

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd September 2021

St Mary's Catholic Primary School



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to everyone at St Mary's!

At the time of press, I have no news from Miss Phipps regarding her baby – fingers crossed we will hear something soon.

I am so pleased to have the children back this week and it has been great to see their smiling faces. They have entertained us with their adventures from the summer holidays and have come in well prepared for their class learning to resume again. The arrangements for entering and exiting the school have proved successful, however we continue to review to ensure that we are doing the best we can for the children.

This week the children had a whole school assembly (appropriately ventilated) for the first time in around 18 months, where we once again established our mission and values as a school. The children were able to articulate that at St Mary's:

We Dream, Believe, Achieve and Succeed...

Helping children set high expectations of themselves is ingrained in the fabric of our school and on my visits around the classes, I can see that children are eager to start their learning with their new teachers.

At school, we continually refer back to our school values of ***Faith; Love; Trust; Respect; Resilience and Mercy***. This gives the children a clear pathway of how they should live their lives. Please talk to your children about these Gospel values.

Please can I congratulate our three new members of staff this week who have made such an excellent start to their time at St Mary's. Thank you to Miss Gannon, Miss Baker and Mr Palmer. Keep up the good work!

An introductory letter is attached with the newsletter, from David Garrido, the Chief Executive of SELCAT. He met the staff earlier this week on Wednesday and no doubt the children and parents will meet him very soon. We are very excited about the future of St Mary's within SELCAT and look forward to the increased opportunities for our children and staff.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Sims

WEEK BEGINNING 06/09/2021

Monday 6th

Ten new children to start in each Reception class (8.55am – 12 noon)

Tuesday 7th

Another ten children in each Reception class will start (8.55am – 12 noon)

Wednesday 8th

The final ten children will join their Reception class (8.55am – 12 noon)

Thursday 9th

All 60 children will have joined their respective Reception class. Children should be dropped off at 8.55am and collected at 12 noon until Friday 10th September.

From Monday 13th September

Reception children will have their lunch at school and parents can collect them at 1pm.

From Monday 20th September

Reception children will stay at school all day (8.55am – 3.15pm)

Nursery parents have already been notified about their child's start date.

SCHOOL VALUES: FAITH, MERCY, TRUTH, RESPECT, RESILIENCE, LOVE

SCHOOL 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 please remember that school shoes should be a shoe style – no sporting brands or trainers (e.g. Nike or Adidas) and navy blue coats without stripes or logos.

Hair styles should be neat and tidy, not severe and, for example, lines and steps are not permitted. Please do not use any product 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.

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 but infants must have plimsolls.

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 log onto your child's Wisepay account where you will see "school fund 2021/2022".

This fund helps to subsidise visiting theatre companies, merit awards etc. All children in the school benefit from these special events.

Many thanks for your support.

KEY DATES

Key Dates for the year are currently being compiled so look out for them on Wisepay and on the calendar on the website. 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.

MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO SEE TEACHERS

There will be a formal Parents' Evening in October but if you have messages or wish to see teachers briefly after school ask the office staff to arrange. Appointments can be made if you need extra time or wish to discuss something confidentially. Always ask the office staff to arrange such meetings with the teachers. Avoid Wednesdays as we have staff meetings on this day. Parents are asked not to wander around the school looking for teachers for obvious health & safety reasons. Always report to the main office.

SCHOOL DINNERS

The fee for children taking school dinners this half term is £93.24. Please make payment for your child via Wisepay.

We are very happy that all the children in the school can now avail of a hot dinner at lunchtime. The kitchen staff work very hard to provide a tasty hot meal for all the children.

Children are only allowed to change their lunch pattern at the beginning of each half term. Please do not change without informing the main office. Should your child have any concerns about lunchtimes, please do not hesitate to contact one of the office staff or speak to your child's teacher.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school, ensure that you do not include fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars. We would encourage children to have a nutritious lunch that will sustain their energy for the second half of the school day.

Infant children are given a piece of fruit each day and junior children can bring their own piece of fruit to have mid-morning.

All infant children (Reception – Y2) can have a hot meal each day, free of charge. This scheme, Universal Free Meals, is not means tested. Of course, if you would prefer your child to bring their own packed lunch, that is fine but we encourage the children to have a hot meal if they can.

CLAIMING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork. Ask the office staff to guide you. Enquiries will be treated confidentially so please do not hesitate to ask any questions. It is very important that parents enquire about pupil premium as families can really benefit.

Although Infants are entitled to free meals, they too can apply for pupil premium if their financial situation is below a certain threshold. Every school receives extra money if parents make successful claims. I would encourage parents to look into this as children can benefit in so many ways (help with music tuition, subsidising after school clubs/educational visits etc.)

MUSIC NEWS

The music tutors will be back on site from Monday 13th September. If your child was having lessons in school last year, they will continue to be given lessons. A new timetable has yet to be agreed so please ask your children for their new allotted time and day.

Y4 children will be invited to take up instrumental lessons this year. They will be given some information next week so look out for details and please encourage your child to try a new instrument. Spaces are given on a first come first serve basis so return any paperwork as soon as you can. The instruments available will be guitar, wind and brass instruments.

Mrs McGarry, our music co-ordinator, will be inviting new children to audition for the chamber choir in October. More details will follow.

GIVING MESSAGES TO THE MAIN OFFICE

If your child is being collected by another adult 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.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after school clubs will resume week beginning Monday 13th September. Details about registering your child will be sent to parents next week.

French club will resume week beginning Monday 11th October for KS1 and KS2 children.

BOOK NEWS

We are asking children to search at home for any school books that may be lurking! The book corners in the classrooms are looking a bit bare so please ensure that any school books are returned. The school stamp will be on any book that originated in school.

We are very excited to say that book week is taking place this year, from Monday 18th October – Thursday 21st October. More details will follow so please look out for this.

We will also be resuming our book shop this term. As soon as the times and dates have been confirmed we will inform parents.

WALKING TO/FROM SCHOOL

Please make the school aware if your Y5 and Y6 child is coming to/going home from school on their own. A letter or email is required so we can keep this information on file.

PA NEWS

St Mary's Parent's Association are very excited to be able to plan some events this year. Please put the following dates in your diary. Details to follow.

PA Meeting	15/09/21
PA AGM	07/10/21
Bags2School Collection	08/11/21

Fireworks Evening	06/11/21
Wreath Making	03/12/21
Christmas Fair	04/12/21
Children's Disco	10/12/21