



St. Mary's News 8th September 2023



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

A great BIG WELCOME BACK to everyone. It is lovely to see you all once again and we hope that you have had a lovely summer.

The children have settled in really well and there are lots of smiling and happy faces. Lots of them say that they are pleased to be back and that they have missed their friends.

The staff are delighted with how well the children have adapted to the new routines and expectations of their new classes and they are really proud of how hard the children are working. They have all made great first impressions. Keep it up children.



We know that picking up at home time is taking a little longer than normal, particularly from the Infant classrooms, but we ask you to be patient whilst staff get to know the faces of the new parents/carers/grandparents or other family members and friends who are collecting the children.



To help ease the congestion at the Y1/Y2 doors, can parents/carers please collect the Y1/2 children first before collecting any older, junior siblings as having junior siblings at the Y1/2 doors is adding to the numbers around the classrooms.

For safeguarding purposes, our infant children are only released to named adults and a password system is used with our Reception children if the staff do not recognise the adult collecting the child.

All children will only be released to another parent if written permission or permission via a phone call, to school, has been given.

Please remember that staff are not being difficult—they are keeping the children safe.



We would like to say a big welcome to our new Reception children and their families who became members of our school community this week. The children have been absolute super stars and have settled in amazingly well.

They are a lovely group and we are very excited to start their learning journeys with them.



Keeping up to Date with Events/Routines/News in School

Our school year is always very busy and the easiest way of keeping up to date with events/news is by reading the weekly newsletter. It is published on the school's website under the newsletter tab (www.bstm.co.uk) every Friday. We also use the newsletter to share the children's achievements with you.

Every class also has a class page on the website. Staff will inform you of any class events/timetables/news on this page. They will also upload photographs of the children's work or the children at work for you to see.

Healthy School/Healthy Snacks

Can we please ask that only healthy snacks are sent into school with the children to have at break time e.g. fruit, cheese, yoghurt etc. and that biscuits and crisps are avoided. To limit the risk of choking, grapes should be cut in half length ways.



Toast is available for all children and can be ordered through School Money. If your child has toast, no other snack is needed as the children only have a short time to eat their snack before break.

Juice should also not be brought into school. Water or flavoured water is fine. Please ensure water bottles are labelled.

As we are a nut free environment, snacks containing nuts or traces of nuts are also not permitted. We have children in school with serious nut allergies that require treatment via an epi pen. Please do not send in cereal bars or any other items that list nuts or traces of nuts on them as your child will not be able to open/eat them.



Own Clothes for Birthdays

Don't forget that the children can come to school in their own clothes on their birthday in order to mark their special day. If their birthday is on the weekend, they can come to school in their own clothes on a Monday. If their birthday is during a holiday period, the children can wear their own clothes on the first day back after the holiday period.

Earrings Reminder

Can we please remind you that for health and safety reasons, earrings are not to be worn to school – even with plasters over them. If you are worried about the piercing closing over, then clear plastic earring retainers can be worn in their place. From Monday, you will be asked to come into school to take out your child's earrings if they come into school with them in.



Jewellery Reminder

Watches are the only jewellery permitted to be worn in school. Necklaces, friendship bracelets etc are not to be worn. Thank you.

Charges for the Half-Term

Many parents prefer to pay for lunches etc for the half-term rather than on a weekly basis. Please see costings below. All money must be paid using the School Money App. A separate letter has been emailed home to explain about the Levy charge. Please note that this payment is a one off annual payment.



Lunches - £92.50 or £12.50 per wk
Fish/Pizza & Chips Friday - £17.50
Toast - £11.10 (Y1-Y6) £9.90 (Rec)
Milk - £6.00 Rec/ KS1 for the year
Levy - £10.00 per family (1 payment)

Please note that the price of school meals is due to rise—price increases will most likely occur be after the October half-term.

School Payments School Money



We are currently experiencing technical difficulties with the School Money App—mainly around children being moved up to their new classes and this means that you are unable to access your school accounts.

Please don't worry about not being able to pay for school meals, toast etc. This will be sorted once the system is back up and running.

We will send out a message once it is fixed.



Whilst School Money is currently not working, please ring the office or email school to book your child/ren into ABC. Payments can be made once the system is back up and running.

If paying by childcare vouchers, you are unable to use the system to book in (even when the system is working) so please email school the days and times needed and staff will enter your bookings.

Please note that the system does not allow 'on the day' bookings, so if you need to book a place at short notice, then please email or phone school.



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Our extra-curricular, sporting clubs start again next week and will run for 6 weeks with the final Wednesday club being on Wednesday 18th October and the Friday clubs being 20th October.

Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30pm KS2 Dodgeball Pick up from Infant Hall. CLUB IS FULL
Friday 7.45am - 8.45am KS2 Football. Drop off at Infant Hall. Last few places remaining
Friday 3.30 - 4.30pm Y1/2 Multi Sports. Pick up from Infant Hall. 10 places remaining.

KS2 Children do not need football boots or a football kit to play in. They will play in trainers and will already have their PE Kits on. If it is wet, sessions will be held indoors.

The Y1/2 Multisport Club offers the children the opportunity to play/take part in a range of sporting activities over the 6 weeks.

Our new Reception children will be able to attend a sporting club after the October half-term, once they have settled in.

If your child needs to attend ABC following the club, they will be taken across by the coaches and will be charged for the 4.30 - 5.30pm slot.



Class Attendances for the Week

Reception	100%
Year 1	95.83%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	96.88%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	94.76%

P.E Days

PE takes place on a Wednesday and Friday for all KS2 children. (Y3-Y6)

Reception - Friday

Year 1 - Friday

Year 2 - Wed until October half term and Friday.



Y6 Parents' Meeting



We would like to invite our Y6 parents to a meeting on Wednesday 13th September at 6pm in the Infant Hall. The meeting is an important meeting as it will cover the year ahead e.g. Y6 Play, PGL, SATs etc as well as explaining the high school application process. The headteacher from St. Peter's will start the meeting with a short presentation about St. Peter's and the different steps needed in the application process for his school. Mrs Hymers will also be present and will be able to answer other questions about the application process in general. The meeting should last no longer than an hour.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy will resume once again, at the 11.00am Mass this Sunday. All are welcome. If your child is in Y4 and it is your wish for them to make their First Holy Communion this year, Fr does expect the children to attend Mass as part of their sacramental preparation. Attending the Children's Liturgy Mass is an excellent way of supporting your child's sacramental journey as the children who attend, always enjoy the liturgy group. Father will send out a separate letter to our Y4 parents/carers about First Holy Communion.



KS2 Choir

Our amazing, and extremely popular, school choir will start again on Thursday 28th September. It runs from 3.30 - 4.30pm. Children can be collected from the Infant Hall door, or can go directly to ABC for the 4.30-5.30pm slot. Mrs Taylor will send letters out this week. We know that the children are keen to meet again and the sessions are always great fun.



Phonic and Reading Workshops for Parents/Carers

We will be holding Phonic and Reading Workshops on three Tuesdays throughout September and October - at the start/end of the school day - for parents/carers who would like to attend.

DATES AND TIMES FOR ALL CLASSES INVOLVED ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDER AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.

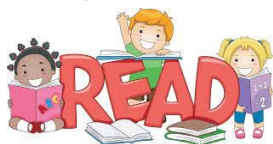
The workshops will give you a clearer understanding of how we teach phonics and reading across the school and will hopefully provide you with the 'know how' to help you to support your child as they move through their reading journey.

Workshops are being held in the year group classrooms and will be delivered by your child's class teacher.

The children will be taught elsewhere whilst the workshop is being delivered.

Once the workshop is finished, the children will be brought back into class to share a story with you before you leave - so it would be lovely if you could bring in their favourite story book to share with them.

Grandparents are welcome to attend in your place if you are unable to attend.



There will be a separate workshop for Reception parents/carers once the children have settled into school.



Reception, Y1 and Y2 Harvest Assembly

Our Reception and Key Stage 1 children would like to invite parents/carers to their Harvest Assembly on Friday 20th October at 9.30am. Places are limited to a maximum of 2 per family as we are restricted by the size of the Infant Hall. If you would like to attend, simply sign in at the office from 9.20am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Get Caught Reading Challenge



We are holding a competition for all of our children as a way of highlighting how important, and fun, reading is.

We would love it if you could send in a photograph of your child reading in an unusual place—the more unusual the better!

We will then judge the photographs and award a prize to the children who we think are reading in the most weird/wonderful/bizarre or unusual places.

We know that we have lots of creative parents/carers out there so we are very excited to see what you can come up with. Simply email your photograph into school stmaryrcbp@sthelens.org.uk

All photographs sent in will be put on display in our Library and classroom areas and we will publish some of them on the children's class pages and in the newsletter.

Entries must be sent in by Friday 15th September. Good luck everyone. Be creative!



