

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

17th July 2024

Goodbye Year Six

I would like to say goodbye and good luck to the Year 6 pupils who are sadly leaving us on Friday. You have been a fantastic year group and excellent role models to the younger pupils within our school. You have worked hard, tried your best, and kept us all entertained with your funny jokes and stories! It has been a privilege to have you in our care. We're all going to miss you a great deal and wish you the very best of luck for the future.

The local secondary schools are always very happy to receive children from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and I know for sure that they will be so pleased for you to be joining them in September. Remember that once you have been part of our St. Mary's family, you are always welcome back. We have several pupils that return to us for advice and support or a listening ear. Many pupils from years gone-by have returned here to complete their work experience or will visit and help during PD days. The same invitation is open to you too.

I know that several of you have been getting upset about leaving, telling me and other members of staff that you feel such a strong sense of belonging here and we understand that for some, this is an unsettling time. Once you start your journey in your new school, and you find your feet and a few new friends, you will quickly feel that you belong in your new school. You have strong attachments and connections to the staff here, but you will soon find new adults that you will form similar connections with and learn to trust.

It has been beautiful to watch how your faith has grown over the years you have attended our school. I hope that you continue in your relationship with God, and know for certain that you are always welcome at Saint Mary's Catholic Church as our school is just one branch of the church's tree.

Thank you to parents too for being true educational partners who play an active role in shaping the future of our pupils. Your commitment to your child's education is truly commendable. Happy summer holiday to you all.

God bless you all. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mrs Griffiths

WhatsApp safety guide for parents

Internet matters.org

13+
WhatsApp's minimum age in the UK

58%
Kids aged 3-17 who use WhatsApp

37%
Kids under 13 who use WhatsApp

5 tips to keep kids safe on WhatsApp

- 1 Review privacy settings** WhatsApp has a range of privacy and security settings to keep users safe. Customise groups, app access, live location and more.
- 2 Customise contacts** Show your child how to report and block unwanted contacts. Then, work with them to add their friends and family. Review and talk about their contacts regularly.
- 3 Talk about personal information** Make sure your child understands what personal information is. Talk about the importance of keeping that information private on WhatsApp.
- 4 Show them where to get support** If something goes wrong or they see something worrying on WhatsApp, make sure they know to come to you, and talk about other sources of support.
- 5 Check in regularly** Once you've done all of the above, check in with them regularly to review settings and how they use WhatsApp.

Internet Matters
 @IM_Org
 @internetmattersorg

@InternetMatters
 @InternetMatters_org
 Internet Matters Ltd

WhatsApp Warning

All primary schools up and down the country would actively encourage you to deactivate/disable any large WhatsApp groups that your children are on. We do a great deal of work in school, advising children, supporting children, and addressing any fallouts generated by online contact. This kind of support will not be available over the summer holidays and children can be left feeling overwhelmed and upset by online exchanges that they're emotionally too

young to cope with. Children should be thirteen years old to use the application, but many of our children remain in WhatsApp groups. If you don't already, I would recommend that you check your children's phones regularly and monitor their exchanges with each other as I am keen, like you are, that the children have a lovely holiday free of any upset that may cause anxiety and worry. School works hard to educate pupils about the risks of social media and issues such as bullying online. We have had to mediate between pupils who have posted hurtful comments or intervened for children after they have been pointedly removed from a chat group, usually at the beginning of the academic year. It is best all-round that children message each other individually and they are not exposed to the potential risk of being caught-up in a chat that causes distress.

Online Safety

As you know, we send out a monthly online safety newsletter. Below is a link for some very useful online safety videos that you might want to look at over the summer holidays.

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-videos/>

Water Safety



The poster features the StdyWise logo at the top left, which includes a blue bell icon and the tagline 'SAVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION'. At the top right is a small orange icon of a boat. In the center is a lifebuoy graphic with a blue banner that reads 'DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK'. Below this, the main title 'ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE' is written in large, bold, red and blue letters. The poster lists three key rules: 'STOP AND THINK' (Look for the dangers. Always read the signs.), 'STAY TOGETHER' (Never swim alone. Always go with friends or family.), and 'FLOAT' (If you fall in, float or swim on your back. Throw something that floats to anyone who has fallen in.). At the bottom, there is a row of five icons representing emergency services: a red fire truck, a green ambulance, a blue car, a yellow helicopter, and an orange boat.

StdyWise
SAVING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK Look for the dangers. Always read the signs.

