



St. Mary's News

September 22nd 2023



Provisional Calendar Dates for the Year

Important Dates

<p>Tuesday 26th September 2023 9.15am - 10.00am</p>	<p>Year 3 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—10.00am. 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>Tuesday 26th September 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm</p>	<p>Year 6 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>Friday 29th September 2023</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>Tuesday 3rd October 2023 9.15am - 10.00am</p>	<p>Year 4 Parents'/Carers' Reading Workshop 9.15—10.00am. 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>Tuesday 3rd October 2023 2.30pm—3.15pm</p>	<p>Year 5 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>Wednesday 11th October 2023 2.45pm - 3.30pm</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Wednesday 18th October 2023</p>	<p>Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 1 Further details to follow</p>
<p>Friday 20th October 2023 9.30am</p>	<p>Reception and KS 1 Harvest Festival Assembly</p>
<p>Wednesday 25th October 2023</p>	<p>Open Afternoon (2.15 - 3.15pm) and Parents' Evening 2 Further details to follow</p>
<p>Wednesday 25th October 2023</p>	<p>School breaks up for October Half Term School re-opens TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER</p>
<p>Tuesday 5th December 2023</p>	<p>Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm</p>
<p>Wednesday 6th December 2023</p>	<p>Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity Play 2.30pm</p>
<p>Friday 15th December 2023</p>	<p>Reception Nativity Play 2.30pm</p>
<p>Friday 22nd December 2023</p>	<p>Christmas Service in Church 2.00pm</p>

Special Visitors

As you will already know, two OFSTED inspectors visited school on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and they had lots of lovely things to say about our school community. We are unable to share the findings with you at this moment in time, as the gradings given are provisional and need to go through a quality control process.

We want to say a big thank you for all of the lovely comments made on the parent questionnaires and for the amount of support and kind words that you have given the staff over the last 2 - very, very long days.

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.



Whole School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Monday 2nd October to take our children's individual, family and our Reception class photographs.

We will organise family photographs of siblings that attend St. Mary's, as part of the session, but if you would like a photograph taken of your child/children with a younger sibling, who is not yet at St. Mary's, the photographer will be available from 8.30am in the Infant Hall for you to pop in before school starts.

Our Reception class children will also have their first whole class photograph taken.

All photographs are taken free of charge and there is no obligation to buy. Further details will follow.

Get Caught Reading Challenge



Thank you for all of the super entries that we have received. We are busy printing them out and displaying them in the library - it has taken us a little longer, as we have been a tad busy this week with our 'visitors' being here.

Once all of the entries have been printed out, we will then judge them and announce the winners.

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 sent letters out this evening which will need to be returned before next Wednesday if your child would like to attend.



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 - either home made or shop bought - 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

Thank you to the Y1 and Y2 parents/carers and grandparents who attended our workshops this week. We received lots of positive feedback and it was lovely to hear that you found the workshops really useful.

Our workshops continue next week, with our Y3 and Y6 parents/carers/grandparents being invited into school on Tuesday morning for Y3 and Tuesday afternoon for Y6.



DATES AND TIMES FOR ALL CLASSES INVOLVED ARE LISTED ON THE CALENDER AT THE BEGINNING 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.



Y4/5 STEM Club

Miss Gradwell's very popular STEM Club is running again this term for our Y4/5 children. Letters were sent out last week and should have now been returned if your child would like to attend the club. We are asking for a £3 donation to help towards the cost of resources for the club and this can be paid via School Money.

The sessions will run on a Monday from 3.30 - 4.30pm on the following dates:

2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd October

13th, 20th, 27th November

Final session - 4th December



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



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.



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.

Full of Beans Half Term Multi Skills & Football Holiday Camps

We will be holding our popular half-term camp again in October—but this time it will be slightly different. Instead of 1 camp—there will be 2 different camps running. One camp will be our usual multi activity camp—the second camp will be a football academy camp. The camps are flexible and can be mixed - whole days can be booked on each camp e.g your child can attend Football Camp for 2 days and Multi Activity Camp for 3 days. The pricing and times of each camp remain the same as in the summer. Sibling discount codes will be automatically applied so no code is needed and if booked before **MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER** an EARLYBIRD discount code of 10% will be automatically applied.

Camp places can be booked using the link below.

