St Mary's C of E Junior School Newsletter

Care. Believe. Succeed.

'All things are possible for one who believes.'

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE OF ST ALBANS

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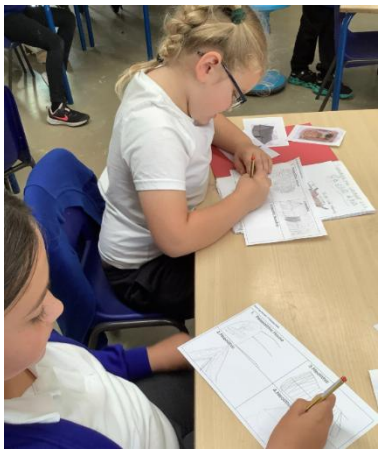
Issue: 73 3rd October 2025

Curriculum & Enrichment

History

Year 3 have been learning about Stone Age houses. They looked at different shelters from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Children also saw some examples of dwellings from Skara Brae.



English

Year 4 children have been sharing the graphic novels they have written with Year 5 children. They received some positive feedback about their writing and what they could do to improve it further.

Year 6 Tag Rugby

Our year 6's had a great time at Tag Rugby on Thursday 2nd October. They said that everyone there showed great sportsmanship. All of them felt they improved a lot too.

Mr Hagland

Parent Consultation dates: NOTE A CHANGE OF DATES

Tuesday 21st October 3.30-5pm

Thurs 23rd October 4.30-7pm.

Booking for these appointments will go live on Arbor on Monday 6th October at 9.00am.

If your child is on the SEND register, you will be invited to attend an SEND parent review meeting with the SENCO and class teacher before the 21st October. You will **not** need to make an appointment for Parent consultations if you attend the SEND meeting.

YEAR 5 SEN Meetings

MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2025

Beech Class- AM (9:00am- 12:00pm)

Poplar Class- PM (13:00pm-15:30pm)

YEAR 4 SEN Meetings

MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 2025

Mulberry Class- AM (9:00am- 12:00pm)

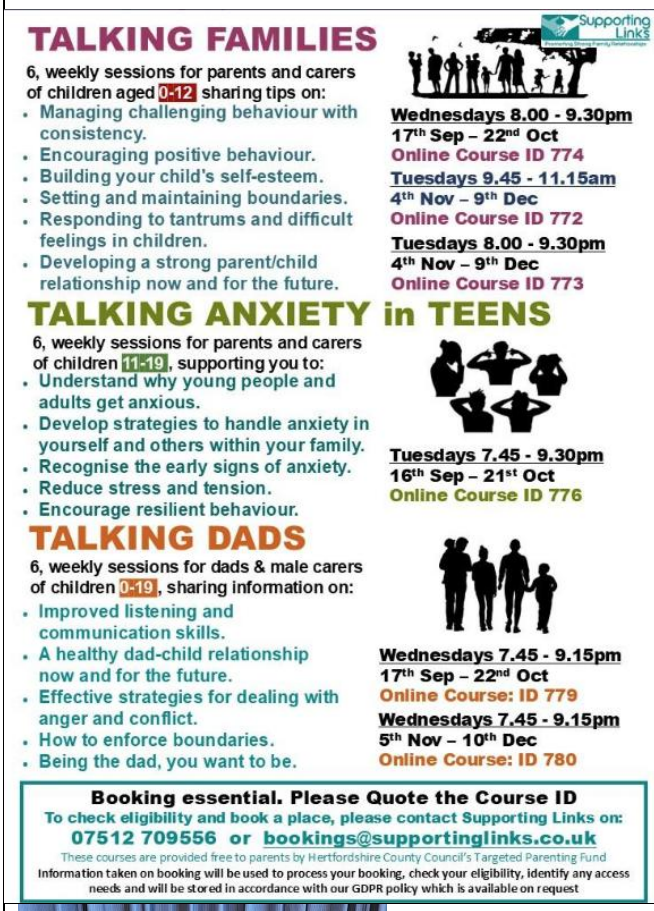
Willow Class- PM (13:00pm-15:30pm)

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone! We raised £156.10 towards this important charity.