STAY TOGETHER Never swim alone. Always go with friends or family.

In an emergency:

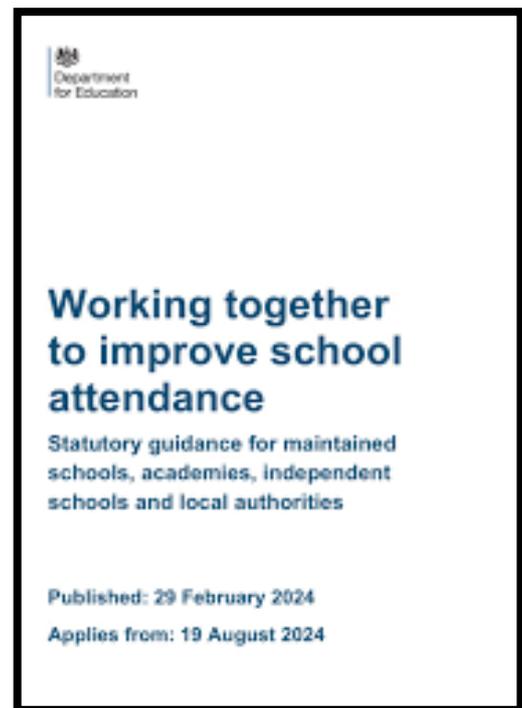
CALL 999 OR 112 Shout for help and phone 999 or 112.

FLOAT If you fall in, float or swim on your back. Throw something that floats to anyone who has fallen in.



Important: Changes to attendance

In February 2024 the Government's Department for Education published a new national framework for penalty notices that will come into force from 19th August 2024. In doing so, the Government have renewed appeals to parents not to take their children out of school during term time. Students will only be given permission to take leave in term time if there are exceptional circumstances. The Government state that 'family holidays or leave in term time for leisure activities are not exceptional circumstances'.



As a school we are asked to inform you that, in line with the national framework for penalty notices, 10 sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school rolling weeks may be subject to a **Penalty Notice fine of £160** payable per parent, per child, which can be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days, but only if it is the first Penalty Notice issued to you from 1st September 2024. If this fine is not paid within 28 days this may lead to Court proceedings which could ultimately result in a criminal record and a fine of up to £2500 and/or an alternative sentence which can include up to three months imprisonment.

If any unauthorised absence results in a second Penalty Notice issued to you within three years of the date of the first one, (from 1st September 2024) a flat rate of £160 will apply. A third Penalty Notice will not be issued within a three-year rolling period. Therefore, alternative action or legal measures will be utilised when the criteria of 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10-school week rolling period are met.

Our key priority is to ensure that children are as successful as possible and can achieve their full potential. I would hope that, upon reflection you are able to support this decision in line with the government and local authority policy that leave should be restricted to the 13 weeks school holidays except in exceptional circumstances.

Summer Cricket

Madeley cricket club are holding Softball Friday Cricket sessions every Friday evening 530-630pm throughout the summer holidays.

Sessions are £2 per child or Free for current junior members. Booking is required via the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSedZEs_wtu01QY06Jl1T0bXRRFnwMhLfqxQBz64ov-BipQ/viewform



Madeley cricket club SOFTBALL FRIDAYS

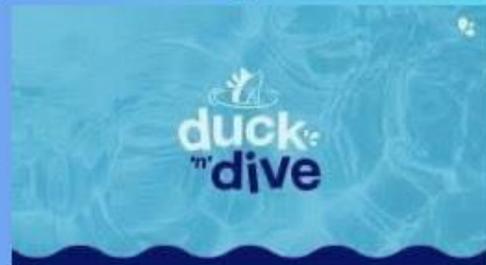
Boys & Girls Ages 6-13
26th July to 30th August 2024

Run by our ECB qualified coaches
Friday evenings 530-630pm

informal sessions with softball games
Aimed at having fun with cricket
throughout the summer

Meet with friends old & new throughout
the summer holidays in a happy safe
environment

