



## Headteacher Message

Dear Parents/ Carers

It has been a wonderful start to the 25/26 Academic year and we are so proud of how all the children, and particularly the new EYFS class have settled in and are delighting in learning and making friends. Thank you to you and our amazing staff.

Thank you for coming along to the curriculum meetings in your child's classroom which we hope you found informative or looking through the power-points that the teachers included on the class dojo page.

In this term so far, we have enjoyed the film night, seeing so many families to celebrate hard work and good behaviour in the Achievement Assemblies and the cake sale for Macmillan. Thank you for your generosity.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Harvest Celebration on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October at 9a.m. If families can manage it, we usually bring an item to donate to John Storer house- such as a tin of food, pasta, rice, biscuits, toiletries etc

We look forward to seeing you for the many events in October. We are excited about in the half term, having the junior playground resurfaced and the lines repainted. Thank you to all who volunteer for the FOSM- please do come along to meetings or help at the many fantastic events planned for the children this year.

Miss Jordan

# Contact Info

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## Dates for your diary

30<sup>th</sup> Sept: Y6 parent/ teacher meetings 2-6p.m

3<sup>rd</sup> October: Cafod Family Fast day: 9a.m Harvest Liturgy

14<sup>th</sup> Oct: Parent teacher meetings in the hall 2-6p.m.

17<sup>th</sup> Oct: FOSM own clothes day

20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Oct: Half term



30<sup>th</sup> Oct: All Hallows Disco ( lots of help please)

7<sup>th</sup> November: Pyjama evening/ film night – (TBC)

11<sup>th</sup> Nov: Book Fayre arrives

21<sup>st</sup> Nov: CMAT inset day: pupils not in school

24<sup>th</sup> Nov: seasonal flu vac day

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: 10.15a.m: Panto

4<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Fayre and Grotto

5<sup>th</sup> Dec: Menphys Carol concert

8<sup>th</sup> Dec: 9.15 mass in church

9<sup>th</sup> Dec: EYFS Nativity: 1.30p.m: performance for parents

11<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas jumper day/ meal day. 4/5/6 Advent confessions

2.15p.m: Rock steady concert

16<sup>th</sup> Dec: 1.30p.m Carol service KS2 in church

17<sup>th</sup> Dec: KS1 nativity 2.00: performance

19<sup>th</sup> Dec: children come to school in party clothes.



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## Uniform

### Winter Uniform

The winter uniform which will need to be worn from after the October half term ( 27<sup>th</sup> of October) to the Easter half term: blue shirts ( instead of the polo shirts) and a blue and yellow striped tie. The navy blue cardigans or v-necked school jumpers with the school logo are worn and the usual navy blue/ black trousers and skirts. Charcoal grey trousers/skirts can also be worn. Navy blue round necked jumpers with the school logo can be worn with the school tie and shirt.

Jewellery: only ear stud earrings ( not hoops) and analogue watches can be worn.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS, PARTICULARLY JUMPERS ARE LABELLED.

Hair bows and hair bands must be blue or black. Bags brought in must be small to fit on pegs and not have toys or items clipped to it, as this causes the children to be distracted.

PE t-shirts must be plain white, no logos.

The school has supported parents to reduce costs by only having two branded items: the school tie and the logo on the school jumper/ cardigan. The school also has a good range of pre-loved uniform- please ask in the school office. Thank you for supporting the school on this policy- see more on the school website.



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## Attendance/ Becoming a parent Governor

Thank you for supporting St Mary's School to achieve above national averages for attendance and be in the top 10% of the country at a 96.4% average. It has been a good start for the 25/26 Academic year, with one day already reaching 100%.

### Why does attendance and punctuality matter?

Attendance and punctuality matter because they are fundamental to academic success, fostering better learning outcomes and social development, while also preparing students for future work and life opportunities. Regular attendance allows students to keep up with the curriculum, build relationships, and develop self-discipline, whereas lateness causes them to miss key instruction and can disrupt the classroom.

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the highest SATS/ GCSE and A Level results. The data also shows that, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance met and exceeded the expected standard.

Please try to keep holidays to the holiday time only, to avoid fines and prosecution. If you need to go on holiday during the term time for exceptional circumstances, please write to Miss Jordan, but note that all holidays during term time cannot be authorised. The school's persistent absence is at 8%, which will be a target to reduce further. Persistent absence is classed as missing 10% of possible school sessions within a given time frame.

### PARENT GOVERNOR

We have 1 more vacancy to be a parent Governor- please see Miss Jordan if you are interested in this vital role in school, parent voice is so important in shaping the standards/ pastoral care and Catholic life and mission in school. It involves just attending 1 meeting every half term, with the other Governors. This is usually at 5.30p.m and Governors can attend online, to support with child care.

St Mary's - September 2025



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## READING

Reading is at the heart of the curriculum and daily life at St Mary's. The phonics scheme 'Little Wandle' is the main resource that is used to teach letter sounds from EYFS. Please have a look at the link below to see the information for parents on the phonics programme.

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Due to the consistently good teaching of phonics from EYFS, which is taught daily in the mornings, over 80% of pupils pass the phonics screening in Year One. Pupils who do not pass are taught in small group catch up programmes, including in the Junior classes to enable pupils to decode effectively and pass the phonics screening. Fluency and understanding are taught from EYFS all the way to Year 6. EYFS and Year One read in small groups every day to develop comprehension too, an essential part of reading, before their reading books go home at the end of the week.

