



`Living and Learning through Faith`



**Whole School
Newsletter**

April 2026

Living and Learning through Faith

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you
This verse highlights the importance of fostering kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness, directly linking human forgiveness to the grace received from God through Jesus Christ .

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reached the end of a full and fruitful Spring Term, I am reminded once again of the many blessings within our school community. This last term was rich with learning, service and moments of joy from the quiet acts of kindness shown in classrooms to the collective celebrations that brought us together as a community of faith. Our pupils have continued to grow not only academically but also in confidence, compassion and curiosity, living out our Gospel values in all they do.

The Lenten season has offered us opportunities for reflection, prayer and charity. We have been deeply moved by the generosity shown across the school, whether through fundraising, supporting one another, or taking time to reflect on what it means to walk with Christ. These small but meaningful acts truly demonstrate the heart of our Catholic mission.

As we look ahead to the Summer Term, there is much to be hopeful and excited about. This is a time when children often make remarkable leaps in their learning, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to flourish. We also have a wonderful programme of events planned, from sports, trips and performances to celebrations that mark key moments in our pupils' journeys. Above all, we remain committed to ensuring that every child feels known, loved and cherished.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. we look forward to all that this coming term will bring for our pupils, families and staff.

Warm regards,

Mrs Berry, Mrs Measham and Mr McGill

Be Ready, Be respectful, Be Safe



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Each year, our Year Six pupils take on the special responsibility of leading the whole school community through the Stations of the Cross, helping us to reflect on the final journey of Jesus during Holy Week.

With reverence and maturity, the children guide each class through the stations, sharing Scripture, prayers, and thoughtful reflections.. Their leadership supports younger pupils in understanding the significance of Christ's sacrifice .

This tradition is an important part of our Catholic identity, offering the children a moment to deepen their faith while serving others. We are incredibly proud of the compassion, respect, and spiritual awareness they show as they help our school prepare for the joy of Easter.



On 4th February, our Mini Vinnies team visited St Alban's School to meet with their St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). A group of 12 children from Year 1 to Year 6 were warmly welcomed by the school chaplain before being taken into the chapel, where they joined the secondary pupils in celebrating Mass. During the homily, they reflected on the life of St Vincent and how his example continues to inspire us to show compassion and care for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Following Mass, our Mini Vinnies shared the charitable work they have undertaken so far this year, before hearing from St Alban's SVP about their own initiatives. The children were fascinated by the wide range of fundraising activities and asked many thoughtful questions. They were especially inspired to hear about the group's visit to the Vatican to meet the Pope.

Our Mini Vinnies left St Alban's feeling inspired and motivated to continue their own charitable mission, full of new ideas and enthusiasm for the months ahead.



First Holy Communion 2025-2026



Dear Lord,
As I prepare to receive You in
Holy Communion,
Fill my heart with love for You.
Help me to understand that
You are truly present in the
bread and wine.
Make me a good child, kind
and gentle.
Help me to love my neighbour
as myself.

Amen.



Latest Parish Newsletter

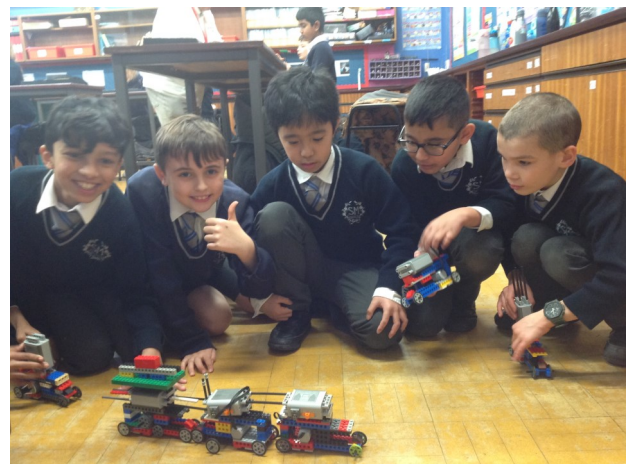
To read the newsletter for our parish church of St Mary's, please visit:

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



Year 4 had a fantastic visit to Woodbridge School, where they took part in an engaging Lego-themed workshop. Their challenge was to build a motorised car, carefully following visual instructions and developing their problem-solving skills by checking back through each step to identify and correct any errors. The children thoroughly enjoyed testing their finished creations and seeing their hard work come to life.

A big thank you to all the staff for making us feel so welcome. Well done to Year 4 for their impeccable behaviour and for being such wonderful ambassadors for St Mary's!





