



Friday 23rd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share some very positive news with you. At the end of last week, we underwent a review by the Local Authority. Prior to this review, the Local Authority had identified St Mary's as a Priority 1 school, meaning that the school was receiving the highest level of support and monitoring. Following a highly successful review, we are extremely pleased to report that the school has now been moved to Priority 2 status:

"This reflects the strong progress made since the previous review and the confidence the Local Authority has in school leaders' capacity to sustain the current pace of improvement and secure further positive outcomes for pupils."

This is a significant achievement and reflects the progress that has been made across the school in a remarkably short space of time. The review recognised the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by our staff and pupils:

"Leaders have rapidly established a culture of high expectations, underpinned by effective professional development, coaching and a relentless focus on improving outcomes for all pupils."

We were also pleased to see that the implementation of the Little Wandle programme across the school was identified as a key strength during the review:

"Leaders have implemented Little Wandle effectively and it is already having a positive impact on teaching and learning. Consistent routines and high-quality delivery ensure that pupils receive a very strong start to their reading journey."

We look forward to sharing more information about the impact of the programme after half term.

In addition, the review recognised inclusion as an important strength of the school. Inspectors highlighted the effectiveness of our universal offer, noting that:

"Leaders promote a strong universal offer and high-quality teaching that enables vulnerable pupils to access learning successfully alongside their peers."

While we are proud of these early achievements, this is only the beginning of our journey. We remain ambitious and will continue working tirelessly to ensure every child receives the very best education and opportunities. One example of this commitment is that, over the half-term break, all classrooms will be fitted with larger screens to ensure we maximise the learning experiences.

Sporting Success!

Another area of school improvement we want to celebrate is in competitive sport. On Saturday 17th October, some of our Year 4, 5 and 6 children took part in the South Gloucestershire Cross Country Trials, at Yate Academy. 38 different schools were represented with the aim of the event to select the County team for future South West and National events.





We did exceptionally well! We had 7 children with top 10 finishes and that means we will have more athletes than any other school represent Team South Gloucestershire at the Inter-Area Championships in November. This is a fantastic achievement and shows the level of talent we have here at St Mary's.

In addition to this, on Tuesday 20th October, we played our first football tournament in a very long time. The weather was awful, but dressed in our new kit, we looked confident going into the first match. After going 1-0 down, we recovered to beat Shield Road, 4-1. In our second game we came up against an outstanding goalkeeper. However with determination and perseverance, we won 2-0 against North Road. In our final game, we played exceptionally well defeating Alexander Hosea 4-0.

With 3 wins out of 3, we have qualified for the South Gloucestershire Finals and the opportunity to represent the County in the National competition. What was most pleasing to see, was the teamwork and sportsmanship shown by the children throughout.

We would like to thank our staff, pupils, governors and families for their continued support. Together, we are making a real difference for the children of St Mary's, and we look forward to continuing this journey of improvement and success. We hope you have a wonderful half-term and look forward to seeing you in November, ready for Term 2.

Kind regards,

The St Mary's Team.

