

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Friday 3rd February 2023

Message from the council: Supermarket School Holiday Food Vouchers

The government has provided the council with funding via the Household Support Fund for the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. We have already used part of it to issue Holiday Food Vouchers for October half-term and Christmas 2022 to those in receipt of income-based Free School Meals, the Pupil Premium, Service Pupil Premium, Talking Two's and Early Years Pupil Premium.

We will soon be using another part of this funding to provide a further round of vouchers to the same pupil groups for the following school holidays:

- £15 per pupil for the week of the February 2023 half-term holiday. We are planning on issuing these either on or soon after Friday 10 February 2023.
- £15 per pupil per week for the two weeks of the Easter 2023 holiday (making a total of £30 for each of them). Like we did last year, **these will be combined with the February half-term vouchers**, so we are also planning to issue them either on or soon after Friday 10 February 2023.

We will continue to send vouchers out directly by email to all parents / carers we hold an email address for.



Our communication to parents will include contact details for if they experience any problems with the voucher, plus a link to a [Frequently Asked Questions web page](#). In the unlikely event that a parent contacts the school with a query regarding vouchers they have not received, please direct them to winterfunding.grant@telford.gov.uk. If the query instead relates to problems downloading or spending the voucher, please refer parents to our voucher provider Select Essentials. They can be contacted on 0800 587 2294 or by completing a form online: [How to apply](#).

There are a small number of families that require assistance obtaining their vouchers or who do not have an email address. These will again be distributed to schools, and this will take place around Tuesday 14 February 2023 for the February half-term and Easter 2023 voucher round. Please forward these to the parents of the child each has been allocated to. This will help us track who has received them in the event of queries.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support with providing us your data and distributing these vouchers.

The current funding we have been given ends on 31 March 2023, so at this stage we don't know if vouchers will be provided for any holidays beyond Easter 2023.

For more details on how we are distributing the Household Support Fund, including details of our application process for those experiencing severe financial difficulties, please visit the [Household Support Fund website](#). We have also created two financial advice leaflets – [one for people of working age](#) and [one for pensioners](#). The Council has also developed [Cost of Living web pages](#), which contain a range of help, support and advice. Please feel free to share these links.



SEND Drop In

A new SEND Drop In has been arranged, it provides an opportunity for parents, carers and young people to talk to a SEND Officer. The Drop location has been arranged to enable families to request advice from Future Focus Careers Advisors at the same time, if appropriate.

Time: Every Monday 1pm – 4pm

Venue: Youth Hub (Floor 2), Southwater One, Southwater Square,
Southwater Way, Telford, TF4 4JG

Money owing

Please could we ask that any outstanding debt is paid as soon as possible please.



Uniform Reminder

Children should be in dark (grey, navy, black) plain joggers and plain trainers please

Water Bottle Reminder

Please could we kindly urge you to send your child in with a water bottle. We do have water fountains in school, but it is easier if children have a bottle as they are more easily accessed. Thank you



Squash



All children can bring in sugar-free squash in their water bottles. Fresh juice can ferment so please avoid sending this in. Thank you

Diary Dates

6.2	Internet Safety week	
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13.2	Tuesday 14 th February 9am-9.45am Internet Safety Parent Workshop	All parents are invited to a session ran by Mrs Lambie and Mrs Griffiths on Internet Safety.
	Wednesday 15 th February Year 2 Trip to Cosford	Additional details will be sent home.
27.2	Monday 27 th Test My Best	Children are invited to create something – a photo, knitting, a cake, a craft project and enter it into our termly competition. All children will receive a certificate and winners will get a prize. This term's title is 'Summertime'.
	Thursday 2 nd March Year 1 Trip to Ancient High House	Information has been sent via letter.
	Friday 3 rd March World Book Day	The first World Book Day in the UK and Ireland took place in 1997 to encourage young people to discover the pleasure of reading. We ask that all children dress-up as a character from their favourite book and bring that book to school too if they have it. All children will receive a book token on the day too.
6.3	Monday 6 th Year 3 Trip to the Think Tank	
	Tuesday 7 th March 8.50am Year 5/6 ALC Curriculum Assembly	Parents are invited to our assembly to see all the work that your child's class have been doing and to celebrate achievement and progress. It lasts about 45 minutes. You do not need to book places to attend. We hope to see you there.
	Thursday 9 th Mini Vinnies Lent Walk	We will be raising money for Mini-Vinnies and Cafod by doing a lent walk. All children will need their wellies and we ask that they collect as many pennies as they can from family members to participate. All money goes to those most in need.

13.3	<p>Monday 13th March Year 5/6 HL Space Centre Trip</p> <p>Tuesday 14th March 8.50am Year 1 Curriculum Assembly</p> <p>Thursday 16th March Reception Curriculum Assembly</p> <p>Tuesday 14th March Parents Open Afternoon 3.15-4.15pm</p> <p>Friday 17th March at 11.50pm Mother's Day Lunch</p>	<p>More information has been sent via letter</p> <p>Parents are invited to our assembly to see all the work that your child's class have been doing and to celebrate achievement and progress. It lasts about 45 minutes. You do not need to book places to attend. We hope to see you there.</p> <p>All parents are invited.</p> <p>Letters will be sent home to book places.</p>
20.3	<p>Monday 20th March Year 5/6 ALC Space Centre Trip</p> <p>21st – 28th March Sustainability Week</p> <p>22nd March 8.50am 5/6 HL Curriculum Assembly</p>	<p>More information has been sent via letter</p> <p>Parents are invited to our assembly to see all the work that your child's class have been doing and to celebrate achievement and progress. It lasts about 45 minutes. You do not need to book places to attend. We hope to see you there.</p>
27.3	<p>30th March Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>31st Easter Service in hall</p>	<p>We ask that parents donate Easter eggs if they can. We do purchase hundreds of eggs for the children to find but the bigger eggs are usually donated. Thank you in advance.</p>