



# NEWSLETTER 1 - SEPTEMBER 2023

St Mary's R.C. School

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the children are at the heart of everything we do

**Welcome Back:** Welcome back after the summer holidays. We are delighted to see all the children return and looking so smart in their uniforms. A warm welcome to all our new Reception children and parents and to all our new starters in other year groups.

**School Newsletters:** All parents will receive a half termly Newsletter which contains important school information and a list of key school dates. We always endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible for events and dress down days etc. You will also be emailed a class letter which is specific to your child's class and will detail their key dates and what exciting learning they are doing in their projects.

**Website:** We have a school website which is continuously updated with school blogs, weekly news broadcasts and key policies. You can also download holiday absence forms and administration of medicine forms from here. Each class has their own page which has photos of the children learning in class and trip photos etc, are posted on there. It is a great source of information and keeping up to date with what your child is doing in class.

<https://stmarys.sch.im>

**School Developments:** Welcome to our new teachers; Miss Cain and Mrs Saxon and our new support staff; Miss Michel, Mrs Brearley and Miss McGilvray. Mrs Edwards will be leaving to have her baby during October and we will appointing her maternity cover this half term. Congratulations to Miss Robertson who was married over the summer.

This year we will be having a whole school focus on Reading, in line with our school curriculum and the introduction of a new Key Stage 2 spelling programme 'Superhero Spellings'. This scheme follows on from our Monster Phonics scheme in KS1. All the KS1 & 2 children will be getting new reading diaries which will replace the Monkey Reading Records - more on this to follow! Over the next couple of weeks your child will be bringing home an individual reading book with no diary until we launch the new diaries with the children. If any parents, grandparents, family members would like to be our 'Reading Superheroes' and come into school to read with children, please get in touch.

**Collecting Children:** We ask that Reception and KS1 children are collected from school by an adult. If your child is being collected from school by somebody new or unfamiliar, please let your child's class teacher or the office know that morning. It is important that we know who the children are going home with. Years 3 to 6 will also be finishing school at 3.25pm and can be collected from the main playground.

If you need to speak to the teachers, after school is a more convenient time, as they are in class with children from 8.45am onwards and it can be a busy time. I am on the playground every morning from 8.45am and always available for a quick chat!

**Consents:** Please ensure that all your child's consents are up to date via the Arbor Parent Portal. If consents are not in place this may result in your child not being able to go on trips etc. Please check your address is correct, contact details and all consents. New consents may have been added and they will need to be approved by you.

**Snacks:** Children can bring a snack with them each day. Plain biscuits or fruit. Also, a drink which can be accessed in their class at anytime throughout the day. Please can we ask that no sweets, chocolate, crisps, or fizzy drinks are brought in. Also, no snacks or food items containing NUTS. No NUTS in packed lunch items either please.

**Medicines:** If you require school to administer any medicine to your child, please complete the appropriate permissions form at the school office and ensure your child's class teacher is aware of this. If your child requires an inhaler or Epi-pen, please ensure that it is in school and they are in date. We require two Epi Pens in school at all times.

**Swimming:** Swimming starts on Wednesday 13th September for Key Stage 2 children (Y3-6). Correct attire is required for swimming lessons, it is imperative that boys wear swimming trunks and not baggy shorts. Unfortunately, children will be unable to take part in the lesson if they don't have the appropriate swimwear. If your child requires arm bands they will be provided at the pool. Swimming hats are required for any child with long hair or a long fringe. No jewellery to be worn on swimming days, including ear rings. If you are able to help with swimming lessons, please get in touch. Parent help with these sessions is invaluable and we really appreciate parents who give up their own time to help with this. All regular helpers will require a police check. Forms can be collected from the office.

**Homework:** The homework focus will change this year to be in line with our 'Reset on Reading'. All we ask is that all children are heard read at home each week, whatever year group they are in! They will have no homework set in books. ALL children will have reading books to be finished at home and some older children may have follow up tasks to do, which are set in their reading diary. This will also help them prepare for secondary school. Our aim over this year is to get every child reading at home! Please help us!

**Milk / Dinners:** For those children who have paid for milk it will be commencing on Monday 11th September. Dinner price is £2.40 per day. Parents are asked to pay through Parent Pay. If you have misplaced your log in details, Mrs Poole will be able to re issue them. New Parents will receive their Parent Pay log in details from Mrs Poole this week.

**Holidays:** Should you request leave of absence for your child, please put your request in writing to myself (forms can be collected from the school office or printed from the website). If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be informed by letter. Only ten days absence can be authorised. Holidays will only be authorised in mitigating circumstances. Over ten days will not be authorised.

**Lates:** The children can come into school from 8.45am. School starts at 8.55am. Any children arriving after 9am will have to come through the main entrance and let Mrs Poole know. To keep children safe the gates are locked at 9.15am.

**Positive Relationships and Values:** We will continue to embed our school values of Faith, Achievement, Trust and Compassion and encourage our school community to live by these values in everything we do. Our Positive Relationship Policy ensures we are all Respectful, Ready and Safe in school at all times.

**Christmas Concerts:** To give as much notice to parents as possible, dates are listed on the page below.

**Uniform:** With lots of new items please ensure everything is named, even shoes and pumps! Shoes/trainers should be ALL black.

Any questions or queries, please get in touch! Mrs Martin

## Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

DATE:	EVENT:
Wednesday 6th September	All inhalers and Epi Pens to be in school
Friday 8th September	All PE kits to be in school please
Monday 11th September	Manx Lessons start - Y6
Tuesday 12th September	MSR Tag Rugby Club - Year 2 and Year 3 3.30pm - 4.15pm - collect from school hall
Wednesday 13th September	Swimming Starts - Y3 to Y6. Y3 to be at the NSC by 8.45am
Monday 25th September	God and the Big Bang - Year 6
Tuesday 10th October	STEMFEST at Villa Marina - Year 6
Friday 20th October	Last day of term
Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October	HALF TERM WEEK
Week Beginning 6th November	Parents' Evening Week
Tuesday 7th December	Year 6 Concert @ 10.00am OR 2.00pm
Friday 8th December	Year 4/5 Concert @ 10.00am OR 2.00pm
Wednesday 13th December	Reception Concert @ 10.00am
Thursday 14th December	Year 1/2 and 3 Concert @ 10.00am
Friday 15th December	Year 1/2 and 3 Concert @ 10.00am  Reception Concert @ 2.00pm
Monday 18th December	Hosanna Rock at St Mary's Church at 10.30am All welcome
Friday 22nd December	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

**Eco-Schools**



Huge Congratulations to our Eco Club. Through all their hard work, St Mary's have been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. Thank you to Miss Strathdee who runs the club. This is a HUGE achievement for our school. We are very proud of them.

They have their own page on our school website - please have a look at the work they have been doing!

<https://stmarys.sch.im/pages/index/view/id/1058/Eco%20Club>

