

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

4th September 2026



Welcome Back to Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School

A very warm welcome back to all our families as we begin another exciting school year at Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School. We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and have had the opportunity to spend quality time together as a family.

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year, and we are delighted to say that all of the children have settled into their new classrooms incredibly well. The school is already full of laughter, learning and enthusiasm, and it has been wonderful to see the children return with such positive attitudes and smiling faces.

We would like to give a very special mention to our new starters, who have been absolutely brilliant. Starting school or joining a new class can be a significant step for children and families alike, but they have approached it

with great courage, excitement and positivity. As you might expect, there have been a couple of little upsets along the way, which is completely natural when children are experiencing new routines and environments. However, these have been short-lived, and the children have settled remarkably quickly, supported every step of the way by our caring and dedicated staff team.

Already, we are beginning to know our new children well. We are discovering their unique personalities, learning about their interests and preferences, celebrating their strengths and building the strong relationships that are so important in helping every child flourish. It is a privilege to welcome them into our Saint Mary's family, and we are excited to watch them grow and thrive throughout the year ahead.

As always, we are looking forward to working closely with our parents and carers throughout the coming months. We firmly believe that the most successful outcomes for children are achieved when home and school work together in genuine partnership. Open communication, shared expectations and mutual support make an enormous difference to children's confidence, wellbeing and achievement. When children see the important adults in their lives working together towards the same goals, they feel secure, valued and motivated to do their very best. The impact that this partnership has on children's progress simply cannot be overstated.

Mrs Lambie and I have already had the pleasure of personally meeting a number of parents during these first few days of term, and we would like to thank you for the kindness, warmth and openness that you have shown us. We greatly value the trust that families place in our school and appreciate your willingness to share your thoughts, concerns and information about your children. The closer we can work together, the stronger the outcomes will be for the children in our care. A strong partnership between home and school truly makes all the difference.

We recognise that life can be challenging for many families now. With the rising cost of living and the many pressures that modern family life can bring, there is much that can weigh heavily on people. That is why community is so important. At Saint Mary's, we want to continue building a culture where we care for one another, support one another and celebrate one another's successes. The more we can spread kindness, happiness, warmth and understanding, the stronger our community will become. Together, as families, staff, governors, parishioners and children, we can ensure that Saint Mary's remains a place where everyone feels valued, welcomed and loved.

We were also delighted to welcome Bishop Mark to Saint Mary's today. His



visit was a wonderful blessing for our school community and one that both the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed.

During his time with us, Bishop Mark

spent time speaking with the children, who had the opportunity to ask him a range of thoughtful and insightful questions. He listened carefully, responded with warmth and wisdom, and encouraged them in their faith journey. It was lovely to see the confidence, curiosity and enthusiasm of our children shining through during these conversations.

Bishop Mark also met with members of staff and our senior leadership team. Together, we discussed the vision for Saint Mary's, the areas we are continuing to develop and strengthen, and



our aspirations for the future of the school. He was keen to hear about the work taking place across our community and offered his support and encouragement throughout. We were particularly grateful for his kind words of congratulations regarding our recent inspection outcomes, which are a reflection of the commitment and dedication shown by our children, staff, governors and families.

Bishop Mark is a very special person, and we always feel privileged when he visits our school. There is something truly unique about his presence. He has an extraordinary ability to inspire, encourage and uplift those around him. As a staff team, we often say that he "fills our cup" whenever he visits. His warmth, humility, wisdom and deep faith leave a lasting impression on everyone he meets. There is something rather special and enigmatic about him that helps us feel ever closer to God and reminds us of the importance of our mission as a Catholic school. We are truly blessed by his support and guidance, and his visit was a wonderful way to begin this new academic year.

Finally, I would like to place particular emphasis on one message that remains as important as ever: reading.

Year after year, the children who achieve the strongest academic outcomes are consistently those who read regularly at home. Whilst there are many factors that contribute to success in school, reading remains one of the single most important habits that families can help to develop. Reading opens the door to every area of learning. It develops vocabulary, comprehension, knowledge, imagination and confidence. It supports writing, mathematics, science, religious education and every other subject across the curriculum.

The evidence within our own school is clear. The children who perform best academically are invariably those who read frequently and consistently at home. This is not a coincidence. Reading builds knowledge, strengthens language skills and equips children with the tools they need to access increasingly challenging learning as they move through school.

We know that family life is busy, but even a short period of reading every day can have a profound impact. Whether your child is reading independently, reading aloud to you, sharing a story together or simply discussing a book they have enjoyed, every minute counts. Establishing a daily reading routine is one of the most valuable investments you can make in your child's future. Quite simply, the children who read more, achieve more.

As we begin another year together, we are excited about all that lies ahead. We have high expectations for every child and remain committed to providing a nurturing, ambitious and faith-filled environment where all children can flourish academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. We look forward to working with you throughout the year and celebrating the many successes, achievements and milestones that undoubtedly lie ahead.

Mrs Griffiths



THANK
YOU! 😊

Thank You for Your Support

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for supporting our end-of-day collection procedures.

We have noticed and greatly appreciate the way families have been waiting patiently on

the playground and allowing staff the space needed to dismiss children safely from their classroom doors. By avoiding crowding around entrances and exits, you help us to clearly identify the adults collecting children and ensure that every child is released safely and efficiently.

As you can appreciate, when classroom doors become crowded it can sometimes make it more difficult for staff to see parents and carers clearly, which in turn can impact the smooth and safe collection of children. Your cooperation and understanding make a significant difference and help us to maintain the highest standards of safeguarding for all children.

Thank you for continuing to abide by these arrangements. Your support is very much appreciated by all staff and helps to ensure that the end of each school day remains calm, organised and, most importantly, safe for everyone.

Follow Our Facebook Page!

Have you followed our new Facebook page yet?

Our Facebook page is a fantastic way to keep up to date with everything happening in school. We regularly share photographs of children's learning, exciting activities, special events, celebrations, sporting successes and



many of the wonderful experiences that take place throughout the school year.

We also post useful reminders, important announcements and information about events, activities and opportunities taking place in the local community that may be of interest to families.

We would love as many parents, carers, family members and friends of the school as possible to join our online community and celebrate the amazing things our children achieve every day.

Please follow the link below and give our page a follow to stay connected and informed.

[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing our school journey with you!