St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Newsletter

October 2026





Headteacher Message

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have had a wonderful half term holiday. Thank you for ensuring the children look so smart in their winter uniforms. The school will receive their stock of ties on Thursday. There is also some shirts available from the school office, should ou need one.

It was wonderful to see you for the parent, teacher meetings last term and the curriculum meetings. We also appreciate the support for attendance and punctuality- the average so far this year is 97%, higher than the average of 96% at this point of the term, last year. Well-done to the Year 6 children, who have excelled in their Bike ability training this week.

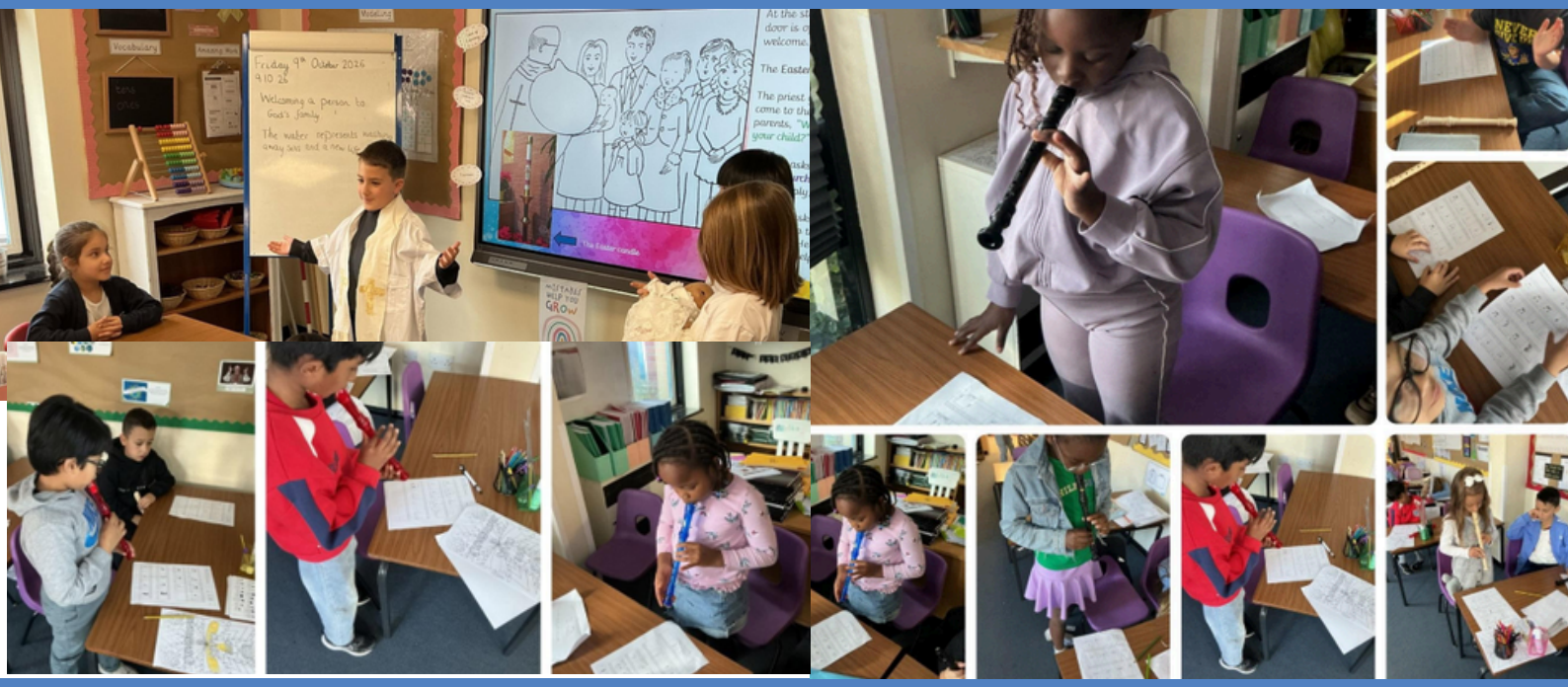
In this newsletter, the focus will be on anti-bullying in school, (as the school is aiming to re-achieve the county gold Anti-Bullying Award this academic year), information about the Governing Body and some aspects of the curriculum, such as RSHE. Thank you to the year one parent representative, we still need parent representatives in other year groups. There will also be a letter sent out, explaining that there is a vacancy on the Governing body for a Parent Governor and applications for this.

