

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Within the school system there are many terms and abbreviations with which you may not be familiar. We have listed below some of the most common to try and help clarify things.

DFE	Department for Education
Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)	The phase of learning in the reception class (YEAR R)
ICT	Information Communication Technology
INSET	In-Service Education and Training of Teachers
Key Stage 1 (KS1)	The phase of learning in the infant class (YEAR 1 and YEAR 2)
Key Stage 2 (KS2)	The phase of learning in the junior classes (YEAR 3,4,5 and 6)
LA	Local Authority
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education. The agency set up by the Government to administer school inspections
PACT	Parent and Child + Teacher
PPA	Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (teachers)
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
PTA	Parent Teachers Association
SATS	Standard Assessment Tasks
SEN	Special Educational Needs

INSET Days

As part of the staff's continuing professional development, there are 5 INSET (In-Service Education and Training) days each year. On these days the school is closed to pupils. Advance notification is given to parents in the termly calendar, the weekly newsletter or other communication.

The PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

As soon as your child starts at St Mary's, as the child's parents or guardians, you automatically become a member of the PTA.

The PTA meets half termly at school to plan ways in which the school can be supported and to hear about developments from the Headteacher and staff. It organises a wide range of social and fundraising activities throughout the school year and helps to fund projects in school ranging from purchasing library books and subsidising activities to raising funds for specialist outdoor play equipment. All parents and guardians are welcome. Details of meeting dates and times will be sent out with the weekly newsletter.

Each year group has a parent PTA representative from whom further information regarding the work of the PTA can be sourced. A list of PTA representatives is on the notice board outside the school office.