



SAINT MARY'S RC PRIMARY ACADEMY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DIARY DATES

Monday 20th November

Road Safety Week
Y5 Swimming

Tuesday 21st November

EYFS open morning 9:00-11:30am
EYFS open afternoon 3:45-4:45pm

Thursday 23rd November

Choir – Christmas light switch-on
Young Voices information evening 15:30pm

Friday 24th November

Non-uniform day (Chocolate donations)
Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

Monday 27th November

Y5 Swimming

Thursday 30th November

Art Exhibition 3:30pm

Friday 1st December

Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

Monday 4th December

Y5 Swimming

Tuesday 5th December

Y5 Planetarium

Wednesday 6th December

Christmas Fair 3:30-5pm

Thursday 7th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Dinner Day

Friday 8th December

Mass in Church

Monday 11th December

Y5 Swimming

Tuesday 12th December

Blackfriars Theatre – Peter Pan
Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

Wednesday 13th December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

Thursday 14th December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

Friday 15th December

EYFS/KS1 Nativity Performance 2pm
Shining Lights Assembly – parents' welcome 8:50am

Monday 18th December

Scholastic Book Fair in school 3:15-4:00pm

Wednesday 20th December

END OF TERM 2

Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Term 3 begins

Monday 8th January

Y2 Swimming

SAFEGUARDING

St Mary's RC Primary Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the well-being of all pupils. Each child's welfare is of up most importance. **Safeguarding is everyone's business.** If you have any safeguarding concerns, St Mary's RC Primary Academy Designated Safeguarding Lead is **Mrs L Gleed-Thornley (Headteacher)**. Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are **Mrs Williams (Deputy Headteacher)**, **Mrs Brader (SENCo/KS1 Leader)** and **Miss Spikings (Administrator)**. Our Safeguarding Governor is **Ms M Lewis**. Further Safeguarding information can be found on our school website under the 'Welcome' tab.

e-Safety – National Online Safety

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

What parents need to know about the game Among Us

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/among-us>

Chocolate donations for the Christmas Fair

Non-uniform day – Friday 24th November

We are having a non-uniform day on Friday 24th November in exchange for donations of chocolate for the Christmas Fair, donations can be sent into class with your child or brought into the school office. We look forward to receiving lots of chocolate and thank you in advance for your kind donations.

Children in Need

Thank you for your support with our Children in Need fundraiser, we raised an incredible £351.25. Well done to all the children who took part in Mrs Liu's Colouring Competition, we had some fabulous entries, all the winners will be announced this week.

Staffing News

We say goodbye to Mrs Fermie and Mrs Kettle and thank them for their hard work and dedication during their time at St Mary's, we wish them both the best of luck in their future careers.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 7th December

If your child would like to have a Christmas Dinner on Thursday 7th December and you have an Ideal School Meals account, please place your order with Ideal School Meals by **Monday 27th November**. If you do not have an account with Ideal School Meals, please call into the school office.

Attendance

We are still having too many children arriving late, gates open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am, if you arrive after this time the gates will be closed and you will need to enter through the office; please arrive at school on time. If your child is poorly please inform the school office by 9.30am, thank you.

Diary Dates

Events continue to be added to the school calendar, so please ensure you have read the diary dates section as we don't want you to miss anything!

Attendance w/c 13th November 2023

Above National Average National Average Below National Average

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
97.6%	93%	94.6%	98.6%	94.2%	98.7%	96.1%	96.1%

Our attendance target is 97.5%

Well done to Year 5 who had the highest attendance with 98.7%

"We love, we learn, we grow; walking with faith in the light of the Lord"



Well done to all the children who received their Shining Lights Awards on Friday 17th November 2023

