

**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 October 11<sup>th</sup> 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this message finds you all in good health and spirits. As we progress through the academic year, I am compelled to express my profound gratitude for your unwavering support of our school. Your commitment to our educational mission is both evident and deeply appreciated. It is with great pleasure that I observe the exemplary

homework being produced by our children. The quality and creativity of their work are a testament to their dedication and the support they receive at home. This collaborative effort between school and home is invaluable in fostering a robust learning environment.



Moreover, I am particularly heartened by the consistent engagement in reading that our children are demonstrating. The importance of regular reading cannot be overstated; it

is, indeed, the foundation upon which all other learning is built. As we often emphasise, reading is the key that unlocks countless doors of opportunity and understanding. Your continued partnership in encouraging and supporting these crucial aspects of your child's education is instrumental to their success. Together, we are cultivating a love for learning that will serve our children well throughout their lives.

Mrs Griffiths

**Harvest Festival**

It is with profound gratitude that I address you regarding our recent harvest donations. The display of generosity exhibited by our school family was nothing short of extraordinary, serving as a testament to the compassionate spirit that permeates St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The abundance of contributions created a visual spectacle that not only impressed but also inspired. Each item donated represented a

tangible expression of care for those less fortunate within our local community. I am pleased to report that the entirety of our harvest collection has been successfully transferred to a local foodbank, where it will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the lives of those in need.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special acknowledgement to one of our parents who volunteered to transport the donations on behalf of our school. This act of service exemplifies the collaborative ethos we strive to foster within our school community. Your collective efforts have not only provided sustenance for those facing hardship but have also reinforced the values of empathy and social responsibility that we aim to instill in our children. We are immensely proud of the compassion demonstrated by our school family.



### **Reception and Year One Communication Skills**

I am pleased to share with you the recent developments in our reception and Year One classes. All children in these year groups have undergone comprehensive speech and language screening assessments, providing valuable insights into their linguistic capabilities. The most proficient children demonstrated an impressive ability to name various animals and objects, employ descriptive language, complete sentences, and elucidate simple procedures. Their capacity to utilise the word 'because' and follow basic instructions was particularly noteworthy. However, it became evident that some children encountered difficulties with certain activities, exhibiting limited vocabulary and word comprehension. To address this, we strongly encourage parents to engage in activities that promote language development. Creating word family lists, such as those for animals or foods, can be immensely beneficial. Additionally, posing questions about stories can significantly enhance comprehension skills. It is crucial to resist the temptation of allowing older siblings or parents to answer on behalf of our youngest learners. Instead, we must foster an environment that encourages active participation in conversations. By promoting talking, listening, asking, and answering, we can collectively support the linguistic growth of our children. Your partnership in this endeavour is invaluable, and we appreciate your continued support in nurturing our children's communication skills.

## Parking



I must address a matter of significant importance regarding parking arrangements. We kindly request that all parents and carers exercise mindfulness when parking in the vicinity of the school. It is imperative that we avoid obstructing residents' driveways, as this

not only inconveniences our neighbours but also potentially compromises the safety of our children. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and contributes to maintaining positive relations with our local community.

## Year 2 Kingswood Trip

I am delighted to report on the resounding success of our Year 2 excursion to Kingswood. This educational venture provided our children with a multitude of enriching experiences, each designed to enhance their understanding of the natural world and foster essential skills. The Habitat Tracks Trail, a key component of the trip, afforded the children the opportunity to explore and describe the habitats of woodland animals. Utilising maps and clues, they engaged in a practical application of their geographical and observational skills, reinforcing classroom learning in a tangible, real-world context. The children's enthusiasm was palpable as they navigated the Kingswood grounds using compasses, an activity that not only honed their orienteering abilities but also instilled a sense of adventure and discovery. The diverse environments they encountered, including woodlands, ponds, and open fields, served as living laboratories, bringing their studies of ecosystems and biodiversity to life. The low ropes adventure areas and climbing wall presented our Year 2 children with physical challenges that demanded both individual perseverance and collective problem-solving. It was heartening to observe their collaborative efforts as they navigated these obstacles, demonstrating the invaluable life skills of teamwork and resilience. Perhaps one of the most captivating activities was the pond dipping session. The children's faces were alight with wonder as they discovered an array of aquatic life, including newts and various other fascinating species. Armed with



magnifying glasses and identification cards, they embarked on a journey of scientific inquiry, meticulously observing and cataloguing their findings. This hands-on experience not only augmented their biological knowledge but also kindled a spark of curiosity that we hope will flourish into a lifelong appreciation for the natural sciences. The culmination of the trip saw our children engaging in a creative cartography exercise. Working collaboratively, they crafted maps using natural objects to represent the key features and landmarks of Kingswood. This activity seamlessly integrated geographical skills with artistic expression, encouraging the children to view their environment through a new lens and translate their observations into tangible representations.

## **Lockdown**



Transitioning to matters of school security, I am pleased to inform you that our staff have recently undergone training in a new approach to lockdown procedures. We have taken a thoughtful, age-appropriate approach to introducing this concept to our children, utilising the metaphor of an angry dog to contextualise the importance of safety measures. In the coming week, we will be conducting a full practice drill to reinforce these procedures. It is crucial that all parents and carers are aware of the protocol should a lockdown be initiated while you are on school grounds. If staff members call out 'Lockdown', you must immediately enter the nearest exit. If directed, proceed to the hall; otherwise, enter the nearest classroom and adhere to staff instructions. Your compliance with these measures is paramount to ensuring the safety of all individuals on our premises.

