGETHER