

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 3rd October 2025

God has given each of us gifts not to keep, but to share, so that through love, we build His Kingdom together.

PARENTS OF UNDER 5'S - VERY IMPORTANT

We'd like to share an important reminder regarding packed lunches for our youngest children, specifically those **under the age of five** in Reception.

In line with updated **national safeguarding guidance for early years settings**, schools are now expected to take extra precautions to reduce the risk of choking. This means that all fresh foods such as grapes, cherry tomatoes, apples, carrots, and hard cheeses, must be **cut into small pieces or grated** before being sent into school.

To help us meet these expectations and keep your child safe, we kindly ask that:

- **Grapes and cherry tomatoes** are cut lengthwise.
- **Hard fruits and vegetables**, such as apples and carrots, are **grated or finely sliced**.
- All other fresh foods are **cut into manageable, bite-sized pieces**.

Children under five are still developing their chewing and swallowing skills. These guidelines are part of a **national safeguarding approach** and are **not specific to St Mary's**.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and nurturing environment for every child.



What Have the Children Been Learning in Their Assemblies This Month?

This month, our assemblies have been filled with inspiring themes, reflections, and celebrations that help deepen the children's understanding of faith, kindness, and community.

The term began with a lively assembly that started like a party! Children thought about their dream party guest and why they would make a good guest. Through exploring the week's Gospel, they discovered that the guests Jesus invites us to welcome might be very different from what we expect. The children were reminded that we are called to love all people, to see others as Jesus does, and to reach out with God's love and care. This message of generous love encouraged us all to put God first in our lives and to help build God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Parents and carers were invited to discuss this at home, thinking about who they might invite to their own gatherings and how their family could reach out to neighbours and the wider community with compassion and support. Families were also encouraged to pray together, asking God to fill their hearts with generous love.

Assemblies also focused on a central Scripture verse in the Christian faith: John 3:16. Children explored the significance of the Cross as a symbol of love and hope. They also focused on the Catholic sign of faith, the Sign of the Cross, and were reminded of the immense love the Father has for each of us, shown in sending His only Son so we could experience His mercy and love.

Families were encouraged to make the Sign of the Cross during prayer, to thank Jesus for the hope and love He brings, and to reflect together on other signs or symbols that remind them of God's love, possibly displaying them prominently at home.

We also celebrated the canonisation of Carlo Acutis by Pope Leo XIV. Children learned about this remarkable modern saint through a special resource, including a video provided by CYMFed, available on the Online Parent Portal. Carlo's story offers a powerful example of faith in the modern world.

In the prayers during another week, children focused on the important messages of the prophets who pointed the way to Jesus. The liturgical calendar also gave us a chance to celebrate the feasts of several angels. In pupil-led prayer time, children reflected on God's angelic messengers, looking to their example for inspiration.

Families were invited to join in prayer at home, asking God to inspire them through the saints and angels and to seek their intercessions using a special prayer litany.

Questions you could have a chat about...

What did you learn about the people Jesus wants us to welcome?

What does the Cross mean to you?

Can you show me how to make the Sign of the Cross?

How can we show God's love to others?

Was there a prayer or song you liked?

What made you feel close to God during the assemblies?



Thank you

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your support in ensuring that children do not arrive at school before 8:35am. We truly appreciate the effort many of you make to adjust your routines,

arrange alternative childcare, or wait with your child until the gates open.

Your commitment helps us uphold one of the most vital responsibilities we have: safeguarding. When children arrive too early, before staff are on duty and supervision is in place, they are vulnerable. There may be no one available to monitor their safety, respond to emergencies, or ensure they are where they need to be. In those moments, even the most familiar environment can become unsafe.

By ensuring your child arrives at the correct time, you are helping us maintain a secure and structured start to the day. It means every child is welcomed into a space that is ready for them - physically, emotionally, and practically. It also allows staff to focus on preparing the day's learning, knowing that children are arriving safely and appropriately.

We know mornings can be busy, and that making alternative arrangements isn't always easy. That's why we're especially grateful for your understanding and cooperation. Your actions reflect a shared commitment to the wellbeing of all children in our care, and together, we are creating a culture of safety, trust, and respect.

Thank you once again for being supportive partners in your child's education.

Free Swimming in Telford

We wanted to share an important reminder about the value of swimming in your child's development.

Worryingly, just half of our Year 6 pupils last year could swim by the time they turned 11. This is a concern, not just for meeting national curriculum expectations, but for their safety and confidence too.

Swimming is more than just a sport or a fun activity. It's a life-saving skill and a powerful tool for physical and mental wellbeing. Here are just a few of the benefits:



- **Safety:** Knowing how to swim can prevent drowning and help children stay safe around water.
- **Fitness:** Swimming builds strength, stamina, and coordination in a low-impact way.
- **Mental health:** It reduces stress, boosts mood, and improves sleep.
- **Confidence:** Learning to swim helps children feel proud, independent, and capable.
- **Achievement:** Swimming is part of the national curriculum, children are expected to swim 25 metres by the end of Year 6.

We strongly encourage you to take your child swimming regularly. Whether it's a weekend splash or structured lessons, every bit helps. Children and young people under 25 who live in Telford & Wrekin can enjoy free swimming at local leisure centres. This offer is available at venues like:

- Wellington Civic & Leisure Centre
- Stirchley Sports & Leisure Centre
- The Circle at Hadley Learning Community
- To qualify, you'll need to register for a Telford Loyalty Card (TLC) at any participating centre

Poetry Competition

We're delighted to share that we recently held a poetry competition in school, and the children truly rose to the occasion with creativity, imagination, and heart. It was a joy to read their work and see how confidently they expressed themselves through words.

We're proud to present the winning entries below. Each poem was chosen for its originality, thoughtful language, and the way it captured a moment, feeling, or idea. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we did.

Year 2

Kids Are Playing

In Autumn I can see a squirrel,
In autumn I can hear a bird squeaking.
In autumn I can smell fresh pumpkins,
In autumn I can touch the tree,
In autumn all ages love conkers, and
sticks and leaves and acorns.
In autumn it gets colder and then
...snowy!

Year 6

If

If clouds were cotton candy,
We'd dance with happy feet!
If stars were toys that gleamed and glow,
We'd catch them all and put on a show.
But here on Earth we laugh and play,
Making magic everyday!

Year 6

I Love To Play!

I- In summer I like to play
L- Laughing with friends and family.
O-Over, funny jokes.
V- Very sunny days we play,
E- Everything you can imagine!

T=Tag someone.
O-Over near the swings.

P-Practise how to play rounders,
L-Laugh if you're playing a board
game.

A- Anice time to play
4Y- Yay!

Year 4

Come On-Let's Play

Come on , let's play!

We'll play chases or with a ball.
Don't worry, friends will help you if you
fall!

We'll climb up trees and gather sticks,
We'll make a den out of twigs.

We'll looks for bugs, on the ground.
Nature is waiting to be found.

We can use our imagination in any way,
I can be fairy for a day.

Come on everyone, let's play!

Year 2

Autumn

*In autumn I can see the leaves
In autumn I can hear crunching in these
leaves.
In autumn I can smell roaring pumpkins!*

Year 4

Chilling!

W-When I play, I laugh so loud.
H- Hyper bounce I'm in the cloud.
E-Even building a lot of dens.
N-Nothing is better than my friends.

I-I love to laugh and talk all day!

P-Playtime makes worries fade away.
L-Lot's of games like hide and seek.

	<p>A-Adventure makes my knees feel weak! Y-You can't stop me when I play!!!</p>
<p>Year 6</p> <p><u>Fantasy</u></p> <p>I sailed in my dreams to the Land of Night, Where you were the moon -light Queen! And there in the pallor of moon-veiled light, The loveliest thing we are seen!</p> <p>A slim neck of unicorn sauntered there in a garden full of lavender. And you were strange with your purple hair, As you sat in your amethyst chair, And in your silver heels , oh, The moon gave a stunning light,</p> <p>Through the trees, In the land of dreams!</p>	<p>Year 6</p> <p><u>PLAY</u></p> <p>I really like to play, If I could I would play all day!</p> <p>With my favourite doll, Or even a scary troll.</p> <p>Playing really is fun. Inside or outside in the sun!</p> <p>After a day of play, in bed I lay, That really was the best day!</p>
<p>Year 6</p> <p>PLAYING</p> <p>I love to go outside and play, I wish I could do it every day. Joke, laugh and talk, Together we can take a walk. Running around, Feet stomping on the ground, Listen to hip hop, Playing every day... We never stop!</p>	<p>Year 4</p> <p>A Playful Time</p> <p>Everyone should always have a break! I remember all the times I've had fun. And that was no mistake! So let me show you how it's done!</p> <p>You could go outside and enjoy the sun. Play in the grass and run! You could also make friends with a bug, But it would ne hard to give it a hug! You could spend the entire day there, Let yourself be free and feel like air. And don't get me started on camping, The thought of it just makes me start dancing!</p> <p>You could stay indoors,</p>

And laugh with your mum, whilst doing
chores.

You can play video games,
My favourite are ones with trains!
You could also just take a nap,
And you might dream of a nice chap!
And if it rains,
Listen to the sounds too soothe your
migraines!

Everyone should have a break,
And enjoy a playful time.
Because everything is great.
In every life time!



Reading Expectations

If your child isn't yet able to read the following paragraphs independently by the end of the school year, and they don't have a specific learning need that affects this, there's a wonderful opportunity to help them grow with some extra reading at home. Just a little regular practice can make a big difference in their confidence and enjoyment of

reading. We truly appreciate your support in nurturing a lifelong love of books and learning in your child.

Age 4–5 (Reception)

Sam has a red hat. He likes to run and jump. Mum said, "Let's go to the park." Sam saw a big dog. "Woof!" said the dog. Sam smiled.

