



St. Mary's News

8th September 2017



A Big Welcome Back

Welcome back everyone. We hope that you have all had a lovely Summer holiday and are ready for the year ahead. Once again it will be a very busy year and we have lots of exciting things planned so keep up to date with all that is happening by reading our weekly newsletters and by going online to our school website. New class blogs will be up and running over the next week or so.

All of the children have spent this week settling down to life in their new classes and they all appear happy and excited to be back - although some would have liked a couple of more weeks off. (Mainly the teachers)

The children have spent the week exploring our School's Mission Statement (*St Mary's school is a safe and happy place where we follow Jesus by living, loving, learning and working together.*) and our Core Values (*Integrity, Respect, Passion, Nurturing and Creativity*) and have produced some lovely work and shared some lovely thoughts and ideas. Our Mission Statement and Core Values underpin all that we say and do at St. Mary's so it has been lovely having the opportunity to explore what they mean to our children. You can find a copy of our Core Values on the school's website. All of the children have also thought about how they can walk in Jesus' footsteps.

The children all look very smart and we have had lots of positive comments about our new kilts and pinafores. The uniform will continue to be phased in over the next year, so it absolutely fine to come to school in navy skirts/pinafores. Navy trousers are also still fine for the girls to wear during the colder months.



A Big St. Mary's Welcome

As we begin the new school year we have many big 'Welcomes' to say.

Welcome to our new staff - Miss Rignall who will be teaching Y3 and Mrs Martin who will be working as a teaching assistant in Y1. I am sure that you will wish them well and support them in their role.

Welcome to our new Reception children. They have started their school journey this week and have settled in wonderfully. They even stayed for lunch today! We welcome them and their families into our school and Parish family.

We also welcome Isla, Lucy, Charlie and Annabel to our school. The children have joined our Year 1 and Year 3 classes. Their classmates have made them feel very welcome and we are certain that they will settle in quickly and that it will soon feel like they have always been here.



Year Six Parents' Meeting

There is a meeting for all Year 6 parents next Wed 13th September at 6.00pm in the Infant Hall. This meeting is for parents only and is a great opportunity for you to meet the Year 6 team. The purpose of the meeting is to give you an overview of the year and will include information about the SAT tests and PGL. A list of key dates will also be given.

A member of the SLT from St. Peter's Catholic High School will also be there at the start of the meeting to answer any questions that you may have about applying to St. Peter's.

Mrs Hymers will also be available, before and after school, to answer any general questions about high school applications that you may have.

DON'T

FORGET

First Holy Communion Meeting - Parents' Meeting

There will be a parents only meeting on Thursday 21st September at 6.00pm in the Infant Hall for parents of children intending to make their Holy Communion this academic year. (Catholic children in Y4 and any other Catholic children from Y5/6 who has not yet made their First Communion, but would like to do so.)

Future meetings/activity sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings throughout the year and will include your child. The first of these meetings will be on Wednesday 27th September at 6.00pm.



Whole School Photographs

Advanced notice: Whole school photographs will be taken on Tuesday 26th September. Individual and family photographs will be taken on that day. If you have a younger child, who is not in school, you can nip into the Infant Hall just before school and have a family photograph taken then.



School Water Bottles

The PTFA have bought some new water bottles with our school logo on. These bottles are really sturdy and they are non-spill when they fall over. If you would like to buy one for your child for the new academic year they are on sale at the office for £3.00.



Mr McMinn's Football

Mr McMinn will begin his football sessions during the week commencing 18th September. Key Stage 2 sessions will remain on a Monday evening and Y1/Y2 football sessions will stay on Thursday lunchtime. The cost of the 5 week block for this half term is £20.00. Cheques need to be made payable to Ian McMinn and NOT school.



Tea@2

Tea@2 will begin again on Friday 22nd September. Work hard children and one of the first invites of the year may come your way.



Zumba

Letters have been sent home tonight to the children in Y1–Y6. If you would like your child to start Zumba classes please return the form as soon as possible.



Top Trumps

Our new 'Top Trumps' Club starts next Tuesday, 12th September 1.00–1.30pm in Year 6 with Mrs Hankin. All the children in KS2 are welcome to go along.



Year 1

Year 1 class are looking for donations of car mats, dressing up clothes and matchbox cars.

If you can help with any of the items they can be left either at the school office or with the Classteacher.



School Payments

In line with recommendations given, following a finance audit, we can longer accept one cheque as payment for multiple things e.g. dinner money, toast and clubs. School must now be given a separate cheque for each payment e.g. a cheque for dinner money; a cheque for toast money etc.

In order to make payments easier, don't forget that you can now pay for dinner money using an online payment system. Simply visit www.sthelens.gov.uk/PPS and click 'Register a new account' to begin the process or speak to Paula in the school office.

Payments

Choir

Choir begins again next Thursday after school. Mrs Taylor has given letters to the Key Stage 2 children who have shown an interest. If your child would like to attend, but hasn't brought home a letter, please let Mrs. Taylor know.



Guitars and Recorders

Mrs Connelly will start her Y4/5/6 guitar group again on Thursday 21st of September.

Y2 recorders and Y3 guitars will begin at a later date. Further details to follow.



Class Attendance

Reception	- 100%
Year 1	- 98.98%
Year 2	- 98.52%
Year 3	- 93.12%
Year 4	- 98.10%
Year 5	- 94.76%
Year 6	- 97.24%

A big 'Well Done' to the children in Reception who has a class attendance of 100% for this week.

Payments Due This Term

Please make sure that if your child has been offered a place on one of the sports clubs that payment of £9 per club has been made to the office by Monday to secure their place.

Dinner Money £11.50 per week or £78.20 up to the October half term.

Milk for Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children £6 Levy £10 per family

Reception Snacks £10.20 up to the October half term

KS2 toast £6.80 up to the October half term

Please make cheques payable to St Helens Council.