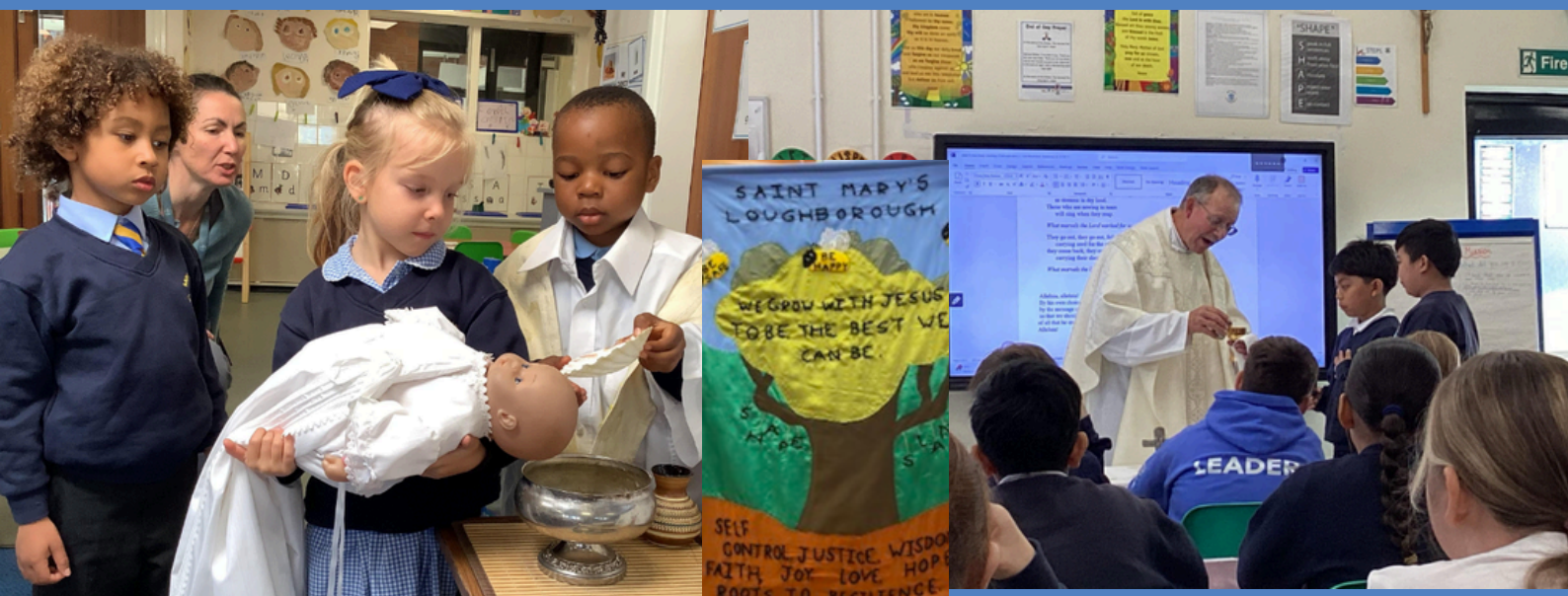
Fluency and understanding are then further built upon in Year Two and in all the junior classes in a whole class shared reading lesson, where the teacher will model reading and the skill for the lesson, such as summarising, retrieval and meaning of the words. 4 words will be shown with the picture, so pupils understand the meaning of it. Once pupils have passed the phonics screening, they move onto the school's accelerated reading scheme. Pupils initially take a star reading test, to assess their reading age and to place them on the correct book level. The star reading test is taken every term, giving pupils every opportunity to improve their reading age. Pupils only change their book, once they have taken a reading quiz on it- designed to test their understanding of the book. Reading for pleasure is a very important part of school life, with each class having a story time daily at the end of the day. When listening to your child, it is vital to ask them questions as reading is more than decoding the words on the page, it also understanding and enjoying.

**Parents: how you can help?** Listening to your child read at least twice a week is an essential part of St Mary's homework. Pupils who did this and those that read daily to parents made more progress in every area of the curriculum compared to children who did not. It also fosters a deeper emotional bond between you and your child and encourages a love for reading, promoting a crucial habit for lifelong learning and academic success.

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The Catholic Life of the school is at the heart of what we do at St Mary's and weaves through all aspects of school life. We have a welcoming, inclusive and caring community built on Christian values, where all members, adults and children are valued and encouraged to achieve their potential as children of God.

## Catholic Life and Mission of the School

### The school mission statement

'We grow with Jesus to be the best we can be.' With Jesus as our Guide, we promise to care for one another, to work hard and to build a community in Christ's love.

### Scripture link which is the basis for the school mission statement

St Paul : Colossians 2 6-7 "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

### Prayers

At St Mary's, prayer is an integral part of the school day. We say morning, lunchtime and end of day prayers. There is a progression of prayers that children learn as they move up through the school.

### Other Faiths and diversity

At St Mary's we are incredibly proud of the different cultures of the children in school and celebrate this all through the school year. In each of the RE units there is an opportunity to link to other faiths and we encourage children to share their faith, for example in the different ways they may hold their hands in collective worship.

### Chaplaincy team

The Chaplaincy team is a group of children led by the Academy Chaplain Deacon Keith Hannah, who spends 1 day a week in school. The team are nominated by their peers in the Summer term and it is ensured that there is a range of pupils from diverse backgrounds on the Chaplaincy Team. This term so far they organised and supported the Macmillan Cake sale and have led a celebration of the word. They have a retreat day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October with other Chaplaincy teams from other schools.