

Friday 27th February 2026

Newsletter

Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Friends,



St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School
 Leigh Street, Coventry CV1 5HG
 Telephone: (024) 7622 9486
 Email: admin@stmary-stben.coventry.sch.uk
 Website: www.stmary-stben.coventry.sch.uk
 Text: 0750768022

First Holy Communion 2026

Preparation Programme
 Mass - Sunday 1st March 9.30am

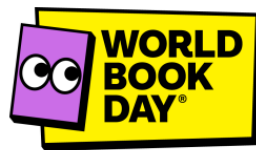


World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

WORLD BOOK DAY
 5 MARCH 2026

Dress up as your favourite book character or wear your pyjamas to school to celebrate our love of reading on World Book Day next week - **Thursday 5th March!**



Our Lenten Retreat Day

Thank you Dan and Emily!



Online Safety Newsletter March 2026
 Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube Safety
 YouTube have published their latest updates on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts—their videos can be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screen time. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and take a break reminders. You can find out more here:
<https://www.youtube.com/parentsandfamilies/updates/youtube-safety-controls>

Mobile phones: do you know the risks?
 We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:
 • Viewing inappropriate content
 • Excessive screen time use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep patterns.
 • Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
 • Cyberbullying
 • Spending money on in-app purchases/games

What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?
 Companies discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:
<https://www.nhs.uk/longman/longman-childrens-mental-health/cases/cases/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-people-mental-health/>

EE Online Safety Hub
 EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:
<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphones Free Childhood?
 The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced for a set time or until a specific age).
<https://www.smartphonesfreechildhood.org/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language?
 You can use the handy tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowledge.co.uk/march-2026/>

What device?
 When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'which?' provides an overview of some options available:
<https://www.which.co.uk/news/mobile-phones/article/finding-the-right-mobile-phones-best-deals-phones-and-applications-for-kids-44931318a1e>



This month's Online Safety Newsletter is on our website, with lots of information to help you to keep your child safe online.

After School Clubs

- Breakfast Club: 7.45am - 8.45am £2 including breakfast
- Staylate: 3 - 5.30pm £5 including a snack



After School Clubs are from 3-4pm, cost £2 per session (unless indicated otherwise) and must be booked and paid for in advance (before 12pm on the day please).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
- Activities - Cookery - Y6 Maths IT - Boys' Football (Y5/6)	- Activities - Multi-sports (Y1/2) - Martial Arts (KS2) - Netball (KS2)	- Activities - Computers - Basketball/multi sports (Y2+) - Girls' Football (Y5/6) - Eritrean Club 4.15pm—5.30pm AC Academy	- Activities - Boys' Football KS2 - Musical Theatre - Mini Vinnies	- Activities - Hockey (Y5/6) - Gymnastics / acro dance

Is your child 3 by 31st August? Apply for Nursery for September!

We are accepting applications for our Nursery Class for September 2026. Children must be three by August 31st 2026, and we have part-time and full-time places available in our teacher-led provision, including government 30 hour funded places for eligible families. Application packs are available from the School Office, and the closing date is 23rd March



This month, we are trying to be caring in our words and actions.



Looking forward...

Sunday 1st March	9.30am School Mass for FHC Preparation
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day - dress up as a book character or wear your PJs! Football v SJV (A)
Monday 9th March	KS2 Mass - School Hall
Tuesday 10th March	KSI visit to the Transport Museum



Have a lovely weekend,

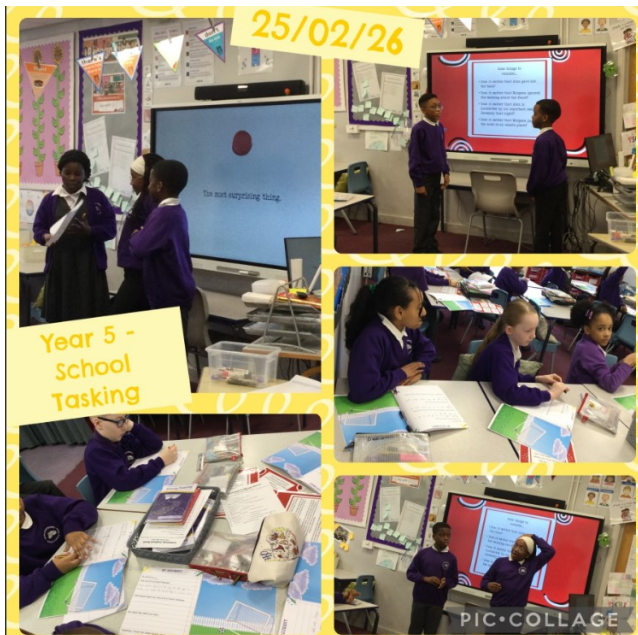
Pauline MacDonald
Head Teacher

Well done to this week's Star Readers, who enjoyed their hot chocolate and cookies with a story treat!



Nursery began the Brilliant Brushes scheme and did a fantastic job brushing our teeth for 2 whole minutes! We're using the Toothbrush Song by Danny Go! to help us keep brushing for the full two minutes. Parents can join in at home here: <https://www.youtube.com/results?>

Another busy week at SMSB!



Our Nursery children are walking in Jesus' footsteps during Lent.