SEND Parent Information



FREE Courses & Workshops for Parents hosted by Supporting Links
Autumn 2025

We still have spaces on courses starting after half-term
If you have any problems viewing this email or clicking on the buttons, all of the information and flyers can be found on our website.https://www.supportinglinks.co.uk/whatson.html

These are all funded by Herts County Council so are free for parents to attend.

COURSES

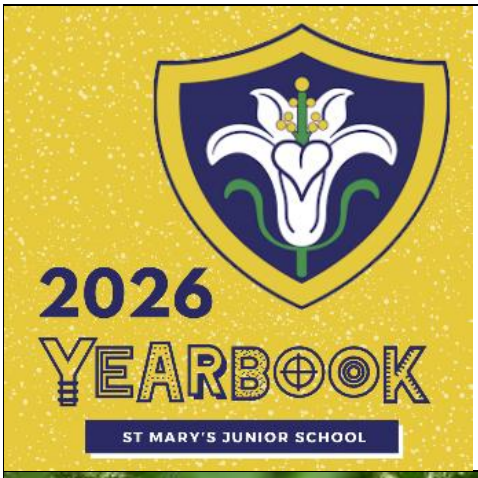
Parents can book by phoning 07512 709556
Or email bookings@supportinglinks.co.uk
Please include your phone number as we cannot book a place without speaking to you.

Harvest Festival

Many thanks for all the donations we received this week for our Harvest Festival. The goods are being greatfully received by the Baldok and Letchworth Food Bank

HOLIDAY FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Holiday Food Voucher Scheme for benefits related Free School Meal Children.
This information was sent to all schools on behalf of Tony Fitzpatrick, Director of Education.
Since December 2020 the Local Authority have issued vouchers to families, funded through various government funding streams. Since October 2021 this has been funded through the Household Support Fund, a Department of Work and Pensions (the 'DWP') cost of living support fund.
In the latest Household Support Fund grant allocation, which runs from April 2025 – March 2026 Hertfordshire County Council along with other local authorities received 12% less funding to distribute to residents across various schemes.
Therefore, funding has been reviewed for all programmes and projects to ensure they continue to support Hertfordshire residents in the most effective way.
With the commencement of Household Support Fund 7 they have had to review the voucher allocated to families. This will result in vouchers now being issued in the main school holiday periods, Christmas and **not** October and February half terms.
Vouchers will now be distributed accordingly.
Christmas 25 - £30 per pupil.
We do understand the impact this will have on families and recommend the 'support with cost-of-living pages' on the county council website.
Kind regards, Helena Law
Pastoral Lead



Year 6 Parents

🎓 Leavers Book – Your Consent is Needed! 💙

As you know, we're putting together a beautiful keepsake to celebrate your child's journey through St Mary's — full of photos, memories, and messages from their classmates.

To feature in the book, I need your consent (there's no obligation to buy a book unless you want to).

If you haven't filled out the form yet, please take a moment to do so today. It only takes a minute, and it means your child won't miss out on being part of this special memento:

https://qrco.de/LeaversBookConsent

🎓 Thank you so much for helping us make it complete 💙

Year 4 Parents

The link to sign your children up for the Cuffley camp residential school trip is now live on Arbor. Please continue to return your forms and log in to pay the deposit by the 31st October 2025.

Attachments with this newsletter

- Thrive Stars Academy Multi-Sports Camp

Autumn Term 2025

Autumn Term: 3rd September 2025 to 19th December 2025

Autumn Half Term: 27th October to 31st October 2025

Occasional Day: 28th November 2025

Autumn Term Ends: 19th December 2025 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Spring Term 2026

INSET DAY: 5th January 2026

Spring Term: 5th January 2026 to 27th March 2026

Spring Half Term: 16th February to 20th February 2026

Easter Term Ends: 27th March 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

Easter Holidays: 30th March to 10th April 2026

Summer Term 2026

INSET DAY: 13th April 2026

Summer Term: 13th April to 23rd July 2026

MAY BANK HOLIDAY: 4th May 2026

Spring Half Term: 25th May to 29th May 2026

INSET DAY: Monday 1st June 2026

Summer Term Ends: 22nd July 2026 ***(Break up at 1.00pm)***

INSET DAY: Thursday 23rd July 2026

Summer Holidays: 23rd July to 3rd September 2026