<https://app.joinin.online/#/app/joinin/organisation/shop/4a3b31f8-f811-4c6d-a826-53b48dd51e02>

If you have any problems, give Rebecca a ring on 07789743893 and she will be happy to help.



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 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.



Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight check

Many thanks to all of the parents/carers who attended the first meeting on Wednesday. We were blown away by how many of you were able to attend. Hopefully, if volunteer numbers remain high, the PTFA will be able to run a wide variety of activities and fund raising events throughout the year.

The PTFA now have their own tab on our school website and this will be populated over the coming weeks with dates of upcoming events and PTFA news.

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 last Monday.



Advanced Warning—First Event
Autumn/Halloween Party
Tuesday 24th October
6.00 - 7.30pm



Further details will follow - but very briefly this event will be for children only. Rec, Y1 & Y2 children's Disco will be in one hall with the KS2 children having their own disco in the other hall. Children can come either in Halloween costumes or just their own clothes. Faces can be painted and hair coloured but we ask that **NO FACE MASKS** are worn - these frighten some of our children. Both events will be ticketed.



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.



Meet our Reading Influencers

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

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.

This week, Jonathan, from Y6, has recommended *The Astounding Broccoli Boy* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Jonathan says, 'The book is suitable for children from Y4 upwards. It makes you feel as though you are there feeling the drama and watching the action unfold. I would give it 9.7/10.'

Thank you Jonathan for this recommendation. Look out for a new book next week.



Introducing Mrs Talbot-Davies as a reader:

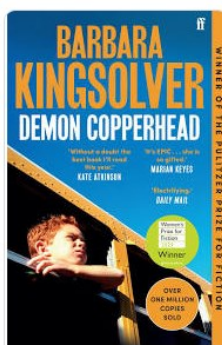
Mrs Talbot-Davies is an avid reader. She enjoys many genres and authors from Kathryn Stockett's, 'Help' to Margaret Attwood's, 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

Mrs Talbot-Davies also enjoys reading biographies and autobiographies—usually of those people in the music industry - Alex James, Keith Richards and Johnny Marr to name a few,

She also enjoys reading classic books like EM Forster's *Howards End* and Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. She has read these books over and over again!

In non-fiction, her top two books are Lynne Truss' *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* and *Talk to the Hand*.

Over the summer holidays, Mrs Talbot-Davies has read a whopping 8 novels! Her favourite being *Demon Copperhead*—the winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for fiction.



Class Attendances for the Week

Reception	97.32%
Year 1	93.98%
Year 2	94.91%
Year 3	98.81%
Year 4	98.26%
Year 5	97.22%
Year 6	96.67%



Celebration Page



Emile—Key Stage 2 Homework Star of the Week



Year 3	Robyn
Year 4	Evie
Year 5	Lucas
Year 6	Tristan

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	Harry C for having beautiful manners
Year 1	Lorcan for having marvellous manners
Year 2	George for being a super friend and holding doors for others
Year 3	T.J for being so helpful around the class
Year 4	Romeo for putting 100% into everything that he does
Year 5	Sophia for having lovely manners and being so helpful
Year 6	Angus for being a great ambassador

Good Work Stars

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

Rec	Darcy - fantastic phonics
Year 1	Isaac - super sentence writing
Year 2	Sebi - marvellous maths work
Year 3	Freddy - super self portrait
Year 4	Anna - amazing shading in art
Year 5	Logan - a wonderful diary entry
Year 6	James - great effort in guided writing

ABC Star of the Week

A big SHOUT OUT for Bobby from Y5 who has been chosen this week for being so helpful with the younger children. Thank you Bobby.

Star Pupil Award



	Matthew House Winner	Mark House Winner	Luke House Winner	John House Winner	Overall Star Pupil
Rec	Jacob	Robyn	Emily T	James T	Jacob
Year 1	Ava	Henry W	Isaac	Arya	Isaac
Year 2	Edith	James	Tyler	Rose	Edith
Year 3	Thea	Charlie R	Ethan	Rosie	Ethan
Year 4	Aiden	Thea	Joycelin	Ralph F	Joycelin
Year 5	Maddie	Eliza	Harry	Freddie	Eliza
Year 6	Caitlin	Jonathan	Niamh	Ewan	Jonathan