God Bless

Miss Jordan

Contact Info

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Email: office@stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk Website: www.stmarys-rc.leics.sch.uk



Dates for your diary



Please see the school dates, including holiday times on the school website.

2nd November: 9.15a.m Mass for All Souls. St Mary's church. All welcome

·11th-18th Nov:Book fayre- in KS1 area

Friday 20th November: School training day- children are not in school.

·16th Nov: Flu vaccinations

·25th/26th: Nov: vision screening for the children in school

29th Nov: First Sunday of Advent·

2nd Dec:FOSM Christmas Fayre

3rd Dec: Christmas Crazy hair day (charity event for Mary's meals)

·8th Dec: Mass Immaculate Conception: St Mary's Church

10th Dec: Rock Steady concert 2.30p.m Christmas jumper Day

EYFS Nativity: 9th December

Year One and Two Nativity: 16th December

15th Dec: KS2 carol service: 2p.m in church

Christmas holidays: 21st December 2026 to 1st of January 2027

School begins on the 4th of January 2027

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Anti-bullying Award and Anti-bullying Week

St Mary's school will be renewing the Leicestershire County Council Gold Beyond bullying Award this Academic year. We need everyone's help to ensure we can achieve Gold! Children, parents/carers, staff and Governors.

Leicestershire County Council's **Beyond Bullying Award** is **an accreditation program launched in 2010 to help schools demonstrate and gain recognition for their proactive work in preventing and tackling bullying and create a happy, inclusive school environment for all their pupils.**

We will show evidence of working on these 6 areas:

These are:

- Leadership and Policy Development: anti- bullying policy
- School Culture and Curriculum Planning
- Pupil Voice and Provision of Support Services
- Staff Professional Development
- Partnership with Parents/Carers and the Community: developing definitions of bullying
- Behaviour, Rewards and Recognition

The children will be doing lots of anti- bullying work, this academic year. The School Council have started developing a child friendly leaflet and bookmark on how to tackle bullying.

Anti-bullying week starts the 16th of November: the theme is break the silence.

We will start the week, with an odd socks day and an assembly all about anti-bullying.

Please do work with parent class representatives to give us your views.

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Key dates/ events St Mary's 26/26 Academic Year

SEPTEMBER 26 Year 6 swimming: Friday 11th FOSM AGM: all welcome: 23rd Film night FOSM: 25th Macmillan Coffee morning: 25th	**OCTOBER 26** 1st and 2nd: vision checking all pupils Harvest celebration: 9a.m 2nd **Parent teacher meetings:13th 1.30p-6p.m** Own clothes day: 16th Half term: 19th-23rd Y6 Bikeability- 26th Year 5 swimming starts: 30th All Hallows disco: 30th	**NOVEMBER26** All souls mass: 9.15: 2nd Year 3 and 4 sleepover in school -13th Flu vaccinations – 16th **School training day- children not in school 20th** Advent starts: wreath blessing- 30th	**DECEMBER 26** Fosm Christmas Fayre 3rd Menphys school's concert: 4th EYFS nativity: 9th Christmas jumper day 10th Rock steady concert 2.30 p.m 10th Christmas lunch day: 10th KS2 Carol service: 15th Dec Year 1 and 2 Nativity: 16th Christmas parties: 18th
JANUARY 27 **School starts 4th** 9.15 mass in church: 6th Year 4 swimming: Friday 8th Y6 warning zone trip: 27th	**FEBRUARY 27** FOSM Pancake Spring disco: 9th 9.15: Ash Wednesday mass: 10th **Parent teacher meetings: 11th 1.30p.m-6p.m** Own Clothes**: 12th** **Half term: 15th-19th**	MARCH 27 World book Day: 4th FOSM Talent Show: 12th Big Lent walk: 18th Rock Steady concert: 18th 2.30p.m Easter holidays: 22nd-2nd April	**APRI**L27 School Starts: 5th Year 3 Swimming Friday 9th Colour Dash: Field 30th
MAY Bank holiday 3rd SATs tests Y6 begin: 10th Cultural diversity day: cultural clothes: 14th Y6 residential week Briars 17th	**JUNE** **HALF TERM: 31st May-4th June** School starts 7th of June 7th June: Y4 multiplication tests 14th June: year one Phonics tests 22nd June: a.m: EYFS and KS1 sports day a.m 23rd: KS2 sports day a.m 24th: 2.30p.m: Rock Steady concert 30th: reports to parents	**JULY** **FOSM Summer Fayre 1st** Y6 Play- 6th Whole school trip: 7th Leavers Mass: 8th Leavers Assembly: 9th **Summer holidays begin: 12th July 2027**	

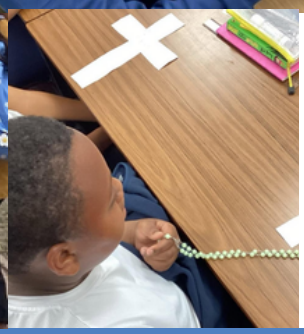
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Thank you Year 6 for the beautiful prayers that you shared this morning and for delivering the school's donation to John Storer House.