Harvest Collection



As part of our Harvest celebration we will be collecting in donations of dried and tinned food to send to the local foodbanks which we know

are really struggling at this time - they are especially short of the following:

Coffee
Sugar
UHT Milk
Long-life Juice
Pasta Sauces
Instant Mash
Tinned Potatoes
Packet Pasta in Sauce
Noodles
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Tomatoes
Custard
Jam
Toiletries
Chocolate and Crisps



Donations can be sent in, in carrier bags or boxes, the week commencing Monday 16th October. We will then arrange for the donations to be collected or taken the following week.

Coffee and Tea with the SLT and Governors



We would like to invite parents/carers into school for a cuppa and a chat on Wednesday 11th October from 2.30 pm—3.30pm in order to seek your views about how things are going in school. We are keen to hear about the things that we do—and perhaps—more importantly—ways in which can further improve.

(Please note that these sessions are not to discuss your individual concerns about your child as Parents' Evening is the place to do this.)

SLT, and governors, find these sessions really useful as a way of reviewing practices and procedures in school in order to make St. Mary's the best that it can be, so please do try to come along. You will be warmly welcomed and refreshments will be waiting.

We will organise another session later in the school year for a different day and time in order to enable different groups of parents to attend.

If you are able to attend, just sign in at the main office. The session will be over in time for you to collect your children from class.

Parents that have attended in the past have always been made to feel welcome and feedback from the sessions has always been positive.

Squash that



Flu Vaccinations

The school nursing team are going to be in school on Tuesday 26th September to administer the flu vaccine to our children. The vaccine is given as a quick, simple nasal spray.

All children are encouraged to have the spray on an annual basis.

Letters and further details were emailed out to parents before the summer break. Reception parents/carers were given letters yesterday.

The link econsent.merseycare.nhs.uk can now be used to give consent for your child/ren to have the vaccine.

Only children with completed consent forms will receive the vaccine.

If you are struggling to complete the form or have any queries, please contact the team on 01744 415645

Parents do not need to attend. Staff are with the children.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are planning to hold a coffee morning on Friday 29th September from 9.15 - 10.30 am to raise funds for the Macmillan Nurses.

To help support the event, we are asking for donations of cakes and for volunteers to run the event, along with school staff.

The children will also be able to buy a cake, or two. Further details to follow next week, but if you give up a couple of hours of your time on Friday 29th, please let school know. Thank you.



After the first full, uninterrupted year in school since the pandemic, the PTFA are going to relaunch themselves this academic year and are looking for more volunteers from amongst our school community to take an active role in their fundraising events.

The PTFA meets roughly once every half-term from 6.30pm, in the club, and all new members will be warmly welcomed.

In this time of austerity, increasing fuel costs and the cutting of school budgets, it is now more important than ever that we can create a large team of dedicated parents/carers who can work collectively to raise much needed funds for the school and its children.

It doesn't matter if you are unable to attend all meetings, volunteering to help organise and run events is just as important and any support will be much appreciated.

The first PTFA Meeting of the new academic year is planned for Wednesday 20th September at 6.30pm. Please do try to come along. We hope to see you there.

Please find below a list of key dates for the new academic year. We will add to these dates as more events/activities are confirmed. Some dates may also be subject to change.



Important Dates



Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year

Wednesday 13th September 2023	Welcome to Y6— A Parents' Meeting 6pm Infant Hall
Tuesday 19th September 2023 9.15am - 10.00am	Year 1 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Tuesday 19th September 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm	Year 2 Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Wednesday 20th September 2023 6.30pm	PTFA—First Meeting of the New Academic Year St Mary's Club
Tuesday 26th September 2023 9.15am - 10.00am	Year 3 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Tuesday 26th September 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm	Year 6 Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Friday 29th September 2023	Macmillan Coffee Morning Please support the amazing work of the MacMillan nurses by donating cakes and attending our Coffee Morning from 9.15—10.30am, once you have dropped your child/ren off.
Tuesday 3rd October 2023 9.15am - 10.00am	Year 4 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Tuesday 3rd October 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm	Year 5 Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—9.45am. Following the workshop we are inviting you to stay for a further 15 minutes to share a story with your child in their class setting.
Wednesday 11th October 2023 2.45pm - 3.30pm	Coffee and Tea with SLT & Governors Parents/carers are invited to come along for a chat about our school. Tell us what is going well and let us know what we can do to be even better. Further details to follow.
Wednesday 18th October 2023	Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 1 Further details to follow
Friday 20th October 2023 9.30am	Reception and KS 1 Harvest Festival Assembly
Wednesday 25th October 2023	Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 2 Further details to follow
Wednesday 25th October 2023	School breaks up for October Half Term