Focus: simple phonics, short sentences, common exception words.

Age 5–6 (Year 1)

It was a sunny day. Ben and Mia went to the farm. They saw cows, pigs, and hens. "Look at the baby lambs!" said Mia. Ben fed the hens with corn. They clucked and pecked happily.

Focus: phonics-based decoding, common exception words, basic punctuation.

Age 6–7 (Year 2)

The sun was shining and the sky was blue. Tom and Lily ran to the park with their dog, Max. Max barked happily and chased a red ball across the grass. “Let’s play hide and seek!” said Lily. Tom counted to ten while Lily hid behind a big tree. They laughed and played until it was time to go home.

Focus: fluency, expression, story structure, basic inference.

Age 7–8 (Year 3)

Ella loved reading books about space. One day, she found a shiny rock in the garden. “It looks like a meteor!” she said. She took it to school and showed her teacher. They looked it up in a science book and learned it was a piece of quartz. Ella was proud of her discovery.

Focus: varied sentence structure, subject-specific vocabulary, basic explanation.

Age 8–9 (Year 4)

Josh and his friends built a den in the woods using sticks, leaves, and rope. They made a roof to keep out the rain and even added a flag. “This is our secret base,” said Josh. They spent the afternoon telling stories and planning adventures. When it got dark, they packed up and promised to return the next day.

Focus: descriptive language, narrative detail, sequencing.

Year 5 (Age 9–10)

The ancient castle loomed above the misty valley, its stone walls weathered by centuries of wind and rain. Inside, Leo tiptoed through the echoing halls, clutching a flickering lantern. He had read about the hidden chamber in an old journal, and now he was determined to find it. Shadows danced across the walls as he descended the spiral staircase, heart pounding with anticipation.

A Prayer for Sharing Our Gifts

Dear God, Thank You for the special gifts You have given each of us— Our talents, our kindness, our voices, and our hearts.

Help us to use these gifts not just for ourselves, But to bring joy, help, and love to others. Teach us to share freely, To give without expecting anything back, And to see You in everyone we meet.

May we be generous like Jesus, Who gave everything out of love. Let our hands be ready to help, Our words be gentle and kind, And our hearts be open to serve.

Focus: atmospheric description, historical setting, suspense, advanced vocabulary (e.g., loomed, flickering, anticipation).

Year 6 (Age 10–11)

As the debate began, Amira stood tall, her notes trembling slightly in her hands. She was arguing for cleaner oceans, and her research was thorough. “Plastic pollution is not just unsightly—it’s deadly,” she declared, scanning the room for reactions. Her opponent countered with statistics, but Amira responded with passion and clarity. By the end, the room was silent, thoughtful. She hadn’t just spoken—she’d made people care.

Focus: persuasive language, emotional nuance, complex sentence structure, abstract themes (e.g., environmental activism, public speaking).

PODS Parent Carer Forum

ADHD and Autism Experience Project

"Tell us about Autism/ADHD services and help to shape the future of how they are delivered"



**Please share your
experiences of the following
stages:**
Referrals
Assessment
Diagnosis
Support



Who is session for:
**Parent Carers of Children and
Young People**
**What experiences do we
need:**
Past / Present
Future Ideas

Dates for drop-in workshops:
Mondays 9.30–12.30pm
6 October /13 October
20 October



**Book Here or
drop a text to
Jayne
0777 534
2092**



One to one slots:
Wednesday 15 October
Friday 24 October.

Christmas Celebrations

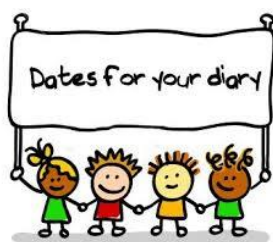
This year, we're excited to share a different kind of Christmas celebration for our children and families to enjoy—one that brings us all together in a truly magical way.

Instead of our usual Key Stage performances, the children will be learning a selection of beautiful Christmas carols to perform in a special candlelit service. At the end of the school day, we'll wrap up in coats, hats, scarves (and maybe a bit of tinsel!) and gather outside for a joyful singalong. Each child will hold a little candle as we celebrate the season with warmth, music, and community.

The service will also include prayers and readings of the Christmas story to reflect on the true meaning of the season. We warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for this festive moment. There will be mince pies to enjoy, and plenty of cheer to go around.

We hope this new tradition will be a heartwarming experience for everyone involved—and a lovely way to end the term together.

More details will follow soon. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
October	
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 Memorial Arboretum
Wed 22 Oct	Harvest Festival 9:00–10:00am. Non-perishable food donations please.
Thu 23 Oct	Year 1 Trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town
Fri 24 Oct	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils

Date	Event
November	
Mon 3 Nov	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils
Weds 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
December	
Wed 3 Dec	Advent Afternoon Tea – Parish invited to school hall
Thu 11 Dec	Family Christmas Carols Celebration– All welcome
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