A few reminders...

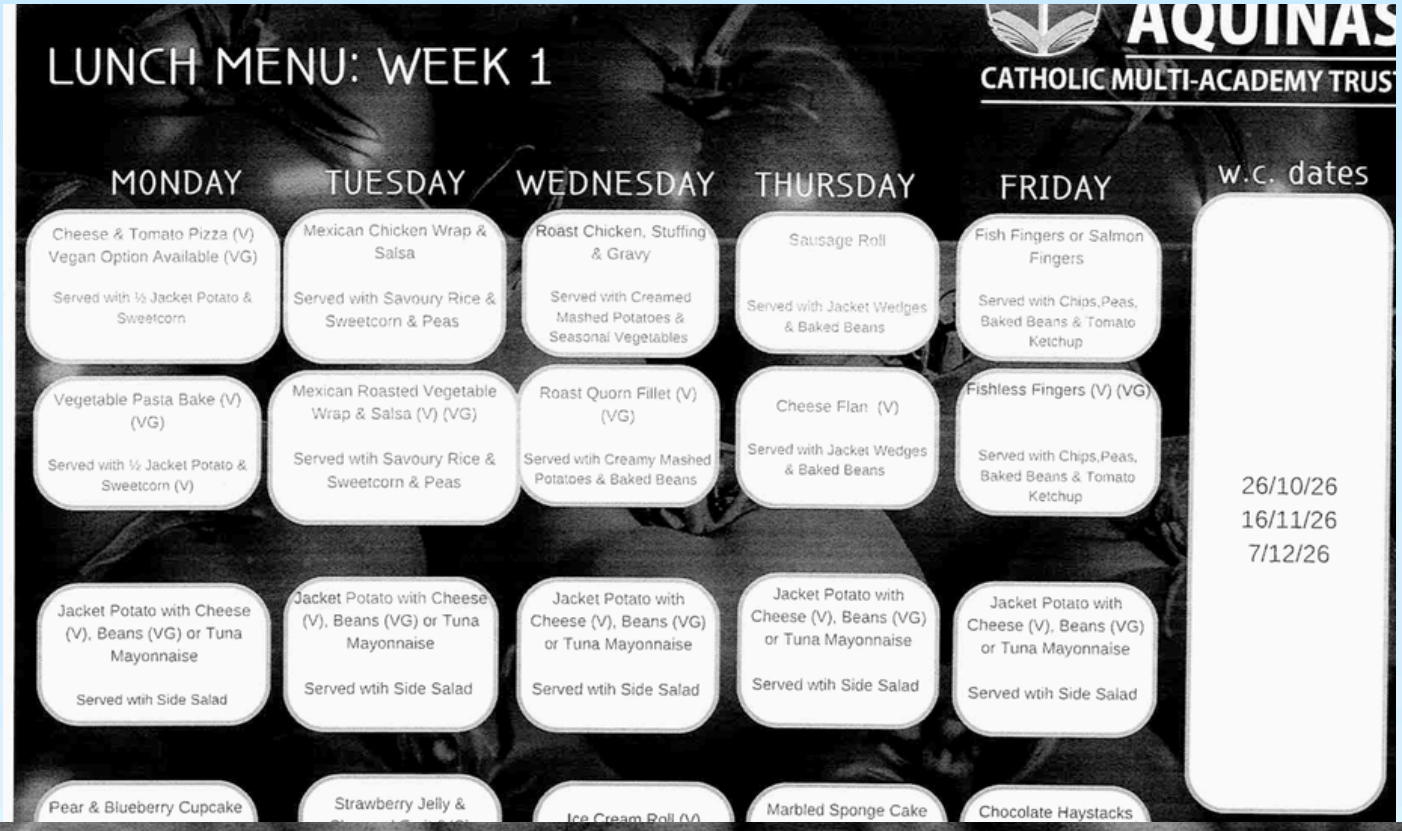
- Ensure payment balances on Arbor are cleared weekly.
- December Cinema trip for the whole school (not optional to stay in school.) Please ensure payment for the cinema trip is on Arbor by the 4th of December.
- All children must have correct uniform by the week of the 2nd of November. The school has pre-loved uniform that is free. School jumpers/ cardigans must have the school logo on it. Please LABEL all of your child's clothing- especially jumpers/ cardigans. School staff spend alot of time, trying to find these items, but if they are not labelled, we cannot return items. Ensure children take responsibility for their clothing items. Trainers should only be worn on PE days. It should be black shoes.
- Thank you.