FREE to Junior Members
£2 per session for
non members





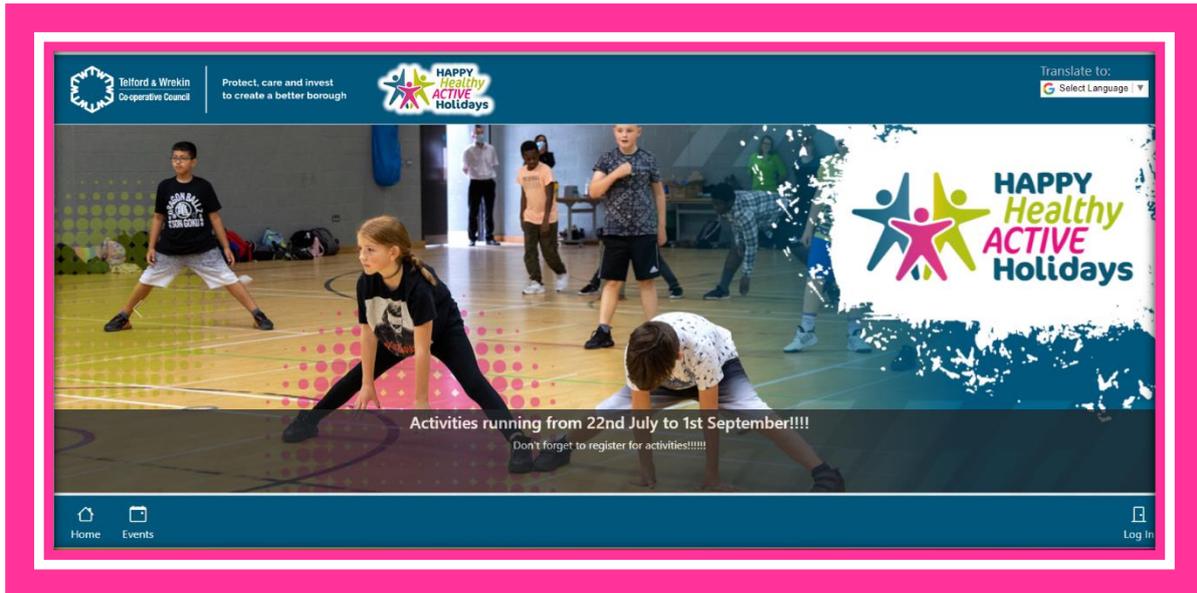
Leavers' Assembly

Our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly will be held here at St Mary's on Thursday at 9:00am. We hope that parents and carers of the children in Year 6 will be able to attend for about an hour, so we

can mark the end of the children's journey here at St Mary's Catholic Primary School together. I suggest you bring some tissues along with you as there are sure to be some tear-jerking moments!! I hope to see you all there, some of you for the very last visit to our school :-)

Happy healthy active holidays

Spend a few minutes to find this website. You will need to create an account, but it gives you access to lots of activities for children across the borough over the summer holidays. Some of the activities have massive discounts, reduced in price or totally free. Please take a look.



Dinner Monies Owing

Could we kindly ask you to pay for any outstanding dinner money owing by tomorrow morning. Thank you.

Muxton Extra Holiday Club

Summer Half Term

Open to all children aged school 4—11 years old

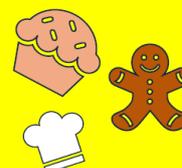
Monday 22nd July-Tuesday 3rd September

(Closed Monday 26th August)

8:00am-3:30pm £17.00

8:00-6:00pm £20.00

(These prices include breakfast)



- ❖ All day arts and crafts
- ❖ Sports including football, dodgeball, gymnastics etc
 - ❖ Our very own sports day morning.
 - ❖ Local walks
 - ❖ Baking/cooking activities
 - ❖ Water play
- ❖ Games, BINGO, art competitions, quizzes etc.
Booking available through your child's scopay.



For more information: [Email:muxtonextra@muxtonprimary.org.uk](mailto:muxtonextra@muxtonprimary.org.uk)
Or phone the school office 01952 327007

PARENTS
OPENING
DOORS
PARENT CARER FORUM



PODS
BENEFITTING
SCHEME



MOBILOO

PODS PICNIC IN THE PARK

OPEN TO
EVERYONE



MONDAY 5TH AUGUST 2024

10AM - 4PM AT CHARLTON SCHOOL, APLEY AVENUE,
WELLINGTON, TELFORD, TF1 3FA

NEW
VENUE

Come along and join in the fun, we will have lots
of activities available on the day, including:

A gaming van, Bouncy castles, photobooth,
face painting and much more

All activities are free, however if you wish to
donate on entrance, we would be most grateful.
Small charges apply for refreshments and stalls

For more information please contact
Joanne on 07816 643747 or
email on events@podstelford.org

Registered Charity Number 1150871