EYFS	Hannah has been remembering to put her hand up when she would like to give her ideas, or answer questions during carpet sessions. She has been using English more both in her play and in class discussions and we can see how hard she is trying to learn and use new vocabulary. Well done Hannah.	Rachel received shining lights for always taking part in our learning sessions. She has been trying especially hard to use her Fred fingers to write CVC words. Well done Rachel.
YEAR 1	Evaleigh has been chosen as Shining Light for working super hard in school and outside school on her letter formation and presentation. Evaleigh has also worked independently this week to write her own version of Peace at Last, thinking carefully about where she needs to put her full stops. Well done Evaleigh!	Kamdili has been chosen as Shining Light for his fantastic work in RE this week. Kamdili wrote a detailed retelling of Moses leading the Jewish people to freedom this week. He has also been working hard on improving his presentation since joining Year 1 and all of his work is now presented neatly and clearly. Well done Kamdili!
YEAR 2	April has been chosen as this week's Shining Light for working really hard in her maths learning. She has been able to use objects, diagrams and the column method to add different numbers together. She has set out her work fantastically and always does it with a smile. It is great to see her more confident in herself. Keep it up!	Charlie has been chosen as this week's Shining Light for trying really hard with his maths when adding this week. He has used objects to be able to add up to 20 using tens frames. He also created a fantastic poster for our anti bullying week. Keep up the great work Charlie!
YEAR 3	Bartosz has been chosen as Shining Light, by the adults in Year 3, for persevering and making great progress with his maths this week; subtracting with exchanging across the tens and hundreds. His confidence continues to grow and he continues to work hard to improve his presentation. Well done Bartosz.	Evlin has been voted by Year 3 as Shining Light this week for being a great friend. She is kind, caring and thoughtful. She is also great at including everyone in her games outside. Well done Evlin.
YEAR 4	Nojus has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by the adults in Year 4. He has been chosen because he has really impressed Miss Hall and I by using a fantastic range of vocabulary in his writing and sharing his ideas with the class. Nojus has also worked really hard to make sure he used synonyms for verbs and adjectives to make them more powerful. Keep up the good work Nojus!	Simon has been chosen as this week's Shining Light by the children in Year 4. He has been chosen because his friends say he is incredibly helpful, a good friend and always kind to others. One of them even chose him because Simon is fantastic in maths and he always puts a lot of effort into his learning. Well done, Simon!
YEAR 5	Daren has been chosen for Shining Lights this week for his fantastic effort in Maths. He has been listening exceptionally well, putting his hand up to answer questions more frequently and has produced some brilliant learning in RE too. Alongside this, Daren has been a very kind and thoughtful member of Year 5 this week, offering to help his peers with their learning too. Thank you, Daren, and keep up the hard work.	Edward has been chosen for Shining Lights this week for his brilliant enthusiasm. In his own time at home, Edward made a brilliant model of the Solar System, which he very proudly displayed in the classroom window. It has been wonderful to see Edward enjoy Science topic so much. Alongside this, the adults in Year 5 are also very impressed with the effort that Edward is putting into his writing this term. Keep up the hard work Edward! Well done!
YEAR 6	Maja has been chosen for improving her attitude towards learning and the effort she has put in her work over the last two weeks. She worked really hard on adding and subtracting fractions. Maja also worked closely with her learning partner to write a creative dialogue between William, an evacuee and Mr Tom, his host.	Tresa has been chosen by the children in Year 6 this week because she is always polite and respectful to everyone. Her classmates have also noticed that Tresa has gained confidence because she is raising her hand more and sharing her thoughts and answers with the class. One pupil mentioned that she is very pleased that Tresa is also 'being more sociable' and making more friends.

CLASS NEWS

EYFS

This week in EYFS, we will be focusing on the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We will make wanted posters and story maps. In maths, we will be learning about the composition of numbers to 5 and how we can add smaller numbers together to make a new number. In RE, we will begin our new topic 'Birthdays' by role-playing birthday parties, reflecting on our own experiences of birthdays and recognising that birthdays are a celebration of the day we were born.

Year 1

This week in maths we will be recapping subtraction within 10, practicing a range of methods to aid us to find the answers to number sentences. In English we will be reading Baby Bear's diary entry and writing in the past tense. We will explore the human senses in science, discover what life was like for children in the 1950s and discuss ways we are unique in PSHE. We will also get the opportunity to take part in a Road Safety workshop this week.

Year 2

This week in Year 2 we are going to be writing our own stories about a magical object of our choice. It might be a magical stone that transports us into the future or a teddy that when we cuddle takes us to a magical castle. We will be using what we have learned this term to describe with adjectives and interesting openers to interest the reader. In maths we will be using the column method to add and subtract when crossing the tens barrier. In science this week we will be learning about what happens in the human life cycle and the different stages within the human life. In our PSHE this week we are learning about what makes us special and unique. We are also starting our new RE topic which is focusing on the Christmas story of Mary giving birth to Jesus.

Year 3

This week in maths and English, children will be completing some short assessments on their learning so far this year. It is nothing for them to worry about and will take place as part of our normal lessons. It will let me know how much progress they have made, and what areas to focus on going forward. In maths, we will also continue to work on addition and subtraction by adding 2- and 3- digit numbers, and subtracting 2-digit numbers from 3-digit numbers. In English, we will be editing our historical narratives and exploring the features of a diary. In RE, we begin the new topic, Visitors, by asking the big question – Are visitors always welcome? We also learn about the Jesse tree and design some symbols of our own. In history, we move on to the Bronze Age and learn about how the discovery of metal improved people's lives. During science, we investigate and explore the importance of joints.

Year 4

This week we will be identifying features of a non-chronological report in preparation of writing our own about the Vikings. In maths we begin our multiplication and division unit. We start our Advent topic in R.E by exploring the gift of friendship and describing ways we can prepare for Jesus. In History we are exploring why the Anglo Saxons invaded Britain and the impact this had and we will be explaining how we can hear sounds in Science. We will take part in National Youth Funday on Friday by joining in with some hymns and prayers.