Sporting News



Year 6 had a fantastic opportunity in March when they visited DanceEast to enjoy a free performance of *The Buldy Uppy Dance Show*. The interactive production captivated the children, who were amazed by the creativity on display, two dancers and a collection of cardboard boxes were transformed into something truly entertaining and imaginative. As always, Year 6 were a wonderful audience, demonstrating just how receptive, respectful and open-minded they are when experiencing the arts.

Our Year 5 pupils recently took part in a bowling event and represented the school brilliantly. The children had a fantastic time and demonstrated excellent patience and teamwork throughout.

Despite two of our lanes breaking down, meaning the team had to complete the game on a single lane, they still achieved an impressive 3rd place out of 20 schools. Their positivity and resilience were a real credit to St Mary's, and we are incredibly proud of them.



St Mary's had a tough game against Morland in February, where we lost 7-4, but I was very proud of the team's perseverance and the excellent work shown in the Centre.

Our Year 4 and Year 5 footballers took part in the Under-10s 4v4 festival today. It was a fantastic event, and all pupils represented the school brilliantly. There was excellent teamwork on display throughout, and everyone involved had a great day.





Travel to St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Start of school day: 08:30-08:45

End of school day: 15:25-15:35

Please do not park on the yellow zig zag lines and please use car parks respectfully.

We want to encourage all families to walk, cycle and scoot to school where possible. But if you need to drive, we ask you try and park 5 minutes away from the school.



walkingandcycling@suffolk.gov.uk

thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk

facebook.com/TWTGSuffolk

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Active Travel

The Way to Go team are encouraging everybody in Suffolk to travel in a more active and sustainable way – and this includes the journey to school!

What do we mean by active travel?



Walking



Cycling



Wheeling

There are so many benefits to walking, cycling or wheeling to school. Fewer vehicles on the road mean a lower level of emissions and less congestion making the roads safer and healthier for everybody.

Morning exercise can help support brain power and performance in class. Plus physical activity has been linked to a reduced risk of experiencing anxiety and better learning outcomes for our children.

Rather than drive your child to school, could you consider walking, cycling or wheeling? Maybe starting once a week and then working up to walking, cycling or wheeling more frequently?



Cycling and wheeling

There are lots of benefits of cycling or wheeling to school!

- It unlocks freedom and independence
- It empowers children to not just cycle to school but everywhere - the park, the shops, to see friends
- It helps maintain mental wellbeing as well as keeping children physically fit
- It's FUN

Safe Cycling Tips

- Wear a cycle helmet
- Lock your bike – don't lose it
- Use cycle lights

Why not ask your school whether they offer Bikeability cycling training?

Bikeability is a course designed to give children the skills and confidence to cycle on the road.



The Way to Go Team

Families who are looking to cycle more frequently and want a refresh of their cycling skills can book a family cycling session.

If you're interested get in touch directly by emailing walkingandcycling@suffolk.gov.uk

