



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday October 4th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we progress through the academic year, I am delighted to share with you a compendium of recent developments and forthcoming events at St Mary's Catholic Primary School. Our community continues to thrive, and it is with great pleasure that I bring these updates to your attention.



Our annual Harvest Festival is approaching rapidly, scheduled for next Thursday. This event serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to support those less fortunate within our community. We cordially invite you to participate in our food bank collection, where non-perishable items, tins and packets, will be gratefully received. Your generous contributions will

undoubtedly make a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

It is with immense pride that I announce the selection of our new Play Leaders, affectionately known as Guardians. This role represents a great privilege and an act of trust bestowed upon our pupils. The enthusiasm demonstrated by our children in their desire to contribute to school life is truly commendable. Their commitment to fostering a positive environment for their peers is a testament to the values we instil at St Mary's. In the coming week, we shall also be appointing our School Ambassadors, further exemplifying our pupils' dedication to leadership and school community service.



Governor News

I am pleased to introduce our newest addition to the Governing Body, Tina Knight. Tina brings with her a wealth of experience in children's safeguarding and child protection. Her professional journey, spanning four decades, commenced in early years settings, where she undertook various practitioner and leadership roles. In 1994, Tina transitioned to the role of Children's Day Care Inspector, before qualifying as a social worker in 1999. Since then, she has occupied diverse social work and leadership positions, all centred around safeguarding and protecting children. Tina's expertise extends to her experience as a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and a Local Authority's Principal Child Protection Officer. In these capacities, she was responsible for fulfilling multi-

agency partnership responsibilities as the Local Authority's Officer for a Local Safeguarding Board. We are confident that Tina's extensive background will prove invaluable in enhancing our safeguarding practises and policies.

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the gift of our children at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School. We ask for Your blessings upon each student, that they may grow in wisdom, kindness, and love.

We pray for our Guardians, the play leaders who guide and support our children during their time at school. May they be filled with patience, joy, and compassion, creating a nurturing environment where every child feels safe and valued.

We are especially thankful for our dedicated teachers, who work tirelessly to inspire and educate our children. Grant them strength, creativity, and the wisdom to nurture the potential in every student.

Lord, may Your light shine upon our school community, fostering friendships and encouraging learning. Help us to support one another in faith and love, guiding our children as they journey through their formative years.

We ask this in Your holy name.

Amen.

Our commitment to maintaining strong links between the Governing Body and our teaching staff was evident in the recent meeting between governors and their link class teachers. These governors will act as class champions, diligently monitoring the quality of behaviour, curriculum delivery, academic progress, and the well-being of both our teachers and pupils. This collaborative approach ensures that we maintain the highest standards of education and care for your children.

Next Tuesday marks an exciting day for our Year Two pupils as they embark on an educational excursion to The Kingswood Trust. This trip promises to be a breath of fresh air, creating lasting memories and ensuring enrichment for all participants. The outdoor education programmes offered by the Trust are designed to promote health and well-being while nurturing a sense of curiosity and fascination with the natural world. We are confident that this experience will be both enjoyable and educational for our young learners.



In the interest of maintaining our robust safety protocols, we will be conducting a practise of our Lockdown Procedures

next week. To minimise any potential anxiety, we frame this exercise within the context of responding to an aggressive dog on the school premises. It is important to emphasise that the probability of an incident involving an intruder seeking to cause harm in any school is extremely low. However, just as we prepare for fire emergencies, it is prudent to be prepared for all eventualities.



I am delighted to announce that St Mary's has been selected to participate in the Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) programme. This two-year pathfinder initiative, funded by the Department for Education and NHS England, aims to implement innovative workforce models to improve outcomes for children with speech, language, and communication needs (SLCN) in early years and primary education. We extend our gratitude to Mrs Lambie for her successful application, which has secured our place among a select group of schools to benefit from this additional support.

Looking ahead, our Year 5 pupils are eagerly anticipating their upcoming visit to Cadbury World. This excursion promises to bring their curriculum to life through a tailored educational talk presented by dedicated specialists. The programme will introduce our pupils to the great city of Chichen Itza and its most famous landmarks, delving into Maya theories of creation and other fascinating myths and legends. Pupils will have

the opportunity to examine real cacao pods, inhale the aroma of cocoa beans - once highly prized by the Maya circa AD 900 - and observe the traditional wooden whisk used in the preparation of their favoured chocolate beverage. Select pupils will even have the chance to don traditional Maya attire. The visit will explore various aspects of Maya culture, including their sporting activities, religious beliefs, and artistic achievements, drawing connections and contrasts with our contemporary lives.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued partnership in ensuring good attendance for your children. The success of our school is a collaborative effort, with parents, carers, pupils, and staff all playing crucial roles. We firmly believe that every child has the right to access the education to which they are entitled, and it is our shared responsibility to support and promote excellent school attendance and punctuality. Our unwavering goal is to achieve excellent attendance for all children, recognising that consistent attendance is

fundamental to academic success, social development, and future prospects. The habits formed around attendance and punctuality at school mirror the expectations of future employers in the professional world. High attainment, confidence in peer and staff interactions, and future aspirations are all intrinsically linked to good attendance.

Attendance (Academic Year)	Equals this many days absent	Equals this many weeks absent (approx.)	Equals this many lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	60 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	120 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	180 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	240 lessons
70%	57 days	12 weeks	360 lessons

As we continue to navigate the academic year, I am filled with optimism about the myriad opportunities that lie ahead for our pupils. Your ongoing support and engagement with our school community are invaluable, and I look forward to our continued collaboration in nurturing the potential of every child at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.