**St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

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Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

### **Safeguarding Concern**

As we navigate the commencement of our new academic year, I am compelled to address a critical matter of utmost importance: the safeguarding of our children before the official school day commences.

Our primary responsibility is to ensure the comprehensive protection of every child within our educational environment. To this end, we must articulate with absolute clarity the essential safeguarding expectations that govern our morning protocols.

### **Supervision and Safety Guidelines**

It is imperative that all families understand and adhere to the following critical guidelines: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult until 8:35am and should only be left when they are entering the school premises. Under no circumstances should a child be present on the school grounds or playground without direct adult supervision. Our staff are not on duty until 8:35am, and consequently, the school cannot assume responsibility for children who arrive earlier and are left unattended.

For parents facing logistical challenges such as early work commitments or urgent appointments, we have established a comprehensive solution: our Breakfast Club. This facility provides a safe, supervised environment designed to support families while maintaining the highest standards of child protection. However, it is crucial to emphasise that children attending Breakfast Club must be handed directly to a staff member. A mere visual observation from a distance is categorically insufficient. We can only guarantee a child's arrival and safety through a formal, person-to-person handover and official sign-in process.

### **Potential Safeguarding Risks**

The potential consequences of leaving children unsupervised before 8:35am are significant and multifaceted:

- Potential exposure to unknown individuals or unsafe situations
- Increased risk of accidents or injury without immediate adult intervention
- Possibility of children inadvertently leaving the school premises
- Emotional vulnerability in the absence of a trusted adult

We must be unequivocally clear: should parents choose to disregard these explicit guidelines and leave a child unattended before 8:35am, the school will not be held accountable for any subsequent incidents. This policy is not punitive but protective, designed with the singular objective of safeguarding our children's well-being.

### Great news

I am delighted to share two pieces of positive news. Mr Freeman has welcomed his second daughter, with both mother and child in excellent health. He is anticipated to return to school at the conclusion of next week.

### New Sports Coach

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of our dedicated Sport Coach, commencing duties next week. The selection process was rigorous, involving an impressive interview, comprehensive lesson observation, and exceptional references.

### Parents Open Afternoon

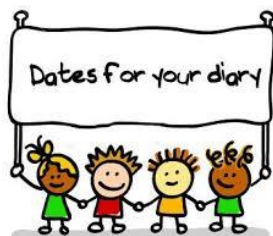
Thank you so much to everyone who joined us for our recent event. We're especially grateful to those who supported our Key Stage One classes...it was lovely to see so many of you engaging with your children's learning and connecting with their teachers.

We did notice that attendance from families in Year 5 and Year 6 was lower than expected. We completely understand that life is busy and that commitments can sometimes get in the way. That said, these final years of primary school are particularly important, with children preparing for secondary school transitions and SATs assessments. Our teachers had prepared to share valuable insights into each child's progress, achievements, and areas for growth, and it's a real shame that many of those conversations couldn't take place.

We'd really encourage all families to take part in future opportunities to connect with us- your involvement makes a genuine difference to your child's experience and success at school. We're here to work in partnership with you, and we remain

committed to open, supportive communication with every member of our school community.

We look forward to seeing more of you at upcoming events and thank you, as always, for your continued support.



### Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
<b>October</b>	
Thu 2 Oct	National Poetry Day – Assembly, class performances, and competition winner. Children are encouraged to write poetry at home.
Fri 3 Oct	Year 3 Trip to Outback2 Basics
Tue 14 Oct	Year 2 Trip to Kingswood
Mon 20 Oct	Wear It Pink Day
Tue 21 Oct	Year 6 Trip to National Arboretum
Wed 22 Oct	Harvest Festival 9:00–10:00am. Non-perishable food donations please.
Thu 23 Oct	Year 1 Trip to Blists Hill
Fri 24 Oct	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
<b>November</b>	
Mon 3 Nov	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
Wed 5 Nov	Year 5 Trip to Cadbury World
Week of 10 Nov	Anti-Bullying Week – <i>Power for Good</i> theme
Tue 11 Nov	Remembrance Day – One-minute silence observed
Thu 13 Nov	International Kindness Day – Special Assembly and Class Activities
Fri 21 Nov	Pilgrims of Hope – Jubilee Celebration
<b>December</b>	
Wed 3 Dec	Advent Afternoon Tea – Parish invited to school hall
Thu 11 Dec	Family Christmas Carols – All welcome

Date	Event
Fri 12 Dec	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Mon 15 Dec	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Tue 16 Dec	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Wed 17 Dec	Walk to Church Service Christmas Dinner. Children to wear something Christmassy
Thu 18 Dec	Last Day of Term
Fri 19 Dec	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils