



## Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

This Pentecost 1 term, although a short 4 weeks has been a rewarding term, full of the joys of Easter. We are very proud of the Year 6 class who in the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, performed their very best in their SAT's tests. They deservedly enjoyed a lovely residential at the Briars in Derbyshire for 3 days, visiting Chatsworth house on the first day, wall climbing and team games on the second day, with a mass and disco in the evening. On Friday, they completed activities with another Y6 class, before returning back to school. Thank you to Miss Fonseca, Mrs Rutledge, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Shah for looking after the pupils so well and to their parents and the Leicestershire children's holiday charity for enabling the trip.

The EYFS class St Anne's also enjoyed their trip to Twycross Zoo, Y1 and Y5 had a very informative fire fighter visit, we had lots of fun in the colour dash afternoon and raised over £1400 for the Leicestershire Children's holiday charity, the children participated in Cafod Workshop's from the Cafod Visitor Will, the KS2 classes had a visit from the transport police and assembly on how to stay safe on the railways this Summer and we were all very comfy in our pyjamas for film night on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much for all your support for fundraising. We also welcomed our new EYFS children and families for a meeting on Tuesday. The Fosm have bought more playground bark for the Junior trim trail, as a temporary measure, so we can get the children back to playing on it.

This newsletter has the important dates and events for the last term of this Academic year- please do take note of this. On behalf of all the staff at St Mary's we hope you are having a restful and enjoyable half term holiday, with all the blessings of the Ascension on Thursday. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June for the start of the Pentecost 2 term.

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## Dates for your diary



26th May-30th May: Half Term

2nd of June- start of the Pentecost 2 term: y4 multiplication tests this week

4<sup>th</sup> of June: After school Eco club film night

6<sup>th</sup> of June: Pentecost cultural Day- children can come dressed in their clothes from their culture and bring foods in from their culture to share.

6<sup>th</sup> June: Y6 Pizza Express Trip

8<sup>th</sup> June: Pentecost- children invited to read at the 11.15 mass

9th June: Phonics Screening Week : Y1

9<sup>th</sup> of June and 16<sup>th</sup> June weeks: Classes start end of year assessments

14th/15<sup>th</sup> June: First Holy Communion celebrations

16th June: Y6 Bike-ability Sessions

23<sup>rd</sup> of June: p.m EYFS/ KS1 Sport's afternoon on Cumberland Field

24<sup>th</sup> of June: KS2 Sport's afternoon on Cumberland Field

Follow us on x and instagram



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## More Dates for your diary

25<sup>th</sup> of June: Y4, Y3 and Y1 trips

26<sup>th</sup> of June: New EYFS class induction day

26<sup>th</sup> of June: p.m Rock steady concert

1<sup>st</sup> of July: End of year reports to parents and in the afternoon Fosm family fun afternoon

2<sup>nd</sup> of July: Y6 production

4<sup>th</sup> of July: Transition morning- children spend time in their new classes

7<sup>th</sup> of July: after school drop in time to meet teachers to discuss reports/ meet new class teachers

8<sup>th</sup> of July: music performance afternoon

10<sup>th</sup> of July: leaver's mass/ disco

11<sup>th</sup> July: leaver's assembly

11<sup>th</sup> July: Last day of term

Summer holidays begin 14<sup>th</sup> of July

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## STAFFING AT ST MARY'S

We wish Mrs Brown the year one teacher, all the very best as she begins her maternity leave from June the 2<sup>nd</sup> and look forward to the good news. We welcome Mrs De Souza, as she will be the Year One teacher covering Mrs Brown's maternity leave. Mrs De Souza covered for Mrs Adamek earlier this year in Year Two. Mrs De Souza was popular with the children and staff, so we were delighted to find out that she was a qualified teacher, when teaching in South Africa. Mrs Brown will be returning in the next Academic year, after her maternity leave. Well-done to Mr Mitchell who has almost completed his Sport's apprenticeship as a sport's coach. Mrs Springthorpe will continue to teach Year 3 until the end of this Academic year in Mr Mount's absence due to ill health, we are as always keeping Mr Mount in our prayers.

