



Whole School Newsletter

May 2025

Living and Learning through Faith

God whispers. And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything. I don't come to offer you perfect faith. I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs. Pope Leo

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As we begin this new half term together I want to thank you for your ongoing support and the role you play in the life of our wonderful school community.

We are especially blessed to be starting this half term under the leadership of our newly elected Holy Father, Pope Leo. His words and example are already guiding us to walk more closely in the footsteps of Christ—with humility, courage, and compassion. His emphasis on faith in action and care for others resonates deeply with our mission here at St Mary's.



Leo PP. XIV
8 maggio 2025



We look forward to the weeks ahead, filled with learning, prayerful reflection, and a deepened sense of community. Let us continue to support one another as we journey together, inspired by the leadership of our new Pope.

With warmest regards,
Mrs Berry and Mr McGill

School Rules

Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

World Book Day



Our whole school celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 6th March by dressing up as some of our favourite book characters. The day was filled with a love of reading as we shared stories and took part in a variety of reading-themed activities within our classes. One of the highlights was joining up with another class for a special shared story time—it was a wonderful way to connect through books and celebrate our favourite stories together!

We were delighted to welcome author Ellie Irving to our school on Monday 24th March. She led a whole-school assembly where she shared her journey to becoming an author and spoke passionately about her love of writing. Following the assembly, KS2 classes were lucky enough to take part in an hour-long writing workshop with Ellie. The children found it incredibly inspiring, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive—what a fantastic opportunity to learn from a real author!





The Railway Children theatre production was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The performance brought the classic story to life with engaging characters and heartfelt moments that captured everyone's imagination. The cast delivered a fantastic show filled with emotion, humour, and adventure, leaving both children and adults captivated. It was a wonderful cultural experience that sparked lots of conversation afterward.

Latest Parish Newsletter

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

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



Keep an eye out for our wonderful St Mary's Hare, which will be featured on the trail taking place between 21st June and 29th August 2025. We're proud to be part of this exciting event.



A Wild in Art event brought to Suffolk by St Elizabeth Hospice

Sporting News



Year 5 Dodgeball

Some of our Year 5 pupils attended the Dodgeball Festival at Inspire in March. They had an amazing time and showed true sportsmanship as they worked hard to get the opposition out. A big thank you to the parents and friends who supported us during the games and helped with transport. Both the children and I agreed—it's always a joy and a privilege to represent our school.



Year 3 Netball

Year 3 enjoyed a netball skills morning at Ipswich sports centre.



Netball League

Well done to our team for a fantastic effort during the first match back — especially in the freezing cold! Despite a loss against St John's, the girls showed great determination and improved with every quarter. We celebrated our strengths and thoughtfully reflected on areas for growth, showing a mature and positive attitude toward the game we love to play.



Year 4 Dodgeball

Eight children from Year 4 took part in a fantastic dodgeball festival at Inspire Suffolk, where they joined pupils from 15 other schools for a fun-filled morning of games. There was plenty of accurate throwing, skilful dodging, and some amazing catches on display! Well done to all the children who took part, and a big thank you to the parents for your support and help with lifts.



Year 4 Hockey

Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at a hockey skills session hosted by St Joseph's School . The young hockey leaders did a brilliant job teaching us a range of new skills and tactics, making it a fun and valuable experience for everyone.



It was a proud moment in May when St Mary's triumphed over Sidegate in the Netball Cup quarter-finals! The team held strong and defended with determination throughout the match. The children have worked incredibly hard with Mr Hurd and truly believed in themselves. We're now looking ahead with excitement to the semi-final against Morland in June — we can't wait to rise to the challenge!

Year 4, 5 and 6

Dance East workshops



Our children were full of excitement and creativity during our now annual workshop at Dance East. They embraced the opportunity to explore new choreography and worked with dedication to create some truly beautiful dances.





Upcoming Dates

Year 3 Share afternoon (2:30-3:30)	4th June
Y4 Share Afternoon (2.30 – 3.30)	11th June
Y5 Share Afternoon (2.30 – 3.30)	18th June
ArtS week	23rd June
Classroom exhibitions (3:30-4:30)	27th June
KS2 Sports Day—Sidegate Primary School	7th July
KS1 Sports Day	15th July
End of Term Celebration of the Word in Church @ 9am	22nd July

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Tuesday 22nd July

Half term: 26th May – 30th May

Term Dates for 2025 – 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1st September – Friday 19th December

Half Term: 27th October – 31st October

Staff Training Day: 1st September, 2nd September, 3rd November

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January – Friday 27th March

Half term: 16th February – 20th February

Staff Training Day: 5th January

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April – Monday 20th July

Bank Holiday: 4th May

Half Term: 25th May – 29th May

Staff Training Day: 20th July