## **Wear it Pink Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

I am delighted to share with you an exciting initiative that our school community will be participating in shortly. St Mary's Catholic Primary School has committed to taking part in the forthcoming Wear it Pink Day, an event dedicated to raising awareness for breast cancer. This occasion presents an excellent opportunity for our children and staff to unite in support of a cause that affects countless individuals and families worldwide. We are encouraging all members of our school community to embrace the spirit of the day by incorporating pink into their attire. Whether it be a vibrant pink shirt, a subtle pink accessory, or any other creative interpretation, we welcome all

expressions of solidarity. The Wear it Pink Day not only serves as a platform for raising awareness but also fosters a sense of community within our school. It allows us to demonstrate our collective compassion and support for those affected by breast cancer, while simultaneously engaging our children in meaningful discussions about health and social responsibility. We look forward to seeing a sea of pink throughout our school, symbolising our united stance against breast cancer and our commitment to making a difference. Please donate £2.00 or as much as you can. Thank you so much.

## **Wraparound Care**



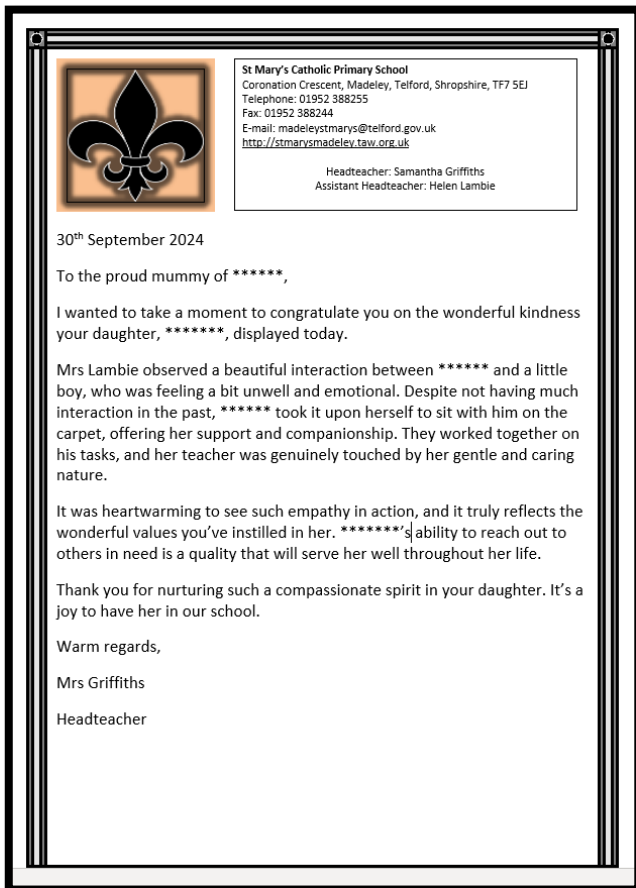
Looking ahead, we are diligently working on developing a comprehensive plan to address the 2026 Government requirement for schools to offer wraparound care from 8am to 6pm. As part of this initiative, we will be extending our breakfast club provision. However, this extension necessitates a reconsideration of our current approach to

facilitate a universal offer accessible to all children. With regard to after-school care, we will be collaborating with private, voluntary, and independent settings to continue providing our parents with reliable childcare options. For your convenience, a list of local childcare providers can be accessed on the Telford and Wrekin Council website. We have developed good links with a few providers: Linda Thomas, Cosy Cottage and Lindsey Handley. Please contact the office for more details.

## **Role and Responsibilities in School**

It is with great pride that I commend the overwhelming enthusiasm demonstrated by our children in assuming various roles of responsibility within our school community. The significant interest in positions such as Guardian (playleader), School Council member, Mini-Vinnies representative, and our most prestigious roles of School Ambassador is truly commendable. This level of engagement is a testament to our children's commitment to our school culture and their embodiment of true Christian spirit.

## Headteacher Letters



In recognition of exemplary behaviour and character, I have had the pleasure of dispatching two additional Headteacher letters of congratulations this week. These accolades celebrate children who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to our gospel values, including kindness, peace, love, justice, integrity, forgiveness, simplicity, humility, compassion, and hope. Such recognition serves not only to honour individual achievement but also to reinforce the importance of these values within our school community.

## Flu-Immunisation

Turning to matters of health and wellbeing, I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming flu vaccinations scheduled for Monday, the 4th of November. This immunisation programme will encompass children from Reception to Year 5. Due to a scheduling conflict with the Year 6 trip, their vaccinations will be administered at a later date, which will be communicated by the immunisation team in due course. It is imperative to note that parental consent is required for your child to receive the vaccination. A detailed letter containing instructions on how to provide your consent will be sent home with your child in the coming week. We kindly request that you review this information carefully and respond promptly. In preparation for the immunisation programme, the healthcare team has requested that the school provide certain demographic information, specifically parent names, contact telephone numbers, and email addresses. If you have any reservations about the school sharing this information, please contact the school office no later than 9am on Monday, the 14th of October.

## Dates for your diary

Date	Activity	
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.
24.10.24	Year 1 Trip to Blists Hill	
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	



Have a nice  
weekend

