



# St. Mary's News

## September 15th 2023



### Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year

#### Important Dates



<p><b>Tuesday 19th September 2023</b> 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p><b>Tuesday 19th September 2023</b> 2.30pm—3.15pm</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Year 2</b> Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 2.30 - 3.15pm. 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.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 20th September 2023</b> 6.30pm</p>	<p>PTFA—First Meeting of the New Academic Year St Mary's Club</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 26th September 2023</b> 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p><b>Tuesday 26th September 2023</b> 2.30pm—3.15pm</p>	<p><b>Year 3</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Year 6</b> Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 2.30 - 3.15pm. 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.</p>
<p><b>Friday 29th September 2023</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 3rd October 2023</b> 9.15am - 10.00am</p> <p><b>Tuesday 3rd October 2023</b> 2.30pm—3.15pm</p>	<p><b>Year 4</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Year 5</b> Parents' /Carers' Reading Workshop 2.30 - 3.15pm. 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.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 11th October 2023</b> 2.45pm - 3.30pm</p>	<p>Coffee and Tea with SLT &amp; 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.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 18th October 2023</b></p>	<p>Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 1 Further details to follow</p>
<p><b>Friday 20th October 2023</b> 9.30am</p>	<p>Reception and KS 1 Harvest Festival Assembly</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 25th October 2023</b></p>	<p>Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 2 Further details to follow</p>
<p><b>Wednesday 25th October 2023</b></p>	<p>School breaks up for October Half Term</p>

## Guitar Lessons

Mrs Connolly's guitar lessons for the children from Y4/5/6, who played last year, will start up again on Tuesday 26th September from 3.30pm - 4.15pm. If your child would like to continue with the lessons, then please let Mrs. Connolly know.



Beginner lessons for children in Y3, who would like to start learning how to play the guitar, will begin later in the school year. Further information will follow.



**schoolmoney**

## School Payments - School Money

We are pleased (and relieved) to announce that School Money is back up and running again following a disruptive start to the school year. You should now be able to access your school account. If you are still having problems—let school know.



Parents/carers are now able to book Breakfast and After School Club places via School Money and should now start to do so.

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.

Parents who pay using childcare vouchers need to book places via email. Please send in the dates and times needed and staff will enter your booking details.

## Y6 Parents' Meeting



Thank you to those parents/carers who were able to attend the Y6 Parents' Meeting on Wednesday evening.

For those of you who couldn't attend, a PowerPoint of the key points, discussed during the meeting, can be found on the Y6 Class Page on the website. A list of key dates can also be found in the presentation.

**Please note that due to St Helens Council having suffered from a Cyber Attack, many online services are currently not working—HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS IS ONE OF THESE SERVICES.**

**Letters, giving further information, and paper application forms were given out at the meeting and it is advised that applications are made using these - unless you are happy to wait to see if the online system can be successfully activated before 31st October—which is the deadline for Y7 applications.**

If you need any advice/support with completing the application process, please speak to Mrs Hymers.

Any applications and faith forms received after this date will result in your child's application being placed in a lower admission criteria. This will impact upon their chances of being allocated a place at their preferred school.

## 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 shortly. We know that the children are keen to meet again and the sessions are always great fun.

## 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 to be sent into school on Thursday 28th September to enable staff to set up the event ready for the Friday morning.

We would also really appreciate any help from parents/carers on the morning of the 29th to help serve refreshments.

The children will have the opportunity to buy a cake after the parents/carers have left at 10.30am.

We are asking for a donation of £1 from the children (which can be brought in on the Friday morning).

Please do help us support the wonderful work that the Macmillan Nurses do.

## 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.

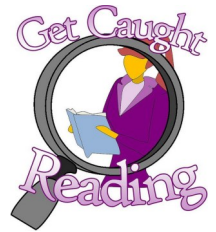


## Reception, Y1 and Y2 Harvest Assembly

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 **FINAL CHANCE**



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](mailto: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 Monday lunchtime. 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



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](https://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.

## Flu Vaccinations



## Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight check

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.

As part of the National Screening Check our Y6 and Reception children will have their heights and weights measured on Wednesday 4th October.

All information collected during the check is confidential and results will only be shared with parents.

An email containing further information was sent out to the parents/carers of our Reception and Year 6 children on Monday.





## WE ARE GOLD!

We are delighted to announce that the school has been awarded the School Games GOLD Kitemark (once again). The Kitemark has been awarded in recognition of our continued commitment, during the last academic year, to the development of sporting opportunities across our school community—for all of our children.

We would like to thank Mrs. Cotterill for all of her hard work in developing and leading PE across our school.

We have lots of exciting PE activities/clubs planned for the new academic year so look out further information as the year progresses.

## Reception and Year One - Balance Bike Sessions

We are delighted to say, that Mrs. Cotterill has managed to organise some balance bike activity sessions for our Reception and Year One children. The sessions are delivered by trained instructors from the Bike Right Team.

The sessions will take place, in small groups, on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th September. All Reception and Year One children will need to wear their school PE kits on these days (joggers may be better than shorts—unless the weather is very warm) along with their trainers. If the weather is damp, an outdoor jacket would also be useful.

All Balance Bikes and Safety Helmets will be provided by the team and the sessions are fully funded.

Letters will be sent home for parents/carers to give permission for their child/ren to attend their selected session. Simply complete the form and return it to school. We are certain that the children will really enjoy the sessions.



