



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

7th September 2018

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Welcome Back

Dear Parents /Carers,

We hope that you have had a restful summer break. We would like to extend a warm welcome to existing and new families, as we begin this school year.

We are delighted and honoured to be appointed as the new headteachers for St Mary's and are very keen to build on our existing relationships with the whole school community. Parents and carers make a very important contribution to children's achievements at school. From our experience, we know that a successful and happy school depends on all of us working together.

St Mary's has a history of excellence and strong foundations. We thank you in advance for your support as we begin this new academic year. We are determined that your children will succeed, be happy and do their best.

Best wishes

Miss Phipps & Mr Sims

New School Year

After a wonderful break, everyone arrived back full of energy with lots of stories to pass on about their summer adventures! We would like to welcome our new teachers - Miss Donnelly in Class I and Mrs Otley in Reception A.

Another big welcome to our new children and families who joined St Mary's this week. The weekly newsletter will continue to be emailed to families but paper copies are also available from the main office.

It is very important for your children to arrive in their classrooms on time. The gates open at 8.40am and the children are allowed to go to class at 8.45am. Morning prayers are promptly said at 8.55am and registration follows prayers. Children who arrive after 8.55am are late and have to sign in at the main office.

Formal parents' evenings have been set aside to discuss children's progress but if there are any concerns, please do not wait until then. Approach the office staff and ask if a meeting with the teacher can take place. Key dates will be emailed to all parents once they are finalised.

CURRICULUM NEWS

RE News

Please see the latest RE Newsletter. Read over the section regarding your child's year group so you know how to offer support.

Also, look out for the **Wednesday Word** in your child's bookbag each week. The readings for the weekend Masses are simplified and the sheet acts as a good starting point for discussion.

Each Junior class will prepare a Mass in the convent this Autumn term. Mass dates will be specified in the Key Dates so look out for them. The Sisters are happy for parents to join the children in the convent but use the McAuley Close entrance.



This is just a reminder that the Annual Harvest Mass is on Thursday 27th September. Due to space restrictions parents cannot attend the Mass. St Mary's collects items for Providence Row, a charitable organisation that supports the homeless run by the Sisters of Mercy. You can start bringing items in to school from Monday 17th September. Food must be non-perishable, sealed and in date e.g, tinned meat and fish, rice, pasta, dried herbs and spices, tea and coffee. Toiletries, cutlery, plates, towels and bedding are always needed. Thank you for your support.



Meeting for Reception Parents

The Reception teachers would like to invite their new parents to attend a meeting on Wednesday 19th September at 3pm. The teachers would like to answer any questions parents may have and just to discuss what it is like having a child in Reception. Please come along if you can.

 *Key Dates*

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them on Wisepay. We endeavour to inform parents as soon as these dates are confirmed as working parents may need to book time off work for certain events.

GENERAL NEWS



Every parent, apart from the new children, has been given a login to set up their child's Wisepay account. Many parents have not yet done this. All information from the main office is being emailed through Wisepay so you are missing out on information if your child's account has not been set up. Uniform can be ordered and paid for straight away; dinners can be paid for online. Please ensure that this is done as soon as possible. The ladies in the main office will help so please ask them.

 *School Dinners*

Do not forget that all Infant children are entitled to a free school meal each day. Your child may prefer to bring a packed lunch so there will be no pressure put on them to have a school dinner. That is your decision but it is worth considering having a hot meal in the middle of the day. **The office staff have to be informed if your child changes from one to the other and they must not change mid-week.**

The cost of school meals for Junior children this half term is £82.88. You may decide to pay weekly, which is £12.95 for the full week (£2.59 per day). All meals must be paid for in full before the October half term.

Our new Reception children will be staying for lunch from Monday 10th September so please collect them at 1pm.

Claiming for Free School Meals

St Mary's is now responsible for managing its own Pupil Premium funding so please come to the main office to enquire if you think you are eligible. The application process is very straightforward. You can apply by following this link (<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>) but if you wish, you can speak to Mrs Jefferys to fill in the online application for you.

