



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 24th January 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

As we start the new term, I'm excited to share some great news from St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The year has kicked off with lots of energy and excitement, and we're looking forward to all the positive things ahead.

We're happy to welcome two new teaching assistants to our team, Miss Magill and Mr. Miles. They've already settled in really well, showing great enthusiasm and a real passion for supporting our children. We're excited to see all the wonderful things they'll bring to our school this year.

For those families who are looking ahead to important milestones in their child's spiritual journey, enrolment forms for First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion are now available at the church. These sacraments are such an important part of a young Catholic's life, and we encourage you to consider this opportunity if it's the right time for your child.

In terms of staff development, Mrs. Brazier recently attended a full-day training session on Physical Education. It was a really useful experience, and we're looking forward to seeing the fresh ideas she's brought back into the classroom to enhance our PE lessons.

We also have a new Sports Coach on board this term, and he's off to a fantastic start. His lessons are engaging and well-organized, and the children are really

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, thanking You for the gift of our school community at St. Mary's. We ask for Your guidance and blessings upon all the parents, teachers, and children who are a part of this special place.

Lord, we thank You for the joy and excitement of learning. May the children always grow in wisdom and understanding, as they read, explore, and discover the wonders of the world You have created. Inspire them with a love for knowledge, that they may learn to seek Your truth in all things.

We ask You to bless the creative work of the children as they build and make together, whether it be through their den-making activities or any project that fosters teamwork and cooperation. Help them to build not only structures with their hands, but also friendships and bonds of unity in their hearts. May they learn the value of working together and supporting one another, knowing that You are with them every step of the way.

We pray for the parents of St. Mary's, asking You to bless them with wisdom, patience, and strength as they guide their children in faith and love. May they always lead by example, showing kindness, understanding, and compassion in all that they do.

Lord, we ask for Your help in creating an atmosphere of kindness in our school. May each child be encouraged to show kindness in their words and actions, to care for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Let every day be an opportunity to share Your love and light with those around us.

We offer this prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

enjoying them. It's been great seeing him build positive relationships with everyone so quickly.

To encourage outdoor learning and teamwork, we've introduced den building activities for our older children. It's been a huge hit, with the children showing great creativity and working well together. While it might mean a bit of dirtier clothing at the end of the day, the teamwork and fun they're getting from it is definitely worth it.

We were delighted to recently welcome Luke Temple, a renowned author, to our school. Author visits are an invaluable part of inspiring a love of reading and writing, and Luke's visit had a significant impact on our children. His passion for literature truly resonated with the children and encouraged them to explore their own creative potential. We understand that some parents had questions regarding the book sales during his visit, and we would like to provide clarification. It is common for author visits to include the opportunity to purchase books, as these sales help authors cover the costs associated with their visit. However, to ensure all children have access to Luke Temple's works, we purchased multiple copies of his books for our school shelves, allowing every child to enjoy his stories without the need for individual purchases.

At St. Mary's, we take great pride in keeping costs as low as possible for our families. Our breakfast club remains just £2 per session, with a reduced rate of £1.50 for those eligible for free school meals. This is significantly more affordable than many local schools, where the cost can range between £4 and £5 per child, per day. Additionally, we absorb the full cost of a variety of activities throughout the year, including Christmas parties, Christmas performance tickets, raffles, and the end-of-year prom, ensuring that all children can fully participate in these enriching experiences, regardless of their family's financial circumstances.

As we move through this term, we remain committed to providing a welcoming, inclusive, and exciting learning environment for all our children. We're off to a great start, and we're looking forward to all the growth and achievements ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we'll continue to make sure every child at St Mary's gets the best possible education and opportunities.

Mrs Griffiths



Upcoming events run by PODS in Telford.

