



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th 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.

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.**



Thank you so much for all your contributions to our Book Swap – we had a brilliant response!!!

Times tables Rockstars

Your child has been provided with a password to access Times tables Rockstars so they can practise their tables in a fun and engaging way. Please read the parent guide. The Login page can be found here:

[Times Tables Rock Stars – Times Tables Rock Stars \(trockstars.com\)](https://trockstars.com)

Parent Guide



We recommend a "little and often" approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 or 5 times a week is a good target.

What are the different Game Modes?

Single Player

Jamming 4 or 8 coins/correct answer	The only game mode without a timer, players chose the table and operation (\times or \div or both) they want to practise. Answer 10, 20 or 30 questions.
Gig 10 coins per correct answer	Gig games last 5 minutes and contain up to 100 questions, which come in 'waves', starting with the 10s, then the 2s, 5s, 3s, 4s, 8s, 6s, 7s, 9s, 11s and 12s. Novices are not expected to get past the 5s. Gigs provide the child (and their teacher) with a simple measure of their current skills, which is why learners should concentrate fully for the whole Gig as they won't get another try until next month.
Garage 10 coins per correct answer	Players are given a personalised set of 6 multiplication questions (and their matching division questions) in each round. The questions they get keep adjusting to provide the best fit for every learner's needs. This is probably the best game made for improving their recall while they're still learning.
Studio 1 coin per correct answer	Here your child earns their Rock Status, which is based on their Studio Speed. The faster they are the better their status. Studio Speed is the average of their most recent 10 Studio games. Suitable for confident players.
Soundcheck 5 coins per correct answer	Soundcheck games ask 25 multiplication questions (up to 12×12), allowing 6 seconds for each question. Suitable for confident players.

Multi Player

Festival 1 coin per correct answer	Children compete against others from around the world, with their identities protected behind their rock names. Suitable for confident players.
Arena 1 coin per correct answer	Children race against other members of their class who are logged in and choose the same arena name at the same time. Arena games use the same smart question algorithm as Garage games.
Rock Slam 1 coin per correct answer	Players challenge their classmates or teachers to answer as many questions as they can in 60 seconds, setting a score for the challengee to beat. Pupils don't need to be online at the same time.
Tournaments	<p>Battle of the Bands – groups of children within the same school (usually classes, year groups or teams) compete to have the highest <i>average</i> score per player.</p> <p>Top of the Rocks – like a Battle of the Bands <i>between</i> schools. The winning class or school is the one with the most correct answers per person.</p> <p>Important: Each correct answer (in any game mode) earns 1 point towards the team's total in addition to the coins earned. For example, in Garage games each correct answer is worth 1 point for the team and 10 coins for the player.</p>

Parent Guide



Learners with different needs

How can I hide the timer?	Start a game and press ⚙ > Hide Practice Clock. You could also play a game in Jamming.
How can I increase the length of Garage games?	Single player > Garage > press the little arrow below "play solo" > choose 1, 2 or 3 minutes.
The tables are too hard	Make sure your child is playing in Garage or Arena game modes. If this does not resolve the issue, please speak to your child's teacher. Remember that Jamming mode allows the child to choose the tables themselves.
My child gets anxious	Try the three above plus: setting mini goals (e.g. complete 2 minutes today, get 1 more point in the next game, pass 1 level); having a break from online play (come back in a couple of days); and reminding them of Baz's words: "A good rock star stays chillaxed by accepting they make mistakes."
My child has visual impairments; what settings are available?	Head to the Profile page where you can: change the colour scheme; reduce the visual stimuli with Declutter mode; increase the font size or switch to a dyslexia-friendly font called Lexie. play.ttrockstars.com is also screen reader compatible.
Can I turn off division?	<u>Yes</u> in Jamming mode but not in the other games. The reason for that is that practising multiplication and division at the same time supports the recall of both and is the most successful approach. If your child is finding division confusing, please speak to their teacher about starting with the 10s only and for advice on how to help at home.

Troubleshooting

My child's coins and/or Studio speed have suddenly dropped	Another child may have logged in as your child. Please reassure your child that this can be rectified. Contact their teacher who can set a new password, refund any coins, delete Studio <u>games</u> and talk to the class about online safety.
My child plays too much	Set firm TTRS time limits; reward healthy choices; take away devices before bed.
My child's name is showing on a school leader board.	Please ask your child's teacher to change the settings at their end so that rock names show on the leaderboards instead of real names.
What does the 🎧 mean?	If this symbol appears over a game tile (e.g. over Garage) it means the teacher has set your child a certain number of minutes to practise in that game mode for homework. Once they complete those minutes the other games unlock.

Poppy Appeal

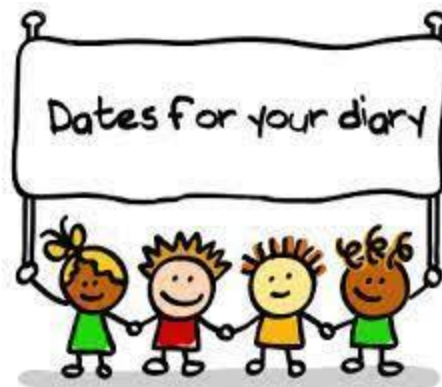


From Monday, we will be selling poppies and other items provided by the Royal British Legion in school ahead of Remembrance Day next Monday. The **grab** bands are £1.50, bands are £1.00, the reflective poppies and zip pulls are 50p. Thank you for your anticipated support.



Our school's menu can be viewed here:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/388/st_marys_primary_school_menu



Date	Activity	Notes
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	