



Headteacher Message



Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome back for the 24-25 Academic Year at St Mary's!

We do hope you enjoyed the Summer holidays.

It was wonderful to hear all the news and see all the children and families for the start of this Academic year. All classes have settled well, making an excellent start on their learning for their year groups and good friendships. At the start of this term, the children have enjoyed their two weeks of Science in their blocked curriculum.

Do have a look at the class pages on class dojo and on the school website- where you will also find updated policies. Please ensure you are linked up to class dojo and can receive class and school messages on it.

Welcome to our new EYFS class. Welcome too, to; Mrs Ebene, a new EYFS teaching assistant and to Mrs Corns, a new midday Supervisor. Last year, we also welcomed new teaching assistants Mrs Truslove and Mrs Singh.

We do hope you will come along to the Achievement Assemblies on Fridays and Liturgies on Thursdays at 9am in the school hall. There will also be lots of other events this year, families will be invited to, including parent workshops and opportunities to see lessons.

It would be wonderful to have 2 parent representatives for each class, so parents can share their ideas and views with the school. We would have a termly forum to share ideas, so we can work in a partnership moving the school forward. This can be online, as we know child care can be difficult.

God Bless, Miss Jordan

Contact Info

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Website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk



Dates for your diary



Macmillan Coffee afternoon: Thursday 26th September

Film night after school: Friday 27th September

Progress Evening: 15th October 1.30p.m-6p.m in the school hall. Individual appointments to meet your child's class teacher and discuss your child's progress this half term.

Open morning in school- tours: 16th October

Own Clothes day: 18th October

Half Term holiday: 21st October – 25th October

Harvest/All Hallows Disco: Tuesday 29th October

Book Fayre in school: from the 12th November

Flu immunisations in school: 13th November

Training/ Inset Day: Friday 29th November- children not in school

Film night: Friday 22nd November

Christmas Fayre : 3rd December- after school

Pantomime: 10th December: children attending Panto at the Town Hall 1.45p.m

EYFS Nativity: 11th December 2pm

Y1/ Y2 Nativity: 12th December 2pm

Junior Carol Service in Church: 17th December at 6pm

Own Clothes Day: Friday 20th December 24 (last day of the Advent term.)

Christmas Holidays: 23rd December – 3rd January 2025

The children return for the Lent Term on the 6th of January 2025.

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Reading and Phonics

Teachers have sent children with home readers at the start of the term. They assessed the children before-hand to match reading books to the child's level. Miss Jordan and Miss Hargrove (English lead) also regularly listen to a sample of readers to ensure that reading books are matched to levels. From Foundation to Year One, the children learn phonics through the Little Wandle programme. Any child that needs further help with their phonics from Year Two to Year Six, will receive the Little Wandle catch up programme with their class teacher/ teaching assistant. All children on the phonics programme take home, the Little Wandle reading book which is matched to their phonics ability. They will have read that book twice in class already, so they will be fluent with it before they come home with their reading book, that does not mean that they are ready to move up a book level. They move up a book level on the frequent assessments of their phonics. Year Twos go onto the book band levels. Once children are assessed at having the correct phonetic knowledge of all of Phase 5, in Years Three to Six they move onto the Accelerated Read book band levels, children are assessed for the correct levels. They change the book once they have completed the quiz in class. It is so important that your child understands what they are reading, and you can help them by asking them questions about what the words mean and to summarise the page, paragraph or book. It is important for you to listen to your child read at least twice a week from Foundation to Year Six. In the Juniors children are expected to bring their reading record and reading book in each day and put it on their tables at the start of the day for teachers to check. In the Junior classes, it would be good if children had a dictionary whilst reading at home- so they can check the meaning of words they do not understand.

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School uniform and PE kit

We have endeavoured to keep only a few items of uniform branded, but please do come and see our very good quality used uniform too.

Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled, including water bottles.

Summer Uniform: After the Easter holidays to October half term:

- Blue polo shirts, summer dresses.
- PE Kits: white or blue shirts (not football shirts or coloured shirts)
- Black or navy blue shorts, black or blue tracksuits only. Children wear PE kits on PE days.

Winter Uniform: After October half term to the Easter holidays:

- Blue shirt (not polo shirt) and tie – no summer dresses.
- Trainers only to be worn for PE. Black school shoes to be worn.

Jewellery and hair:

Ear studs and analogue watches only (no hooped earrings). Children will be asked to remove incorrect jewellery and this will be put in an envelope and given to parents. If your child wears any other jewellery for religious reasons- please inform the Headteacher by letter. Please ensure that hair longer than the shoulder is put up in a ponytail or plait and that tram lines are not put into hair.



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Break time snacks and healthy eating policy

Foundation, Year One and Year Two children receive fruit at breaktimes. Years Three to Six can bring a healthy snack of fruit, healthy biscuits, yoghurt or a cheese snack for the morning break time. Please do not send in anything with nuts in, due to allergies. Please note that crisps, chocolates or sweets will not be allowed for a break-time snack, but is allowed for pack lunches on Fridays only and not each day.

Thank you for packing healthy pack lunches. As the school dinners on Fridays have fish and chips and a ice cream or cake pudding, crisps and chocolates can be in packed lunches on Fridays. We thank you for your support on this. We have found healthy eating at lunchtimes, improves pupil's concentration in lesson times in the afternoon and prevents over-excitability or the afternoon tiredness.