



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

September 27th 2024

Safeguarding Issue: Highly Important

In our ongoing commitment to safeguarding and ensuring the well-being of our pupils, I must emphasise the **critical importance** of keeping to our established ways of working **when arriving late to school**. It is important that parents and guardians personally **hand over their children to a member of staff, rather than allowing them to enter the school unaccompanied**. This practice not only guarantees the child's safe transition into our care but also enables us to accurately record attendance and ensure that no pupil goes unaccounted for. Your cooperation in this matter is **essential**, as it reinforces our collective responsibility in maintaining a secure and nurturing educational environment for all our pupils.



Thank you,

Mrs Griffiths

Secondary School Open Evenings

Secondary applications are now open for September 2025 starters. Please see below the dates and time of opening evenings throughout September and October 2024.

School	Open Evening	Time	Open Days (during the school day)
Abraham Darby Academy	3rd October	6pm – 8:30pm	
Burton Borough	2nd October	5pm – 8pm	3rd, 4th October 9:15am -11am
Charlton	10th October	5pm - 8pm	10th October 9:20am- 11:40am Bookable via reception
Ercall Wood Academy	3rd October	6pm - 8pm	2nd, 3rd and 4th October AM Bookable via reception (school will confirm times)
HLC	26th September	5pm - 8pm	27th September and 1st October 9am - 10:30am
Holy Trinity Academy	8th October	5pm - 7pm	
Madeley Academy	7th October	4:30pm - 7:30pm	
New Road Academy	8th October	4pm - 7pm	

Telford Langley	3rd October	5:30pm - 8pm	30th September to 4th October tour between 8:30 and 9:30 each day
Telford Park School	10th October	4pm - 6pm	28th September 10am-12pm

Early Mathematics at Home

Helping your child with early maths skills may feel a little daunting. Fitting in maths learning whilst trying to juggle working from home and the pressures of day-to-day life may feel like a huge battle. However, rest assured, you're already doing more than you think! There are so many ways that everyday activities can become learning opportunities for children in the early years, without them even knowing they are learning! Here are some examples, most of which you probably do already, without even realising:



- Look at numerals on birthday cards and talk about age. 'Yesterday you were 3 and now you are 4!' This can help with recognising and ordering numbers, as well as number formation. You could also encourage your child to draw over the top of the numbers with their finger.
- Use mathematical language such as 'You can have one *more*,' and 'We haven't got any *left*!' This helps your child learn the concept of 'how many'.
- Similarly, when pouring drinks with your child, use the vocabulary of 'It's nearly *full*, be careful we don't spill any!' or 'Have you drunk it all? Your cup is *empty*!'
- Keeping with the theme of mathematical vocabulary, language related to size is something you probably use often, without realising. Think how many times you have said, 'You're getting really tall!', 'These shoes are too small for you now,' or 'Your new coat is a bit big, you'll grow into it!'
- Use appropriate words to help your child learn about ordinal numbers, such as 'We'll have our tea *first* and then we'll go out to play.' When out at the park,

riding bikes for example, find those opportunities to comment, 'Emily was *first* in the race, Amirah came *second*!'

- Add in time language to general conversations with your child, using words such as next, after that, later, soon. For example, 'You can brush your teeth *after* your breakfast,' or 'We need to go to the shop *before* we go to school.' Modelling this vocabulary, and using it regularly will encourage children to naturally use it in their everyday language.

A Great Weekend at St. Mary's

It's time for the weekend,
hip hooray!
Let's have some fun, but
in a safe way.
Run and jump, laugh and
play,
With friends by your side
all through the day!

Remember to listen, it's
smart and cool,
To parents, to teachers, the
golden rule!
Stay kind and caring in all
you do,
And the fun will come
right back to you.

When you play, play safe,
and share,
Take turns with others,
show you care.
Whether it's football or
hide-and-peek,
Helping each other makes
the weekend sweet!

So here's to the children of
St. Mary's school,
Let's make our weekend
bright and full!
With listening ears and
thoughtful hearts,
We'll have a blast from
the very start!

- Also include language related to position in your everyday conversations too. If you're looking for something or encouraging your child to tidy up, ask them 'Is your book *under* the bed?' or 'Have you looked *next to* the toy box?'

- If you enjoy baking with your child, look for those opportunities to talk about what you are doing. For example, when weighing out the ingredients use language such as 'We need *3 scoops* of flour and *2 cups* of water.'

