**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

Coronation Crescent, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 5EJ

Telephone: 01952 388255

Fax: 01952 388244

E-mail: [a3357@telford.gov.uk](mailto:a3357@telford.gov.uk)

<http://stmarysmadeley.taw.org.uk>

Headteacher: Samantha Griffiths

Assistant Headteacher: Helen Lambie

School Business Manager: Nicola Pryce

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

#### Kids for £1 is back for October half term

Kids4£1 is back this October half term!

Take a look at the [brochure](#) for all the activities on offer which includes badminton, fun and floats, driving range, bike hub, tobogganing, tots donuts and tennis. Activities are on offer from Monday 30 October to Sunday 5 November 2023.

#### Reminder: Collection time

**Could we please ask that parents wait on the playground, and we will send your children out to you. Please do not stand at the entrance to your child's class as it makes it difficult to locate parents for both staff and children. Thank you.**

#### Breakfast Club

If you would like your child to attend Breakfast Club, they must be at school by 8.15am. Thank you

#### PODS: Challenges at Home sessions

Parents Opening Doors, with support from the Principal Educational Psychologist Team, are holding **Challenges at Home** sessions, aimed at family members who have a child or young person (aged 0-18) who are undergoing, on the pathway to or waiting for assessment for Autism.

The sessions are for families to discuss home and life concerns – emotions, behaviour, social, anxieties, routines etc.

#### **Daytime sessions:**

18 October 2023, 23 November 2023, 14 December 2023

9.30-11.30am

PODS Hub, Central Park

[Book a session](#)

### Evening sessions:

18 October 2023, 23 November 2023, 14 December 2023

6-7.30pm

Microsoft Teams (online)

[Book a session](#)

For more details, or ongoing dates into 2024, please [download the flyer](#). You can also contact Jayne Stevens on 0777 534 2092 or by emailing [jayne@podstelford.org](mailto:jayne@podstelford.org).

### Measles

We've been advised by UKHSA that measles is now circulating in England and there is a push to increase vaccination rates.

It can lead to serious complications and is highly infectious. It will spread rapidly within educational settings among those without immunity from vaccination or previous infection.

It is worth noting that anyone without immunity from vaccination or previous infection, identified via contact tracing as a contact of a measles case, would be required to stay off work for 21 days. This would have significant implications for your business continuity and for affected staff members personally.

Given the risk to staff working with children, we would advise that they check their vaccination status and catch up with any missed vaccines. More information is provided here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Please encourage all children and young people over the age of one year old to have the

combined MMR vaccination as per the [national immunisation schedule](#).

Anyone who is unsure if their child is up to date with all their routine vaccinations should check their child's Red Book (personal child health record) in the first instance. If they are still not sure, or if they need to bring their child up to date with their vaccines, they should contact their GP practice to check and book an appointment.

Thank you



Thank you so much for your harvest donations...off to the local foodbank they went!!



What to look for:

Information, including photos, can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Symptoms include a runny nose; cough; conjunctivitis (sore, itchy, watery, red and sticky eyes); high fever and small white spots (Koplik spots) inside the cheeks. Around day 3 of the illness, a rash of flat red or brown blotches appear, beginning on the face, behind the ears and spreading over the body.



The deadline for applying for Secondary School is 31st October 2023

As you are already aware, applications are open for Year 6 children who are due to start Secondary School in September 2024. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 31st October 2023.**



## Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.



*"Reading should be about having fun and adventure and magic, not just 'making progress'."* Michaela Morgan



1. **Make books part of your family life** – Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
2. **Join your local library** – Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
3. **Match their interests** – Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
4. **All reading is good** – Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
5. **Get comfortable!** – Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
6. **Ask questions** – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Where did we get to last night? Can you remember what had happened already?'
7. **Read whenever you get the chance** – Bring along a book or magazine for any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's surgery.
8. **Read again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
9. **Bedtime stories** – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.
10. **Rhyme and repetition** – Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.



Enjoy Reading



Enjoy Reading

## Reading with your child

Sharing a book with your child allows you to share adventures and experiences in the safe world of the book. It allows you to ask questions, talk about what has happened and decide what you think together.

Sharing a book can be a bonding experience and for young children, cuddling up with a parent to read a book can be a special time.

Reading is important, but don't feel that you have to take the role of your child's teacher or put pressure on your child to start to read before they go to school. It's great to instil a love of books and language from an early age, but most of all, be led by your child and their interests and pace of development.