## Meet our New School Council

Congratulations to the following children, following a week of speeches and class votes, have been chosen to represent their class on the school council this year.

Mrs Cotterill, manages the school council and we know that she is keen to sort out a first meeting. We are sure that the children will have lots of lovely ideas to share at the meetings to help our school become even better.



## **Class Attendances for the Week**

Reception	100%
Year 1	95.04%
Year 2	100%
Year 3	98.47%
Year 4	96.88%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	97.14%

Chairperson	Angus Y6				
	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Mental Health and Wellbeing Rep	Ava	Domhnall	Ally	Scarlett	Kate
Sporting Rep	Luke	Olivia	George	Jude	Luca
Eco Rep	Edith	Robyn	Thea	Sam	Heidi

## Meet our Reading Influencers



We love to read at St. Mary's. Books transport us to different worlds and help us to experience new adventures. In order to share our love of reading and to promote

different authors and stories throughout our school community, the following children have been chosen as Reading Influencers to shine a light on all of the wonderful books and authors out there, for their class mates to read and try out for themselves.

Every week, one of our Influencers will recommend a book for others to read, so look out for their recommendations in our weekly newsletter.

<b>Year One</b>	<b>Isaac</b>	<b>Chloe</b>
<b>Year Two</b>	<b>Alfie</b>	<b>Grace</b>
<b>Year Three</b>	<b>TJ</b>	<b>Wallis</b>
<b>Year Four</b>	<b>Ralph F</b>	<b>Erin</b>
<b>Year Five</b>	<b>Harry S</b>	<b>Eliza</b>
<b>Year Six</b>	<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>Heidi</b>

## Introducing Mrs Hymers as a reader:

Did you know that Mrs. Hymers loves to read. During her last holiday, she read an unbelievable 9 books in two weeks!

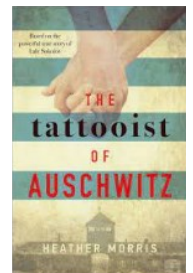
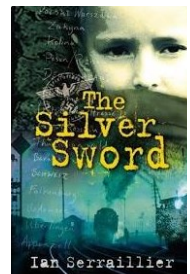
She has over 200 books in her house!

Mrs Hymers doesn't have a favourite author—as she reads all different genres—both fiction and non-fiction.

Mrs Hymers loves to read from 'real books' rather than a Kindle as she likes to turn the pages. However, she has to take a Kindle on holiday with her as her hand luggage is too heavy if she tries to take too many books :)

As a child, Mrs Hymers loved to read books by Enid Blyton and Roald Dahl. She especially enjoyed reading *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 3/4* by Sue Townsend and *The Silver Sword* by Ian Serraillier.

Mrs Hymers has just finished reading *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris, which was all about a prisoner of war in WW2 and the job that he had tattooing numbers on the prisoners at a concentration camp. It is a very sad and moving story.



## Y6 Librarians



All of our children have the opportunity to use our school library during the week and whilst adults run the Reception and Y1/2 library—we rely on our Y6 children to volunteer to run the library for our Y3-Y6 pupils. They always do a great job.

Our Y6 librarians for this year are:

**Monday: Heidi and Molly**

**Tuesday: Ewan and Caitlin**

**Wednesday: Annabelle and Niamh**

**Thursday: Alice and Jessica**

**Friday: Taylor and Ethan**



## Say 'Hello' to our House Captains for 2023/24



<b>Matthew House</b>	<b>Annabelle &amp; Alex</b>
<b>Mark House</b>	<b>Malachy &amp; Lucas</b>
<b>Luke House</b>	<b>Niamh &amp; Angus</b>
<b>John House</b>	<b>Grace &amp; Jessica</b>





## Celebration Page



### Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Jax
Year 4	Noah
Year 5	Scarlett
Year 6	N/A

### Bucket Fillers

Bucket fillers are children who fill other people's buckets (lives) with kind words and deeds. They are shining examples to others around them.

This week's Bucket Fillers are



Rec	Oscar B for making everyone smile
Year 1	Chloe for settling so well into Y1 and acting out our Core Values
Year 2	Lexie for being a good friend to everyone
Year 3	Thea for being kind to the younger children
Year 4	Ally for coming into school with a big smile and being ready to learn
Year 5	Robert for having lovely manners and showing a positive attitude
Year 6	Brooke for being extra helpful

### Good Work Stars

A big well done to the following children who have all been recognised for their super work week.

Rec	Alexander - super listening on the carpet
Year 1	Ryder - excellent phonics work
Year 2	Alife - wonderful effort in writing
Year 3	Sam - great letter writing
Year 4	Thea - amazing British Values work
Year 5	Alfie - marvellous maths work
Year 6	Heidi - great poetry writing

### ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT to Chloe from Y1, who was been chosen this week for being so helpful in club. Thank you Chloe. We love it when you help. **ABC**



### Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Theo	Esme	Luna	Will	Esme
Year 1	Carter	Sophia	Hettie	India	Hettie
Year 2	Theo	Arlo	Ava	Sofia	Theo
Year 3	Theo	Emily	Charles	Noah FC	Noah
Year 4	Erin	Noah	Evie	Ralph S	Erin
Year 5	Jude	Indiana	Oliver	Lucas S	Lucas
Year 6	Annabelle	Alice	Andrew	Taylor	Andrew