- On the way up to bed, count the stairs. Sometimes, when children move onto counting objects, they may miss out a number, for example '1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7...' By counting the stairs regularly, they have a firm understanding of the order of numbers before they transfer this to counting items.

Simple activities like these are a big part of bringing early maths learning into the home. As our children grow and learn, they will naturally incorporate maths concepts into their play. Lining up toy cars, grouping toys by type or ordering teddies by their size are all examples of mathematical activities that support children's learning. Effective adult modelling of language, informally and in everyday life, has a huge impact on children's early mathematical vocabulary and how well they will go on to learn about early concepts – language should never be underestimated.

Dates for your diary

Date	Activity	
27.09.24	Year 3 trip to Stone age company, Shifnal	
04.10.24	St Francis of Assisi Day	We are thrilled to announce that our school will be hosting a fundraising event in support of local animal charities. These charities play a vital role in caring for and protecting our furry, feathered, and scaly friends, and we believe it is important to support their important work.
08.10.24	Year 2 Trip to Kingswood All day	
10.10.24	Harvest Festival	Harvest is a time to reflect on the abundance we enjoy and to think of those less fortunate. Your food donations will make a real difference in the lives of local families who rely on food banks. We encourage every family to contribute if they are able, and no donation is too small.
16.10.24	Year 5 Trip to Cadbury world All day	
18.10.24	Wear it pink day	We are excited to announce that our school will be taking part in Wear it Pink Day, in support of breast cancer awareness. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to come together for an important cause while having a bit of fun! On this day, we encourage everyone to wear something pink—whether it's a t-shirt, a hat, or even just a splash of pink accessories—to show their support.
24.10.24	Year 6 Curriculum Assembly	During the assembly for the parents of Year 6, the children will present highlights from their lessons, projects, and activities, giving you insight into their educational journey this year. We will be excited for them to share their progress and achievements with you.
25.10.24	Half term	

04.11.24	Year 6 trip to Walsall Arboretum	
05.11.24	Reading workshop for Parents	We are pleased to invite you to an informative workshop on Early Reading Development, designed to help you support your child's reading journey. This will be straight after school.
06.11.24	St Mary's Day	
07.11.24	Year 4 trip to Chester All day	
11.11.24	Club members performance for parents	During this celebration for parents, the children will share what they've been working on in their clubs, from sports and arts to computing and music. It's a chance for them to shine and for us to recognise their dedication and enthusiasm outside of regular school hours.
13.11.24	Year 5 Curriculum Assembly	During the assembly for the parents of Year 5, the children will present highlights from their lessons, projects, and activities, giving you insight into their educational journey this year. We will be excited for them to share their progress and achievements with you.
19.11.24	Early maths workshop for parents - SG	During this workshop, we will cover foundational number skills that are essential for young learners, including counting, number recognition, and simple calculations. You will leave with helpful resources and ideas for fun, engaging activities that can build your child's confidence in mathematics.
10.12.24	KS1 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	We will be delighted to invite you to our annual Christmas performances! The children will have worked hard to prepare a festive show filled with music, drama, and cheer. We can't wait to share the magic of the season with you!
12.12.24	KS2 Christmas performance 9am and 2pm	
17.12.24	Christmas dinner	
19.12.24	Children break-up for Christmas	
07.01.25	Children return to school	

Lunchtime Menu

To access the menu, please follow the link provided on our school's official website. Your engagement with this resource is greatly appreciated.

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

As we continue to strive for academic excellence at St Mary's Catholic Primary School,



I must emphasise the importance of consistent reading practise at home. We strongly encourage all pupils to engage in reading activities no less than four times per week beyond the school gates. This regular exposure to text not only enhances cognitive development but also fosters thinking skills and expands vocabulary. By creating a habit

of frequent reading, we are equipping our young learners with the tools necessary for future academic success. Your support in this endeavour is invaluable, and we appreciate your commitment to nurturing a love of reading in your children.

A Prayer for Caring Hearts

Dear God, we come to You today,
With thankful hearts as we learn and play.
But as we laugh and share our joy,
We think of those who have much less to enjoy.

For those who are hungry, tired, or cold,
May they find warmth, and hands to hold.
For children who are poorly and feeling sad,
Bring them comfort and make their hearts glad.

Help us to be kind and always aware,
Of those around us in need of care.
Teach us to share, to give, and to pray,
For brighter tomorrows in every way.

Amen.