Please click the link or visit the PODS website for more information

- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - January 27, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Games & Tech Session - PODS Activity Sessions](#) - January 27, 2025 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - January 28, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am

- [Minecraft Club](#) - January 28, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - January 29, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - February 3, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - February 4, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- [Minecraft Club](#) - February 4, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - February 5, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Sensory Session aged 0-6 years](#) - February 10, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
- [Blossom & Bloom Stay and Play](#) - February 11, 2025 - 10:00 am - 11:30 am
- [Minecraft Club](#) - February 11, 2025 - 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- [Sensory Sessions Age 7-11](#) - February 12, 2025 - 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

[What is happening in the Catholic Church today?](#)

In the Catholic Church, the liturgical year is divided into seasons, and today's liturgical celebration depends on where we are in the cycle. As of today, January 24, 2025, we are in Ordinary Time, which falls between the liturgical seasons of Christmas and Lent.



Here's what's happening in the Church today:

1. Feast Day of Saint Francis de Sales (January 24)

Today, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales, a 16th-century Bishop of Geneva, known for his deep spirituality and commitment to teaching the faith. He is especially remembered for his writings on the love of God and is the patron saint of writers and journalists. The feast includes special prayers and Mass readings that highlight his devotion to spreading God's love through both his preaching and his personal example.

2. Ordinary Time (Weeks 2 and 3 of Ordinary Time)

We are currently in Week 2 of Ordinary Time, and the liturgical colour is green, symbolizing growth and hope. Ordinary Time is a period when the Church reflects on the teachings of Jesus and focuses on the ongoing growth of faith and the Christian life. It's a time of spiritual development, where there are fewer major feast days and more focus on the teachings of Christ through the Scripture readings at Mass.

3. Preparation for Lent (Coming Soon)

While we are in Ordinary Time, Lent is approaching quickly. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14, 2025. This marks a time of penance, fasting, and prayer in preparation for the Easter celebration. Some parishes may begin to announce Lenten programs or retreats for the faithful, encouraging spiritual renewal and reflection.

4. Weekly Observances

On Fridays during Ordinary Time, Catholics often observe the tradition of fasting or abstaining from meat (unless a feast or solemnity is celebrated). This is a form of penance in preparation for the more intense Lenten season. Additionally, many parishes may offer Daily Mass or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for prayer and reflection during Ordinary Time.

Key Themes During Ordinary Time:

Focus on the life and teachings of Jesus: This time of year is a wonderful opportunity to deepen one's understanding of Jesus' public ministry and teachings. The Gospel readings often reflect on his miracles, parables, and teachings.

Spiritual growth: Ordinary Time is a period of spiritual development. It's a time to reflect on how we can live out the values of the Gospel in our everyday lives.

5. Preparation for February Celebrations

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) will be celebrated on February 2, 2025. This feast marks the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple and is traditionally associated with the blessing of candles, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world.

Ash Wednesday is also just around the corner, marking the beginning of the Lenten season.

In summary, the Catholic liturgical year today is in a quiet, reflective phase of Ordinary Time, with the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales providing a focus on his spirituality and legacy. Catholics are looking ahead to the more

*penitential
season of
Lent
starting in a
few weeks.*

TELFORD & WREKIN Co-operative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

THE JOB BOX

TELFORD SKILLS SHOW

27 MARCH 2025
Telford International Centre, Telford
11.30am-6pm

SCAN ME AND BOOK YOUR PLACE

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A message from Telford and Wrekin - Holocaust Memorial Day 2025

Holocaust Memorial Day, Monday 27 January is an annual commemoration of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides such as Cambodia, Darfur and Bosnia. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), 27 January 2025 marks 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and 30 years since the genocide in Bosnia. It is a day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. We will honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experiences to inform our lives today. This year's theme, 'A better Future' looks forward to what actions we can take to avoid and prevent these horrendous acts from occurring again. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (www.hmd.org.uk) have produced a range of educational materials to support your school. There are materials suitable for a range of ages and topics. We are also holding a Commemoration and Exhibition on Monday 27 January at AFC Telford United, SEAH Stadium, Wellington.