*"Books transform children's lives - they can open windows onto new worlds, widen their horizons or even just make them laugh themselves silly! Reading for pleasure can give children the key they need to unlock their dreams."* Christopher Edge



## My child has just started school and is learning to read via phonics. What is phonics?

With phonics, children are taught to read by learning the phonemes (sounds) that represent letters or groups of graphemes (letters).

With this knowledge, children can begin to read words by learning how to blend the sounds together. Unlocking how this alphabetic code works means they can learn to decode any word. For example, when taught the sounds /t/, /p/, /a/, /i/ and /s/ early on, children can read words such as it, is, tap, tip, pat, sip and sat by blending the individual sounds together to make the whole word.

These words can also be broken down (segmented) into their phonemes for spelling. For example, the word 'sat' has three phonemes, /s/, /a/ and /t/ which the children learn to write with the three graphemes (letters) 's', 'a' and 't' that they have been taught.

They will also be taught to read words – such as 'once', 'was' or 'have' – which don't follow the phonic 'rules'. They'll build up a stock of these tricky words that they can recognise straight away.



## What difference could I make as a parent?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

Before they're born, babies learn to recognise their parents' voices. Reading to your baby from the time they're born gives them the comfort of your voice and increases their exposure to language.



## Top tips on phonics

### Say the sounds correctly

It's important that the sounds are pronounced correctly, as they would sound in speech. Try not to add 'uh' to consonant sounds, such as /t/ and /p/, as this makes it trickier to blend the sounds together into words.

### Link sounds and letters to make words

Children are taught in school to quickly see a link between the phoneme (sounds) and a written representation of that sound (grapheme). At home, encourage your child to do the same when playing with fridge magnets in the kitchen, for example, or 'writing' when you are writing.

### Don't be scared – make it fun!

Phonics can seem daunting for parents who were probably taught to read in a rather different way. However, simple games such as 'I spy' are great for helping reading, because the children have to listen to sounds. Say, 'I spy, with my little eye, something that begins with (for example) the sound 'f-f-f'.' Look at the 'football' or the 'fridge'. Make sure you refer to the first sound (not the first letter). Take it in turns, with your child saying, 'I spy...' Make it lots of fun.

### Practise!

Encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge when they are practising their reading. Make sure that they look at each letter in turn, all through each word. Encourage them to work out the sounds and then blend them together to make the whole word. Praise them for trying to use all the letters rather than guessing from just the first letter or the picture.

The logo for 'label me up' is located in the top left corner. It consists of the words 'label', 'me', and 'up' in a mix of black and purple fonts, with 'me' in a cursive script. The entire logo is enclosed in a purple rectangular border.

## Labelling Belongings

Could we please ask that you label all your child's belongings. Thank you

We have a lost pink padded winter coat with a fur collar in Year 6 and a Minnie Mouse lunch box in Year 1, both items have names in, can we kindly ask that you check at home and return the items to school if you have them. Thank you

## Speaking and Listening Skills and Development

This is a guide to how children develop speech and language and how you can support your child at home

Between 4 and 5 years old

At this stage, they need to listen, understand more and share their ideas within the classroom. They will use their language skills to help them learn to read.

Children develop skills at different rates but by 5 years usually children will:

- Understand spoken instructions without stopping what they are doing to look at the speaker
- Choose their own friends and play mates
- Take turns in much longer conversations
- Understand more complicated language such as 'first', 'last', 'might', 'may be', 'above' and 'in between'
- Understand words that describe sequences such as "first we are going to the shop, next we will play in the park"
- Use sentences that are well formed. However, they may still have some difficulties with grammar. For example, saying 'sheeps' instead of 'sheep' or 'goed' instead of 'went'
- Think more about the meanings of words, such as describing the meaning of simple words or asking what a new word means
- Use most sounds effectively. However, they may have some difficulties with more difficult words such as 'scribble' or 'elephant'.

### How to Support Your Child

There are lots of things you can do to encourage your child at this stage:

- Building relationships with your child's pre-school or school is very important. Find out what topics or songs they are learning. This can help you support new words and ideas your child is learning
- Playing board games that involve taking turns helps them to listen and concentrate for longer
- Encourage children to talk without being questioned. This can help them to talk more about their experiences. Open questions like 'what are you going to play with today?' encourage children to say more than 'yes' and 'no'. If they find it difficult to answer such open questions, give them choices, such as 'cars or animals?'
- Although children may know lots of different words it is important to introduce new words and phrases. This helps them to continue learning
- Having fun with words and rhymes can help children learn skills they need for reading and writing
- Children may need time to think before responding to questions and instructions. Give them time without answering for them or finishing their sentences.

Between 5 and 6 years old

Often by 5 or 6 years, children have good communication skills. They are better at using language in different ways e.g. discussing ideas or giving opinions.

