

Friday 9th January 2026

Newsletter



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Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year, as **Together, with Christ, Everyone Achieves More!** We have had a lovely start this week with the celebration of Mass on Tuesday for the feast of the Epiphany, and our launch for the Year of Reading. At this time of year, when we are all thinking about new starts, we encourage all of our children to think about all of our values and to show them in their daily lives; the very best gift we can give to God and all of our family and friends. We hope for another successful term, with all of our pupils achieving **green** to be **good to go!** 😊

We are delighted at St Mary & St Benedict to celebrate the Year of Reading! Reading strengthens vocabulary, comprehension and confidence, helping all children thrive as learners, and is great fun! We want all of our children to become fluent life-long readers.

Attitude to Learning	Green (best chance of future success) 🟢
Attendance	Attendance 97% or above
Punctuality	Never late (1 exceptional circumstances allowed)
Behaviour and Effort	Consistently good effort, self-motivated, resilient, tasks completed. Always ready, respectful and safe!
Homework	Homework always completed and returned on time
Reading at home	Reads daily at home (at least 3 times a week with an adult), and diary is completed and signed
Uniform	Uniform always adheres to policy, including jewellery, shoes and PE kit.



This half term our pupils are learning to be **curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.



Contact Information
 If Santa brought you a new phone or you have moved house could you please make sure that you inform the Office of all changes in contact details. It is very important that we have emergency contact information for each child. Thank you.



Parents of Year 6 Pupils
 National testing for Year 6 pupils will take place in May. We want your child to be ready to do their best, and are giving lots of extra support in school. The next few months are very important for your child's future: please try to ensure excellent attendance and punctuality, make sure that your child completes all homework, and, of extreme importance, **reads every day** at home for at least thirty minutes.
 Year 6 parents are invited to a meeting at 2.30pm on **Monday 12th January** to hear more about how you can support your child, and also about their forthcoming trip to Dol y Moch if your child is attending.

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

This month, we are remembering to be thoughtful.

Acts of thoughtfulness can change the world. 🌍

Spring Term PE Days

Pupils wear their PE kit to school on PE days - black shorts/ joggers, white polo shirt and school jumper. Please supply a change of trainers (old ones) for tag rugby sessions as it can be muddy on the field!

Year 1/2	Monday: Mrs Collins' and Miss Doherty's Classes Tuesday: Mr Leybourne's
Year 3/4	Wednesdays (Year 4 also need to bring their swimming kit)
Year 5/6	Tuesday and Friday

PE KIT REMINDER



Looking forward...

Monday 12th January	2.30pm SATS and Dol y Moch Meeting for Year 6 Parents - School Hall
Tuesday 13th January	9am Parent Workshop resumes - Positive Family Foundations
Friday 16th January	XP begins - the Alternative Experience for pupils in Y5/6 <i>Please see letter for details</i> Year 6 Group depart for visit to Dol y Moch Outdoor Activity Centre in North Wales for a four night stay

Have a lovely weekend!

Pauline MacDonald
Head Teacher

Today in nursery we celebrated Epiphany 🌟👑

We created crowns just like the Kings, talked about the Magi, and explored new vocabulary through creative play.

#Epiphany #Creative #Kings #Magi #Star #BabyJesus #Vocabulary #PlayingIsLearning



Nursery children used a range of resources to create beautiful snow collage pictures today ❄️ Exploring winter textures and building new vocabulary through creative play.

#Creative #Winter #Snow #Vocabulary #PlayingIsLearning

A busy first week at SMSB!



6.1.2026
We came together, as a school, in church to celebrate The Feast of The Epiphany.

Nursery have been busy creating New Year Resolution stars 🌟 "Help mummy," "kind hands," "pray to Jesus," and "try my best" were just some of their thoughtful resolutions 🧡

#Creative #HappyNewYear2026 #PlayingIsLearning



**Please
Keep To The
Paths**

Keep up by following
@StMaryStBen on Twitter!