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Big News from Little People

July 2024



Dear parents,

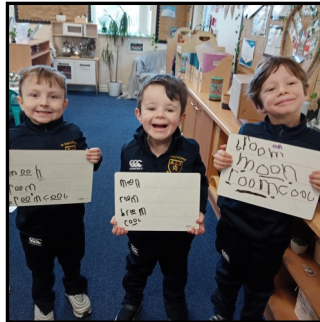
As we race towards the end of another academic year, it has been a real joy to see the children receiving awards at the Bright Sparks, Infant and Junior Prize Givings. I have made the point a few times recently that, the reason a majority of people go into education is to see the happiness in children when they achieve - and it does not matter in what area this is, be it in the class or outside. We have certainly seen an abundance of this in the last few weeks! I do hope you all have a wonderful Summer Break.

Mr Jonathan Webster, Headmaster

Reading

Reading is arguably the single most important part of a child's development.

Here we can see our children developing that love of reading and then applying what they know to their work... and even some impromptu graffiti on the playground!



Numeracy/Mathematics

The children take their arithmetic outdoors.

Our Reception class have been working on their written subtraction skills and, as you can see below, they are taking the chance to use those skills on anything they can find... even pine cones outside!



Early Reading Meeting

including a Q and A session on children starting school...and what parents need to know.

We will be holding our 'Early Reading' Meeting on **Tuesday, 12th November at 6pm** at The Prep School and all parents are invited, irrespective of where their child might be attending school. This informative evening provides parents (of pupils due to start school in September 2025) with advice and the theory behind how children learn to read. The meeting gives parents a chance to see how what happens in school can link with home. We will also hold a Q and A session to help parents get ready for their child starting school in 2025.

Places can be booked by clicking on the link <https://forms.office.com/e/2TDHNV3PrA>

'Stay and Play' Invitation

A wonderful opportunity for parents or grandparents and children to visit the Prep School together, without any obligation. The invitation is for children who are due to start school in September 2025. Please feel free to attend any of the dates below and enjoy a fun-filled play session together.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Saturday, 14th September | 9am to 11am |
| Wednesday, 18th September | 9am to 10am |
| Saturday, 19th October | 9am to 11am |
| Wednesday, 23rd October | 9am to 10am |

Places can be booked by clicking on the link

<https://forms.office.com/e/3aM3qE0fPX>

Open Events

You are also warmly invited to our forthcoming open events on the dates below. These events give parents the opportunity to view the school and be given a guided tour by our Year 6 pupils. Any queries or questions you have can be directed to our pupils or to any member of staff, including the Deputy Headteacher and Headmaster, all who are on hand.

Open Evening

Thursday, 19th September, from 4pm to 7pm

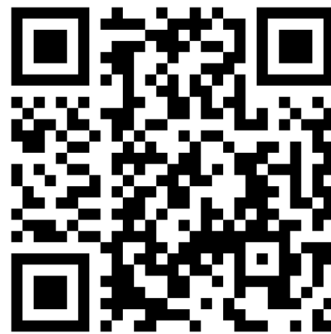
Open Morning

Saturday, 21st September, from 10am to 12pm

Bookings are not necessary for Open events.

**Primary School Applications for September 2025
need to be submitted by 15th January 2025.**

Infant Prize Giving



Please take a look at our recent Sports Day, which includes every pupil from Reception Class to Year 6, by scanning the QR code.

Big News from Big People



We are immensely proud of former St. Mary's pupil George Clarke, who recently made his feature film acting debut alongside Sir Anthony Hopkins in the critically acclaimed film 'Freud's Last Session' which is currently showing at selected cinemas around the UK and internationally. George started his St Mary's education at

Bright Sparks, attending the Prep School and onto St Mary's College, completing his A levels in 2018. George starred in a number of successful school productions whilst at St. Mary's, including Electra and West Side Story, and had this to say about his latest role, "It's hard to sum up a filming experience with such legends, especially for my first role, but if it came down to one word it would be incredible. I am really grateful for this opportunity so early on in my career. I owe it all to St. Mary's."

