

5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. I hope you enjoyed the summer holidays and that you were able to relax and enjoy time with family and friends in the glorious weather. Whether your child is joining us for the first time, or returning after the holidays, we are delighted that you are part of the St. Mary's School community.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school this week and hear all their news about the holidays. Over the summer we have had work done on the school site, including new fencing and Mr Morris and the cleaning staff have been busy getting the building ready for the new school year. Over the holidays, the staff have been preparing classrooms and lessons to inspire children's curiosity and we of course remain committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment where all children can flourish.

Staffing news

We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to the team this year. We have a new Deputy Head, **Mr Ball**, who is teaching in Ash class on Thursdays and Fridays. Mr Ball will be around at the start and end of the school day on the days when he isn't teaching and is available to support children or parents and answer any questions you may have.

We also welcome **Mr Buckland** who is teaching Maple Class this year, **Miss Hawkins** in Willow class and **Miss Janes** in Beech Class.

Mrs Calabria's role has changed this year to Inclusion Lead. She will now be the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) for the school as well as Designated Safeguarding Lead and pastoral and attendance lead. As her role has increased significantly this year, she will be supported by **Mrs King**, who is managing the provision for children with medical needs as well as providing support for children and families.

Senior leadership team

Mrs Woolley – Headteacher and DSL

Mr Ball – Deputy Headteacher and Deputy DSL

Mrs Makin - Head of KSI and EYFS and Reading Lead.

Mrs Calabria – Inclusion Lead, DSL and SENDCO

Mrs Glover – School Business Manager

If you have any concerns or need to pass on any information to the school, please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher in the first instance or, if appropriate, contact a member of the senior leadership team through the school office.

School uniform

Children can wear summer or winter uniform until October half term. We respectfully ask for the co-operation of parents in supporting our school uniform policy - details can be found here: <https://www.stmarystetbury.com/new-to-us/uniform>

Please could you ensure that all children's clothes are named. Clothes cannot be returned to children if they are not named, including coats. If you are writing your child's name into clothes, please ensure we can read the name! Thank you.

We have a lot of second-hand uniform in school, please ask Mrs Freeman in the school office if you need any items.

School start and finish times, drop offs and pick ups

	Arrive by	Start time	Pick up
EYFS & KSI (Y1&2)	08.40	08.45	15.15
KS2 (Y3-6)	08.45	08.50	15.20

Cherry, Pear, Plum and Holly classes line up on the EYFS & KSI playground at 08.40 and will be welcomed by their class teacher and/or teaching assistant and taken into school. Children will be dismissed through the class external door.

Willow and Beech pupils line up on the first playground and are taken in through the Year 3 entrance. Parents should collect from this playground.

Rowan and Oak pupils line up on the first playground and are taken in through the Year 6 entrance. Parents should collect from this playground.

Ash, Elm and Maple pupils line up on the second playground and are taken in through the Year 4/5 entrance. Parents should collect from this playground.

Any questions about drop off or pick up – please see your child's class teacher.

Only Year 5 and 6 children can be given permission to walk home alone. Please give permission through the Arbor App.

If children are cycling or scootering to school, please ensure that children do not ride their bikes or scooters within the school playground, roundabout or driveway.

Please can I remind all parents not to drive cars in through the school gates between the following hours:

08.30 and 09.00

15.00 and 15.40

Snacks

Please can I remind parents of our commitment to healthy eating. Children in KSI and EYFS are offered a free piece of fresh fruit or vegetables at snack time in the morning. Children in KS2 can bring in their own fruit, dried fruit or vegetables for morning break. Biscuits, crisps, cereal bars, chocolate or nuts are not permitted. Children should only have water in their water bottles. They are encouraged to drink from their water bottles throughout the day.

Class newsletter and curriculum information

The teachers will be sending out links to class newsletters, homework and curriculum information which will be on the school website by the end of next week. Please do have a look at this important information so you know about class routines, curriculum content and expectations for homework.

Attendance

We are committed to helping every child reach their full potential. One of the most important ways you can support your child's future success is to ensure that they attend school regularly and on time. Consistent attendance builds strong academic skills, supports positive social connections, and helps children develop lifelong habits of responsibility. Even a few absences can make it difficult for pupils to keep up with lessons, complete assignments, and fully engage with their friends. Mrs Calabria will be sending out further communication about the importance of attendance.

Key dates 2025 – 2026

Week	Date	Event
4	22-26 Sept	Y6 Morfa Bay Residential
6	9 Oct	Open Morning for prospective parents 9-11.30
8	21 Oct	Parents' evening 3.30 – 6pm
	23 Oct	Parents' evening 4 – 7pm
	23 Oct	Open morning for prospective parents 9-11.30
	24 Oct	Flu immunisations
HALF TERM		
1	3 Nov	INSET day
2	12 Nov	Y5 Space Day at Westonbirt (18 pupils)
	14 Nov	Children in Need
6	8 Dec	Y1/2 play dress rehearsal 2pm
	9 Dec	Y1/2 play to parents 2pm
	10 Dec	Y1/2 play to parents 5pm
7	15 Dec	YR nativity dress rehearsal 2pm
	16 Dec	YR nativity to parents 2pm
	17 Dec	YR nativity to parents 5pm
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS		
HALF TERM		
1	23 Feb	DGAT INSET day
2	5 March	World Book Day
5	24 March	Parents' evening 3.30 – 6pm
	26 March	Parents' evening 4 – 7pm
EASTER HOLIDAYS		

5	11 – 14 May	Y6 SATS week
HALF TERM		
1	Between 1-12 June	Y4 Multiplication Tables check
2	08 June 10 June 11 June	Phonics screening check Y1 (all week) New Reception Parents' evening 5pm Y6 Leavers' Service at Gloucester Cathedral
4	23 June 24 June	KS1 & EYFS sports (am) KS2 sports (pm)
5	29 June 30 June 1 July	Y6 play dress rehearsal (to school and invited guests) Y6 play to parents (2pm) Y6 play to parents (5.30pm)
6	9 July 10 July	Year 2 Camp
7	15 July 17 July	Y6 BBQ (6-8pm) Leavers' Service – End of Year

Please note that dates may be subject to change throughout the year.

We value the strong partnership between home and school. Your support in encouraging good attendance, fostering a love of reading, and maintaining open communication with teachers makes a significant difference in your child's success.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We look forward to a year filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions—we are here to help.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Woolley

Headteacher