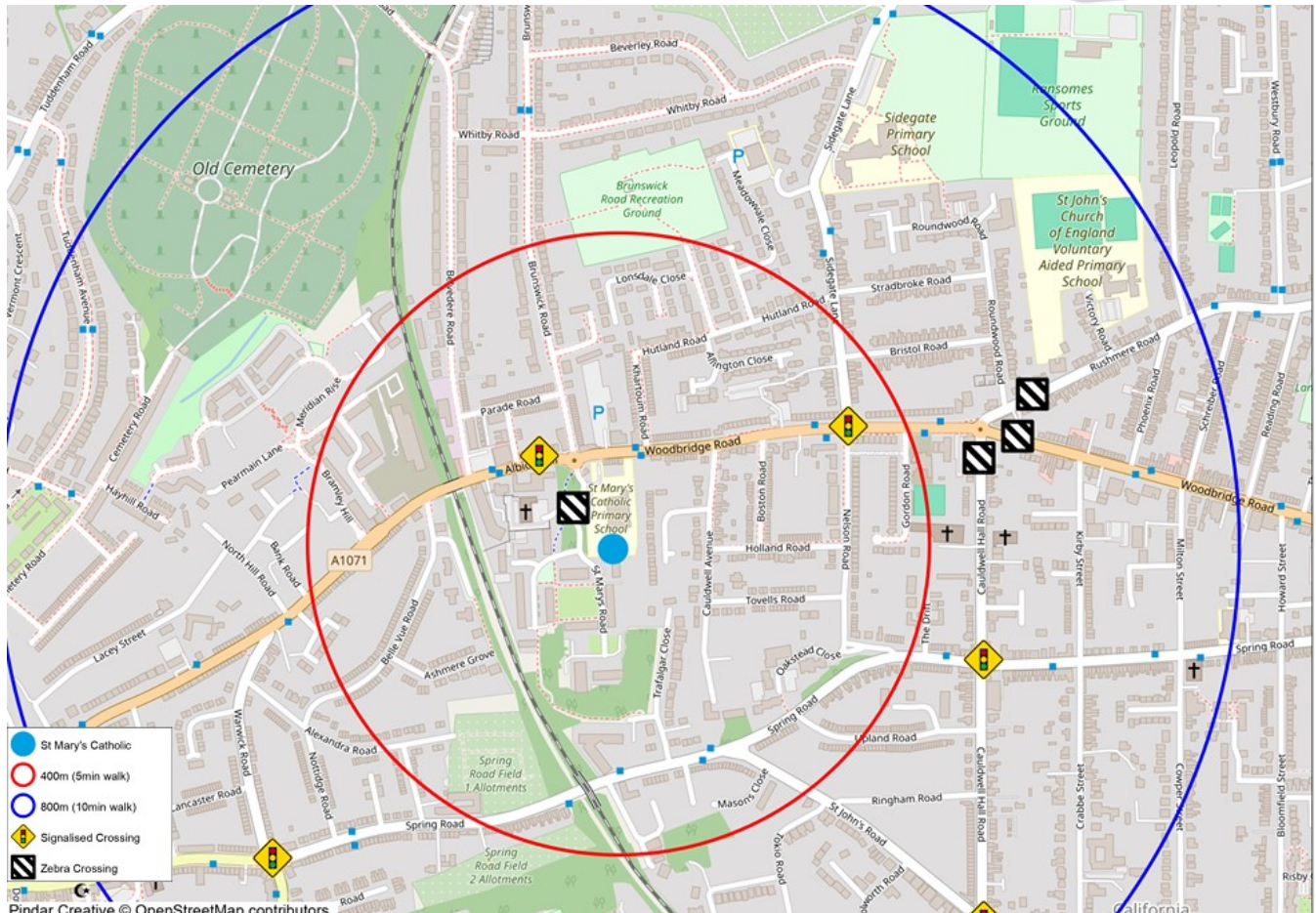
The Way to Go team can also arrange Dr Bike sessions. This is when our bike mechanics will carry out safety checks to ensure that bikes are road-worthy.

Ask the school if this is available and if not, they can get in touch with us to organise it. Email walkingandcycling@suffolk.gov.uk

Park and walk

Why not try

- ① Being dropped off a few minutes away from the school
- ② Use the map overleaf to identify somewhere at least five or even ten minutes from the school, then walk the rest of your journey. Get some exercise on the way!
- ③ There will be less congestion around the school making it safer and healthier for everyone
- ④ If you have to drive, have you considered car-sharing? You could save money and reduce your carbon footprint by sharing the car journey with another family





Upcoming Dates

Children return to school	13th April
Reception Share afternoon	20th April 2:30-3:30pm
Parish Mass Year 5 and 6	16th April at 9:15am
Beginning of Term Mass	23rd April at 9am
Parish Mass Year 3 and 4	30th April at 9:15am
Parish Mass Year R, 1 and 2	7th May at 9:15am
Year 1 Share afternoon	18th May 2:30-3:30pm
Class Photos	20th May
Year 2 Share afternoon	21st May 2:30-3:30pm
Celebration Assembly—Feast Day St Mary	22nd May
-	R,1,2,3 at 9am
-	4,5,6 at 3pm
Half term	25th May—29th May
Parish Mass Year R, 1 and 2	11th June at 9:15am
Year 3 Share afternoon	15th June 2:30-3:30pm
Year 6 residential	17—19th June
Parish Mass Year 3 and 4	18th June at 9:15am
Year 4 Share afternoon	22nd June 2:30-3:30
Year 5 Share afternoon	23rd June 2:30-3:30
Parish Mass Year 5 and 6	25th June at 9:15am
Culture week	29th June
Music concert	2nd July
Open evening	3rd July
Transition morning	8th July
Sports Day KS2	9th July
Sports Day Year R,1 and 2	10th July
Year 6 performance	14th July 2pm
-	15th July 9am
End of term Mass	17th July at 9am
Last day of term	17th July