We bid a fond but sad farewell to Mrs Rutledge, Mrs Leaney and Mrs Adamek at the end of this Academic year. Mrs Rutledge will start her role as Headteacher of English Martyrs Catholic Primary School in the next Academic year and we congratulate her on this much deserved role. Mrs Leaney, the school's music teacher, has transformed the music provision at St Mary's and is retiring, as is Mrs Adamek, who has been the school's higher level teaching assistant and midday supervisor for over 20 years at St Mary's. We thank them all for their dedication and service and welcome you all in our celebrations to thank them and our Year Six leavers at the end of the term.

At the end of the half term, we successfully appointed a new deputy Head teacher and chaplain. The new chaplain who replaced Lorley Shelton, will spend a day at St Mary's each week, working with the Chaplaincy Team, all pupils and staff to help in the Catholic life, Mission and collective worship in the school. We thank God as always for guiding St Mary's so lovingly and always to God's plan. The children will spend a morning with their new class teachers for the next Academic year on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the staff for each year group will be announced early in the next term, once all the appointments have been confirmed. There will be an opportunity for parents to meet their child's next class teacher on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July after school or to discuss reports.

St Mary's - May 2025



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## Playtimes and Lunchtimes at St Mary's

With the guidance from Mrs Watkins, playtimes and lunchtimes are an enriching and rewarding experience for the children at St Mary's. Morning playtimes which are from 10.30 to 10.45 are structured differently for all three key stages. The Foundation class playtime in the morning is at a flexible time, due to continuous play provision being part of the curriculum. They have a break seated in a circle with fruit and milk. The Year One and Two have structured activities for their morning playtime, which the children choose- there is a variety of equipment to play with, with fruit always provided and year groups Three to Six do not have any equipment out to encourage creative playground games, which they are taught in their PE lessons in the first half term. The junior children are encouraged to bring healthy snacks, such as fruit or yoghurt each day at breaktime and to take their bottles of water out with them. All children are encouraged to go to the toilet on the way out to playtime, but can always ask the class teacher in the lessons too. The outer doors to the Junior toilets were removed last term for safety, The children still have privacy as the cubicles have doors on them. This has resulted in less negative behaviour incidents in the toilets, no flooding from the taps being left open and positive responses from the children who said they feel safer, as it is easier for adults to supervise.

Lunchtimes are from 12p.m to 1p.m. EYFS, Year One and Two are usually seated for their meals by twelve and the junior classes are called in one class at a time on a rotating basis for their meals in the hall. Year 5 and 6 have their packed lunches in the junior area, and year three and four in the hall, but in warmer weather, all children are allowed to have it outside. Structured activities are provided for all children at lunchtimes, with zoned areas, for quieter activities, such as lego, drawing or playing with sand, the mud kitchen or role play areas. There are other zoned areas for ball games, skipping, or other more physical activities which are led by the sport's coaches on the KS2 playground. Engaging the children like this at lunchtime has led to less negative behaviour incidents and accidents. Thank you to all the adults who supervise at lunchtime. The children also enjoy their school meals, which are cooked by LTS. They are consulted on the menu, which is why the sandwich and jacket potato option is available. Visitors from the school's Lincolnshire Food service will be visiting St Mary's to see the successful lunch provision and to learn how the school achieved the gold food for life award. We thank all the pupils who show so much initiative at lunchtimes from helping in the lunch hall to leading lunchtime clubs.

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## Prayers at St Mary's

In feedback to parent surveys- you asked about the prayers we say at St Mary's. Classes say a morning prayer, lunchtime prayer and end of day prayer. Each class also has a prayer for their class saint which was written by the Chaplaincy team. All children learn the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. All classes also learn how to say the Rosary and the prayers for the Divine Mercy. They are then taught prayers appropriate for their age group as they progress through school. Year Three in preparation for the sacraments learn the Act of Contrition. We also encourage children of other faiths to say their prayers and to hold their hands, as they would in worship.

### Our School Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Friend of all children  
Bless our school here in St Mary's  
Bless the pupils and the staff  
Who work in it.  
Help us all to do your best.  
Help us to be kind  
To one another  
And be cheerful  
Throughout this day.  
Amen

### Lunchtime prayer

Bless us O God, as we sit together  
Bless the food we eat today  
Bless the hands that make the food  
Bless Us O Lord. Amen

### End of Day prayer

God our Father, we come to say  
Thank you for your love today.  
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me.  
Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light Amen.