Year 5

This week in English we will be completing some independent writing. We will also be exploring a range of different newspaper articles and will be identifying the different features they have. In maths we will be continuing our learning about fractions and will be comparing and ordering them. In RE we will be starting our new Advent topic. During our lessons this week we will be discussing our ideas and questions about waiting hopefully and will also be making links between Advent as a time of waiting and Christian beliefs and actions. During our History lesson we will be answering questions about everyday life in the Shang Dynasty and in MFL we will continue to read and write giving our names. During Science we will be learning about why we have day and night and in RSHE we will be thinking about our different gifts and talents

Year 6

Please send in any *unwanted* clothes that we can cut up for our Make Do and Mend DT unit of work this term. Next week Year 6 will be completing our narrative work on Goodnight Mr Tom. We will then begin an historical narrative based on a video clip called The Piano. In Maths, we will be moving into multiplying and dividing fractions. History will be based on the role of warring nations during WWII. We will begin Religious Education exploring expectations for Christians during Advent. In Science we will be investigating shadows and why they are the same shape as the object they cast.

Introduction of Fixed Penalty Formal Warning from September 2023

From September 2023 we have decided to take the decision to request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice where unauthorised absence exceeds 15% in a six-week period.

If you wish to seek approval for any request of absence for your child(ren) from School, then you must apply in writing to the Head of School, at least four weeks in advance of the requested period. (Please request a form from the school office). You should only remove your child(ren) if the absence has been authorised, and notified to you in writing by the School. Any exceptional circumstances must be clearly set out in the written request to the Head Teacher who will consider each case upon its merits.

If you then choose to take your child out of school during term time and it is not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and/or has not been approved by the School, then this will be coded as an unauthorised absence and a Fixed Penalty Notice will be issued for the period of absence.

The law states that, where there are unacceptable levels of attendance, schools may request that the Local Authority issue a Fixed Penalty Notice following the legal framework:

- Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 places upon parents a duty to ensure that their child receives efficient full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.
- Where a child is a registered pupil at a school and the parent fails to ensure that child's regular attendance at school the parent is liable to be prosecuted for a criminal offence under section 444 of the Education Act.
- In some cases, where this duty is not being fulfilled Section 444B of the same Act empowers the Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty of £60 per parent, per child, which will increase if the fine isn't paid within the first 21 days to £120
- Failure to pay a Fixed Penalty may result in further legal action being taken against you.

ALL fines are retained by the Local Authority and the school does not receive any of this. We will continue to work with families to support as much as we can with attendance and further information can be found in our school attendance policy on our website. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

St Mary's are looking for volunteers to set up and run the school's PTA. The main role of the PTA is to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and schools, in support of students, at schools where the PTA raises a significant portion of the school's discretionary money. In recent years the PTA have worked really hard in raising money for our school by organising events such as Discos, musical evenings, Christmas & Summer Fair and a BBQ at Sports Day are just some of the events that have been held over the years which have helped to pay for new books for the library, compost and plants for Gardening Club, Pantomime at Blackfriars, breakfast for SAT's, Year 1 dressing up outfits, Autism items and Year 6 diaries and pens. PTA events cannot happen without volunteers to run and organise them. The PTA committee is a small group of parents who always welcome new members to help co-ordinate the events diary. If you feel you can offer some of your spare time, please let the school office know – Thank you.

Parent Pay

Thank you to those who have already signed up to ParentPay - In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we are asking all parents to sign up to ParentPay to pay for school trips, breakfast club etc. If you haven't already done so, please visit www.parentpay.com and activate your account via the Account login area on the home page of the site. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you need assistance. Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously, thank you. **Did you know, you can pay any amount into ParentPay weekly/monthly to save for any upcoming trips/events, this is then held in your ParentPay account until you need to make a payment.**

Free School Meals

If your financial circumstances have changed and you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please call the school office where we will advise you on how to make an application for Free School Meals or click on the link below to create an account and apply.

<https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/SynergyWeb/Parents/default.aspx>

Hot School Meals

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can receive a hot school meal FREE EVERYDAY! All children in KS2 can order a hot school meal at a cost of £2.30 per day. A School meal provides children with a healthy varied and balanced diet providing the right amount of energy to ensure that your child can work better in the afternoons. If you would like your child to have a school meal please come to the office where we will provide further information. Take a look at the Ideal School Meal website for an idea of the meals they provide - <https://schoolmealsonline.com/login> The deadline for ordering is a Monday for orders placed for the following week. If you have any queries, parents can contact Ideal School Meals direct on 01522 246424 or via email admin@schoolmealsonline.co.uk

Twitter & Facebook

Our Twitter & Facebook accounts are the best way to keep up to date with everything happening in school. Recently we have tweeted about upcoming events and even posted some children's fantastic learning online. Make sure you follow us on twitter @bostonstmarys. You do not need to have a Twitter account to view our tweets! You can see all tweets by clicking the link on our website www.bostonstmarys.co.uk or at twitter.com/bostonstmarys