



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Online Safety Concerns

We all know how quickly the digital world is changing, and while it offers great opportunities, it also brings some risks for our kids. As parents and educators, it's really important that we stay on top of how children are using social media and online platforms. One app to be particularly mindful of is Snapchat. Although it seems harmless, its disappearing messages can give children a false sense of security, leading them to share personal info or inappropriate content. There are also dangers in its features, like location sharing and talking to strangers. Another thing we need to watch is YouTube. While it's full of great educational content, too much unfiltered access can expose children to inappropriate material or misinformation. Setting up parental controls and talking to children about responsible use is key. WhatsApp groups among younger children can also be a concern. While they can help children stay connected, they can also lead to things like cyberbullying, misinformation, or exposure to stuff that's not suitable for their age. It's really important to talk with our children about how to use these platforms safely and respectfully.



SATS Information Sessions for Year 6 **Parents: 3rd of March – see Dairy Dates**

We understand that preparing for SATs can be both an exciting and challenging time for both children and parents. To support you during this important period, we are inviting you to attend an informative session

where we will provide detailed information about the SATs and how you can best support your child's preparation.

What to Expect at the Information Session:

- An Overview of the SATs: We will explain the structure and content of the SATs, including the subjects covered and how the assessments are designed.**
- Preparation Tips: Practical advice and resources to help your child feel confident and ready for the exams.**
- Understanding Results: Guidance on how the results are used and what they mean for your child's learning journey.**
- Q&A Session: An opportunity for you to ask any questions and share any concerns regarding the upcoming assessments.**

We encourage all parents to attend, as this session will provide valuable insights into supporting your child in the run-up to SATs. Together, we can ensure your child feels prepared, confident, and supported during this important time.

[New Sixth Form College](#)

There are some exciting updates in the local education scene. Work is about to start on a new Sixth Form Centre in the heart of Telford, at Station Quarter. It's going to be a fantastic space for Telford College

students, and it'll offer a huge upgrade to A-Level education locally. This is part of Telford & Wrekin Council's commitment to improving education facilities, with this new centre offering top-notch science labs, drama and arts studios, and a library, to name just a few things. It's going to help make A-Level education more accessible to local students, especially those from South Telford who currently have to travel elsewhere for their studies.



**To all of you, so joyful and bright,
Happy Valentine's Day, filled with love and
light!**

**This day is about kindness, joy, and care,
For the love we share is beyond compare.**

**In God's great love, we find our way,
Guiding us, each and every day.
Like Jesus, let's love one another,
Our friends, our families, and each other.**

**On this special day, let's share a smile,
Be kind to others, go the extra mile.
Valentine's is a chance to spread cheer,
With hearts full of love, year after year.**

**Remember, you're special, a gift from above,
Made in God's image, filled with His love.
So, today and always, let love light your way,
Happy Valentine's, and have a blessed day!**

**With love,
Mrs. Griffiths**

World Book Day

Just a quick reminder that World Book Day is coming up! This year, we'll be celebrating on 6th March, and it's a fantastic opportunity to encourage your child's love of reading.

On World Book Day, the children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. It doesn't need to be an elaborate costume – a simple homemade outfit or accessories based on a character from a beloved book will work perfectly. We also encourage your child to bring along their favourite book to share with their classmates. Additionally, your child will receive a £1 World Book Day book voucher, which can be used

to get a free book from participating retailers or towards a book purchase of their choice.

We can't wait to celebrate all things reading with your child!

Family Hubs

I also want to remind you all about the Family Hubs run by Telford & Wrekin Council. These hubs offer support on all kinds of topics, including parenting, mental health, and healthy living. There's a weekly drop-in session at Southwater Library every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, where you can meet with the team and get advice. There are also six Family Hubs across the Borough, so there are plenty of ways to access support if you need it. Google Family Hubs, Telford.



Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day has origins in both Catholic and Roman traditions. It's associated with St. Valentine, a Christian martyr, but the exact details about the saint's life are unclear, as there were multiple martyrs named Valentine. Over time, the feast day of St. Valentine, which is celebrated on February 14th, became a way to honour love and affection, especially romantic love. In the Catholic tradition, it's seen as a day to remember the importance of love, both romantic and the love that reflects God's love for humanity. However, in modern times, Valentine's Day has become more secular and is widely celebrated in many cultures, often as a day for expressing affection through gifts, cards, and acts of love. So while its roots are Catholic, it's celebrated in many different ways today.

Dates for your Diary

14.02.25	Break-up	Children break up for half term.
26.02.25	Faiths around the world's day	Children across school will be celebrating the different faiths around the world.
03.03.25	Year 6 SATs parents meetings	There will be two meetings for parents, one straight after school and one at 5pm. These meetings are to enable parents to better understand the SATs and how to support their child. Year 6 parents only.
03.03.25	Year 5 trip – National Space Centre	
05.03.25	Ash Wednesday Service in school	Father Michael will be leading an Ash Wednesday service at our school at 9:15 am.
06.03.25	World Book Day	children are invited to come to school dressed as one of their favourite characters from a book of their choice.
07.03.25	Year 2 curriculum assembly	Children in year 2 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
12.03.25	Year 3 trip – Blists Hill	
19.03.25	Photographer in school	the school photographer will be taking photos of individual children, teams, and siblings. More information will be provided closer to the date
28.03.25	Year 3 curriculum assembly	Children in year 3 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
01.04.25	Year 6 trip-Shropshire discovery centre	

03.04.25	Year 2 Trip to Cosford	
09.04.25	Easter Egg Hunt	
10.04.24	Children break-up	
11.04.25	PD day	
28.04.25	Return to school	
05.05.25	Bank Holiday Monday	
06.05.25	Reception Trip to Hoo Farm	
09.05.25	Year 4 curriculum assembly	Children in year 4 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
12.05.25	Year 6 SATS week	These tests assess children's knowledge and understanding in core subjects: English (reading and grammar, punctuation, and spelling) and mathematics. The results help teachers understand how well children have progressed and are used to inform the transition to secondary school.
23.05.25	Leavers mass in Shrewsbury Break up	Our 6 children will be travelling to Shrewsbury to celebrate mass together with other year 6 children from Catholic schools across Shropshire
03.06.25	KS1 Sports day	Families of children are invited to come and spectate our Sports Days. These will begin at approximately 9:00 AM.
05.06.25	KS2 Sports day	
20.06.25	Year 1 curriculum assembly	Children in year 1 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
23.06.25	Parents Evening	More information to follow.
24.06.25	Parents Evening	
04.07.25	Reception curriculum assembly	Children in Reception will be sharing the work they've been

		doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
18.07.25	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Parents of children in year 6 will be invited to our leavers assembly to celebrate the children's years spent here at Saint Mary's Catholic primary school. The assembly begins at approximately 9:00 AM and should last just over an hour.
	Children break-up for summer	
21.07.25	PD day	