Catholic life and Collective Worship in November

Thank you for all your amazing generosity in October, for the Harvest celebration. Y6 took the items to John Storer house.

In November, we will start with mass for All Souls on Monday the 2nd- all families welcome to the mass at 9.15a.m. We will pray for all our loved ones, and all those who have died in our celebrations of the Word in November. The children have also been invited to take a wreath up in the November 8th Loughborugh remembrance in Queen's park. Please let Miss Jordan know if your children would like to do this. We will also be looking at Diwali and Hannukah in the month of November too.

New Lunch Menus











RSHE at St Mary's

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RSHE) is a statutory part of the curriculum in primary schools in England. At Saint Mary's, RSHE is taught from EYFS to Year 6 as part of our commitment to educating the whole child.

As a Catholic school, our RSHE curriculum is rooted in the dignity and uniqueness of every human person and in the wisdom and teaching of the Catholic Church. We aim to help children develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and virtues they need to build healthy relationships, make safe and responsible choices, and flourish in all aspects of their lives.

St Mary's **uses Life to the Full** by Ten:Ten Resources as our core RSHE programme. It provides an age-appropriate, progressive programme that meets statutory requirements while reflecting our Catholic values and ethos. This is complemented by additional PSHE and personal development activities throughout the year. All pupils from EYFS to Y6 have a weekly RSHE lesson.

We recognise that parents and carers are the first educators of their children, particularly in matters relating to relationships, growing up and human sexuality. We therefore see RSHE as a partnership between home and school.

Through the Ten:Ten Parent Portal, families can access information about the content being taught, age-appropriate resources and activities to help support conversations at home.

Parents can access the Parent Portal here:

Parent Portal: https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/(opens in new tab)

Login details: Username: st-marys-le11 Password: purple-rose

Miss Buttarazzi is the RSHE lead. Miss Buttarazzi has ensured that the new Government updates for RSHE have been mapped out over the Academic year. This includes: Anatomical terminology, online safety and media literacy, personal and practical safety, change and loss which includes bereavement, and inclusivity. in the Summer term, the children will also be doing some financial workshops with staff from the local natwest branch, looking at saving and credit, amongst other areas.



Mr Budding: Parent Governor



Fr David Jones
Foundation Governor



Mr Adey : Foundation Governor

Mrs Monaghan: Chair of governors

Mr Tristanto: vice Chair of Governors

Meet the St Mary's Governing body

The Board of Governors at St Mary's School is made up of a number of elected volunteers from the Nottingham Diocese, the local community, parents and staff.
Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop from members of the parish, to ensure that the school is clearly recognisable as Christian and Catholic in its ethos and following the gospel values. Parent Governors are elected by parents to represent the interests of parents and their children in the school. A governor's term of office is usually for 4 years. The Headteacher and the senior management team retain the responsibility for the day to day running of the school. The role of the governors, alongside the Headteacher and the senior team, is to ensure that:-the Catholic ethos of the school is retained and expressed in all respects, the senior management team is held to account for all teaching and learning standards in the school, the curriculum is effectively and successfully taught, along with the Diocese who owns the site, there is a safe and clean school environment, internally and externally, for pupils and staff, children are safeguarded in terms of bullying, discrimination, radicalisation and road safety, there are good, meaningful, working relationships in the school, review the accommodation with class size and other needs and opportunities, promote and encourage closer relationships with the church community, there is a collaborative relationship with other schools in the Academy Trust and in all things to act as a critical but supportive friend to the school. The Governing body meets 6 times during the year, once each half term. Governors also make monitoring visits, to check on the progress of school improvement priorities, safeguarding and the quality of learning in school.
There is currently a vacancy for 1 parent Governor.

"It's great being a parent governor - working together with the wider governing team, the whole school community and, most importantly, the children to create a safe, welcoming and nurturing educational environment that gives them the best possible future."
Mr Budding Parent Governor.