Children develop skills at different rates, but beyond 5 years, usually children will:

- Focus on one thing for longer without being reminded
- Rely less on pictures and objects to learn new words
- Use their language skills in learning to read, write and spell
- Learn that the same word can mean two things, such as 'orange' the fruit and 'orange' the colour
- Learn that different words can mean the same thing such as 'minus' and 'take away'
- Understand feelings and descriptive words like 'carefully', 'slowly' or 'clever'
- Use language for different purposes such as asking questions or persuading
- Share and discuss more complex ideas
- Use language in a range of social situations.
- 

### **How to Support Your Child**

There are lots of things you can do to encourage children at this stage:

- Help them to learn new words, such as words to do with positions, times and size.
- Make time to talk about your day
- Give a child time to talk to you
- Ask open questions like 'tell me something you liked about today'.

Between 7 and 11 years old

Speech, language and communication development is a gradual process. Children develop skills at different rates but beyond 8 years, usually children will:

- Use language to predict and draw conclusions
- Use long and complex sentences
- Understand other points of view and show that they agree or disagree
- Understand comparative words e.g. 'it was earlier than yesterday'
- Keep a conversation going by giving reasons and explaining choices
- Start conversations with adults and children they don't know
- Understand and use passive sentences where the order of the words can still be confusing for younger children e.g. "the thief is chased by the policeman".

### **How to Support Your Child**

Good communication is two-way and requires good listening skills. To help a child, you will need to demonstrate good listening skills yourself. Make sure that you have time for this in your day. You may need to explain words that a child still does not know.

A child's vocabulary will be growing. Help them to understand new words they learn by talking about their meaning. Make sure they are not afraid to ask if they don't understand a word. If you don't know the exact meaning of a word - look it up in a child-friendly dictionary such as Collins Co-Build.

Just by having good conversations with children, you are supporting their language. So, talk to them. Ask them how their day at school was and how their friends are. Hopefully they don't need too much encouragement to talk. Try to encourage conversations rather than just you doing the talking.



## Poppy Appeal



From Monday, we will be selling poppies and other items provided by the Royal British Legion in school ahead of Remembrance Day next Monday. The **grab** bands are £1.50, bands are £1.00, the reflective poppies and zip pulls are 50p. Thank you for your anticipated support.



Our school's menu can be viewed here:

[https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/388/st\\_marys\\_primary\\_school\\_menu](https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/388/st_marys_primary_school_menu)



### St. Mary's Book Swap

The children in school council would like to invite you to take part in our first-

#### 'Big Book Swap'

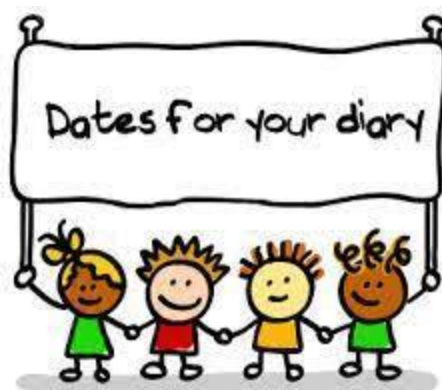
Please sort through your bookshelves, under the bed, in the cupboards for any books your child has grown out of.

Bring the books to school and we will redistribute them to new homes with children who can enjoy them as your child has.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Please send books into school by

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October.



Date	Activity	Notes
20.10.23	Wear It Pink	All children to wear pink or something they feel special in. £1.00 contributions please.
26.10.23	St Mary's Day	More information to follow
27.10.23	Children Break Up for Half Term	

6.11.23	Test my Best Day	Children of all ages can enter our termly competition by entering a craft, some baking, or some art. There are great first, second and third prizes and certificates for all. This term's title for all crafts is 'Remembrance'.
10.11.23	Remembrance Day	Poppies and snap bands will be on sale prior to the day.
10.11.23	Flu Vaccine Rec to Year 6	More information to follow
13.11.23	Anti-Bullying Week starts Odd socks day	Children to wear odd socks
16.11.23	Year 4 Trip Grosvenor Museum	More information to follow
20.11.23	Year 6 Cosford Trip	More information to follow
01.12.23	Advent Activity Day- Darkness to Light	More information to follow
05.12.23	KS1 Christmas Performances	More information to follow
07.12.23	KS2 Christmas Performances	More information to follow
14.12.23	Christmas Dinner	
20.12.23	Year 6 – Height and Weight	
21.12.23	Children break-up for Christmas	
22.12.23	PD Day	
08.01.23	PD Day	
09.01.23	Children return to school	