

February Newsletter

'Walking and Learning with faith in the footsteps of Jesus'

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The first-half of the Spring term is quickly coming to an end and next week is February half-term. Hopefully, the second-half of the spring term will see an improvement in the weather –as we have had lots of wet break times and lunchtimes.

On Friday 13th February, the school carried out an 'Express Yourself' day where children and staff could dress to express themselves. This was done as part of Children's Mental Health Week. Lots of children really engaged with the idea; along side lots of footballers and superheroes, there were princesses, rockstars and even a shark! Following half-term, many of us in the school community will be joining in with other local schools to fund-raise for Motor Neurone Disease. Please look out for the information when it is shared.



Please can I remind everyone to avoid taking holidays during term time. As you may well remember, the rules about term time holidays changed in August 2024. **First offence:** £80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days **Second offence (within three years):** £160 per parent per child, payable within 28 days **Third offence (within three years):** Prosecution instead of another automatic fine. Holidays are rarely authorised and have a huge impact on learning and overall school attendance.

Message from the new Chair of Governors Mrs Higgin:

Hello Parents, Carers and friends of the school, I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. My name is Jean Higgin; I have been a member of the governing body since January 2018 with a special interest in our lovely SEND children. I am a Foundation Governor, representing the local churches, St Marks and St Peter's, where I am churchwarden. I am passionate about ensuring our children have the best experience in our school and visit most Tuesday afternoons with my husband Tom (also a governor) to hold a toast and talk session with the children in Reception.

Getting to know the Reception children allows me to follow their progress through school which is very rewarding.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Rigg, the previous chair of governors, who has been a very encouraging mentor during my time as a governor. This help and encouragement has given me the confidence to take on the position of chair. If you see me round school, please say hello.

Finally, at the end of the this half-term we are saying farewell to Mrs Willshaw. Mrs Willshaw has worked throughout the school for many helping many pupils and families. We wish her success for the future.

Collective Worship

The theme for this half-term is:

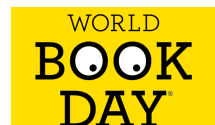
The People Jesus Meets

We will look at the many people that Jesus met during his time on earth. We have learnt the story of Zacchaeus as well as the story of Nathaniel.



Parents Evening

Parents evenings are taking place on Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March.



World book day

World book day this year is on Thursday 5th March. and to mark this we are asking children to come to school dressed as a favourite character from a book.

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Attendance Update – February 2026
Attendance Update February 2026



As we end the first half of the Spring term, our whole school percentage sits at 93.8%. This is significantly lower than where we need to be. Across the school our attendance varies and whilst we don't often celebrate collective attendance, we did want to congratulate Class 3 and Class 6 for being the top classes for attendance and Year 4 for being the top attending year group.

Over the next half term, we will be sharing with you some exciting news about the new ways in school that we will be celebrating and rewarding attendance.

Below is some advice of how to support your child to achieve good attendance in school, which in turn ensures that they achieve their full potential –

Attendance Tips:

Establish a good morning routine to support your child to arrive at school on time and ready for their day. Talk openly with your child about the importance of attending school regularly – speak about the social aspects as well as learning and their hopes for the future. Remember, we have a pastoral team to support children with concerns.

Monitor your child's health and address any concerns promptly to minimise absences due to illness. Also, remember that we all feel at our worse when we first wake up and encourage your child to begin to ready.

Holidays in term time will **not** be authorised. These have a huge impact on your child's attendance for the full year, especially when taken in the first term.

Try to make medical appointments outside of the school day whenever possible to minimise disruption to your child's learning. This includes avoiding early collections for sibling and adult appointments where children be collected from school before the end of the school day.

Upcoming dates at school

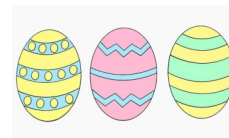
Monday 23rd –Friday 27th February: Half-term week

Thursday 5th March World Book day

Tuesday 17th March and Wednesday 18th March Parents Evenings

1st April Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St Marks Church

DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER EGG RAFFLE ARE VERY WARMLY WELCOME



YEAR 6 SATS WEEK 2026 –ALL YEAR SIX PUPILS

- **Monday, May 11:** English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (Paper 1 & 2)
- **Tuesday, May 12:** English Reading (Paper 1)
- **Wednesday, May 13:** Mathematics (Paper 1: Arithmetic & Paper 2: Reasoning)
- **Thursday, May 14:** Mathematics (Paper 3: Reasoning)

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

January Newsletter

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Terms Dates 2025/26 and 2026/27

Spring term 2026

The Spring term is: Tuesday January 6th 2026 to Thursday 2nd April 2026

Half-term is: Monday 23rd February 2026 to Friday 27th February 2026

Easter holiday is: Friday 3rd April 2026 to Friday 17th April 2026

Summer term 2026 Monday 20th April 2026 to Friday 17th July 2026

Mayday is **MONDAY 4th May 2026**

Half-term is: Monday 25th May 2026 to Friday 29th May 2026

Summer holiday 2026 is Monday 20th July 2026 to Wednesday 2nd September

Autumn term 2026

The Autumn term is Thursday 3rd September to Friday 18th December

Half-term is: Friday 23rd October to Friday 30th October (**PLEASE NOTE FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER IS A TRAINING DAY**)

Christmas holidays are: Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January 2027 (**PLEASE NOTE MONDAY 4th JANUARY IS A TRAINING DAY**)

Spring term 2027

The Spring term is: Tuesday 5th January to Thursday March 25th 2027

Half-term is: Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027

Easter holiday is: Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027

Summer term 2027 Monday 12th April to Tuesday 20th July 2027

Half-term is: Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June 2027

Summer holiday 2027 is Wednesday 21st July 2027