Although all Infant children receive free school meals, parents may still be entitled to some additional funding so please apply. Schools receive funding for all their Pupil Premium children so I would strongly urge you to complete an application.



Bookshop

Bookshop will resume on Tuesday 11th September. Junior children can buy books during the lunchtime break. Please encourage your children to buy the books. Infant children are taken by their teachers to the bookshop in the afternoon and they are always very enthusiastic about it. They get a lot of pleasure from picking out a book of their choice and saving up each week to buy it.

School Fund

Each year we ask parents for a **voluntary contribution (£10 per family)** to subsidise extra events. If you would like to contribute, please send it to the main office. This fund helps to subsidise visiting theatre companies, merit awards etc. Many thanks for your generosity.



Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform as the children look so smart. The children can wear their Summer uniform until October half term as the weather is still mild. If you are purchasing any items, always remember PLAIN-no logos. Many thanks.

Hair styles should be neat and tidy, not severe and please do not use gel in your child's hair during school time. Save it for the weekend. Long hair should be tied back and please ensure that bows are small and navy blue. Children must not wear earrings to school.

We would be grateful for all donations of unwanted uniform for our next second hand sale. Date of sale to be confirmed.

PE - It is essential that every child has a PE outfit. This should be brought to school in the St Mary's PE bag, which can be purchased from the main office. Do not forget that as it gets colder, children will need a warm tracksuit (plain navy blue) for outdoor use. Junior children may wear trainers for outdoor PE but they must also have plimsolls for indoor PE.

Giving Messages to the Main Office

If your child is being collected by another adult, or going to a friend's house after school, please inform the main office by phone call or email. The teachers will not let any child go unless it has been confirmed who is collecting them. Sometimes this may happen at the last minute but we will need a message before we hand your child over. Your child's safety is very important, so thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons will resume on Monday 17th September. The cost per term is £65 and cheques must be made payable to the music tutor. If you have any questions please ask our Music Co-Ordinator, Ms Wyld.



After School Clubs

Letters for the after school clubs are presently been compiled so please bear with us. Letters will be at the Main Office so if your child wishes to take part in a club please collect a letter from there. We no longer give out individual letters to children but Mrs Jeffrey has been working very hard to email letters to parents.

Welling United representatives will be in the parents' waiting area on Friday 7th and Monday 10th taking payments. Please look out for them.

Please note the following start dates for the current clubs:

Y1 Football	Monday 10 th September	Y3-Y6 Art	Wednesday 12 th September
Y6 Football	Monday 19 th September	Y4-Y5 Football	Wednesday 12 th September
Y3-Y6 Netball	Monday 10 th September	Y1-Y6 Irish Dancing	Wednesday 31 st October
Y1-Y6 Gymnastics	Tuesday 11 th September	Y1-Y2 Art	Thursday 13 th September
Y2-Y3 Football	Tuesday 11 th September	Y2-Y6 Sewing	Thursday 13 th September
Y2-Y6 Sewing	Tuesday 11 th September	Y3-Y6 Dance/Drama	Friday 14 th September
Y3-Y6 Art	Wednesday 12 th September	Y1-Y4 Activkids	Friday 14 th September

If your children are staying for a club, please be ready to collect them from the middle gate at 4.30pm. Club leaders will escort them to this gate. Children should be collected on time as it is unfair to leave them waiting outside the Main Office.

Mrs Randell would like to inform you that French Club will commence on Monday 1st October. Spaces are still available so please pick up a letter outside the Main Office if your child is interested.

Message from Christchurch

Fr John would like to remind parents to return their forms this year for the Holy Communion programme. He would like them returned by Monday 10th September. If your Y3 child would like to receive the sacrament at Christchurch in the Summer term, please hand in the necessary forms to the office at Christchurch.

With kind regards

Miss C Phipps and Mr J Sims
Headteachers