



ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Great Lime Road,
Forest Hall,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
T: 0191 8142006
E: office@stmarysfh.org.uk
www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk

Friday 6th September 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome back! It has been so lovely to see the children and hear about the things that they have been doing during the holidays. The children have all returned looking so smart and ready for their new classes. We especially welcome all our new children in Reception and other classes who have joined our school; they are all settling well and making many new friends. The term ahead is already looking very busy – we will share diary dates with you next week.

School Core Values

Our school vision statement is 'Living, Learning, Caring Together with God Beside Us' and we have introduced a set of school core values which we want all in our school community to live out in order to support and promote our vision statement.

These core values are:

**Kind
Respectful**

**Responsible
Forgiving**

**Resilient
Honest**

In living out our core values, we are striving to provide an environment where everyone in the school community feels safe, confident, valued and respected. This week in class, teachers have discussed our core values with the children and how these are lived out in the classroom and around school.

Celebration of the Word

In our Celebration of the Word next week, we will be thinking about how we can share the Good News and be examples to others through our kind words and actions.

Parents' Phonics & Early Reading Meeting

Mrs Thompson will be holding a Phonics meeting on Friday 20th September for parents/carers of pupils in Reception and Year 1. She will be sharing information about our phonics scheme, Monster Phonics and talking about how parents can support their child with their reading at home. The meeting will be at 9.15am in the school hall and parents will be able to come into the hall from 9.00am.

Fairtrade Fortnight - Be The Change

Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 will run from the 9th of September – 22nd of September and the theme of the campaign is 'Be The Change'. This year's campaign will highlight that however big or small a purchase this Fairtrade Fortnight, you have the power to Be The Change.

Through PSHE lessons and assemblies, the children will be taking part in a range of activities to learn about and support Fairtrade.

PTFA News - ASDA Cashpots For Schools Campaign

Asda is supporting UK primary schools with their new 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support St Mary's Primary Catholic School, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our school (postcode NE12 7AB), shop and scan in store or shop online. Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our school via our Friends of St Mary's PTFA. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support St Mary's Primary School, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot.





ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Great Lime Road,
Forest Hall,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
T: 0191 8142006
E: office@stmarysfh.org.uk
www.stmarysrprimaryschool.co.uk

Parent/Carer Forum Event

We are having a coffee morning on Monday 16th September at 9.00am to introduce the aims of the Parent/Carer forum and to get a chance meet some of their representatives. Look out for their flyer which will be sent out via Parent Mail.

School Admissions – Reception class & High School

Applications for primary (Reception) and high schools (Year 7) places for September 2025 is now open and can be accessed at <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/129/school-admissions>

- Year 7 high school admissions must be completed and submitted by **31st October 2024**.
- Reception class admissions must be completed and submitted by **13th January 2025**.

Please note applications for places at Catholic schools do require supporting evidence of baptismal certificates if applying under a Catholic category. If you require a copy of your baptismal certificate please contact the church where your child was baptised as early as possible. For GDPR reasons, this must be a written request not an email/telephone call.

Attendance & Punctuality

Just to remind you that the school day starts at 8.55am with the school doors opening at 8.45am.

As you may have heard in the news this week, in August the DfE issued new statutory guidance to schools to improve school attendance. In line with that guidance please read the information below:

- Registers are taken from 8.55am and will remain open for 30 minutes.
- Any pupils arriving after 9am will be marked as 'late before register closes'.
- Any pupil arriving after the register closes will be marked as an unauthorised absence.
- Please note that holidays should not be taken in term time and will not be authorised; if a holiday is taken and meets the new threshold of 10 sessions* within a period of 10 weeks, we may refer the matter to the Local Authority who may issue a penalty notice. **The penalty notice has increased to £80 per parent, per child.**

(*1 session = a morning/afternoon session)

Our current Attendance & Punctuality Policy is in the process of being updated and will be shared with you once approved by Governors.

Statutory Assessment Dates

Each year statutory assessments are carried out for certain year groups in the summer term. This year's dates are as follows:

- Year 1 Phonics Screening check – Week beginning Monday 10th June 2025
- Year 4 Multiplication check – Week beginning 2nd June 2025
- Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs – Monday 12th May to Thursday 15th May 2025

School Uniform

It's lovely to see the children return to school looking so smart in their uniforms but just a couple of reminders!

- **Royal Blue** shorts for PE kits.
- Earrings should not be worn to school.
- Nail varnish should be removed before coming to school.

Thank you for support and cooperation on these matters.





ST MARY'S

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Great Lime Road,
Forest Hall,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
T: 0191 8142006
E: office@stmarysfh.org.uk
www.stmarysrcprimaryschool.co.uk

Staff Car Park

For the safety of pupils, staff and adults walking into school via the main drive, I'd like to remind parents/carers that they should not be driving down into the car park to drop off and collect children (unless this has been pre-arranged with the school office), including when collecting children from after school clubs.

Parking Outside of School

I'd like to remind all parents/carers that when parking in the local residential streets or on Great Lime Road to not park across residents' driveways. I have also been concerned to hear about parents/carers parking on double yellow lines at the bottom of Elm Grove when dropping off in the mornings which is making it dangerous for all pedestrians, including our pupils when crossing the road. In addition to this, I have been alerted to a recent event where parents/carers were arguing aggressively on Elm Grove over parking which is unnecessary and unpleasant for others, including young children to witness. Please ensure you are being considerate and parking safely at all times. As always the church car park is always available for parking and it is only a short walk to school from there.

Clubs

These clubs will be starting next week: more clubs to be added.

Day	After School
Tuesday	KS2 Dance (3.30-4.30pm) Y5 & Y6 Art Club (3.30 -4.15pm)
Wednesday	KS1 Art (3.30 -4.15pm) Y3 Rugby Minis (3.30-4.30pm)
Thursday	Y2 Yoga (3.30-4.30pm) KS2 Choir (3.30-4.30pm)

Weekly Attendance

The overall attendance for the whole school this week is 95.5 %.

Well done to Reception class who have won the Attendance Award for this week with 100% attendance.

Reception	100%
Year 1	64.6%
Year 2	93.1%

Year 3	93.9%
Year 4	95.6%
Year 5	97.9%
Year 6	96.6%

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Foster
Head Teacher

