



# NEWSLETTER 1 - SEPTEMBER 2025

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. Please can you ensure ALL clothing items are named, especially the younger children. 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. A home learning letter will be emailed next week too detailing how you can support learning at home.

**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>

**Staffing:** Welcome to Mr Hughes and Miss Wood who are teaching in Year 6 and Year 3. We also welcome Miss Hunter who will be working in Year 6. Mrs Quilliam has returned from maternity leave and is teaching in Year 4.

**Collecting Children:** We ask that all Reception and KS1 (Years 1 and 2) children are collected from school by an adult. If your child is being collected from school by somebody new or unfamiliar, please let the office know that morning. It is important that we know who the children are going home with. Years 3 to 6 will also finish school at 3.25pm and can be collected from the main playground.

**Reception and Year 1 are dropped off and picked up outside their classrooms on the Somerset Road side - not the main yard.**

**Years 2 - 6 children are dropped off from 8.45am and picked up from the main playground.**

If children are not collected by 3.30pm they will go up to the school office.

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 or query. If you need to see your child's class teacher please go to the office and the class teacher will come and meet you. If you need a longer appointment please email/phone the office to make an appointment.

**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 for this year. This must be updated annually so need checking for this new school year please.

**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 permission 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. A new annual form will be coming home for inhalers/Epi Pens to be signed and returned to school.

**Swimming:** Swimming starts on Wednesday 10th 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. Year 3 and some Year 4 children will require to be dropped at the NSC at 8.45am for a 9am start time. Y4 parents who this affects will have had an email in July informing them.

**Milk / Dinners:** For those children who have paid for milk it will be commencing on Monday 8th September. Dinner price is £2.55 per day. Children can change to packed lunches or dinners at the beginning of the half term, not during term time, please. Milk is £18.20 for the term and must be paid for by the 12th September. 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.

**Attendance:** 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 email and attendance will be monitored. Any holidays will not be authorised if your child's attendance is below 90%. Absence from school will only be authorised in mitigating circumstances.

**90% attendance equals 19 days (4 weeks) off school.**

**80% attendance equals 38 days (6 weeks) off school.**

**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. A late mark is given if arrival is after 8.55am. Please ensure your child is on time as all children come in at 8.45am and do handwriting and morning maths starts at 9am. They miss essential learning if they are consistently late. Collective Worship starts on Monday at 9.05am and Assembly on Fridays.

**Scrap Paper:** If any parents work in companies that have any 'scrap' or spare paper reams we would love to use them in our Chill Room. The children love to draw over lunchtimes so any donations of paper would be gratefully received.

**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 school expectations ensure we are all Respectful, Ready and Safe in school at all times.

**Uniform:** The uniform swap shop is set up in the Chill room and can be accessed before and after school. There are lots of uniform items to swap. Reminder please that shoes/trainers should be ALL black.

**PE Kits:** Please can all PE kits be in school this week. PE lesson started from today.

**Illness: We have a child in school who can not be exposed to either Chicken Pox or Measles. Please keep your child at home if you suspect they have either of these illnesses. Can I ask that you inform the school office as soon as possible if there is a confirmed case.**

Any vomiting or diarrhoea must stay off school for 48 hours.

**Pupil Phones:** The children do not need to bring in phones to school. If the older children are getting a bus home may be an exception, and phones must be handed in to the office. Please keep phones at home.

**Parental Survey:** Many thanks to parents who completed our parent survey. We will be publishing the results this half term.

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

## Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

DATE:	EVENT:
<b>Wednesday 3rd September</b>	<b>All inhalers and Epi Pens to be in school New administration of medicine forms completed and sent back by Friday 5th.</b>
<b>Friday 5th September</b>	<b>All PE kits to be in school please</b>
<b>Monday 8th September</b>	<b>Manx starts Y5 and 6</b>
<b>Tuesday 9th September</b>	<b>MSR Club - YEAR 5/6 Badminton 3.30 - 4.15pm - pick up from hall. Children just turn up at 3.30pm no need to register.</b>
<b>Wednesday 10th September</b>	<b>Swimming starts - y3 to y6 Y3 and some Y4 dropped to NSC by 8.45am</b>
<b>Thursday 11th September</b>	<b>Hockey Club - Y3&amp;4 - 3.30pm - 4.20pm Children just turn up at 3.30pm no need to register.</b>
<b>Monday 15th - Thursday 18th September</b>	<b>Year 6 Cycling Proficiency - please see email</b>
<b>Friday 19th September</b>	<b>Open the book assembly</b>
<b>Monday 22nd September</b>	<b>Individual School Photos. From 8.30am younger / older siblings not at school in hall</b>
<b>Friday 26th September</b>	<b>Flu Immunisation - only for children who have consented with Manx Care</b>
<b>Friday 17th October</b>	<b>Open the book assembly</b>
<b>Tuesday 21st October</b>	<b>Year 3 - Little Stars Trip</b>
<b>Friday 24th October</b>	<b>CLOSE FOR HALF TERM</b>
<b>Monday 3rd November</b>	<b>Back to School</b>



**Swimming Helpers - Can any parents help with swimming on Wednesday mornings please?**

**If you could it would be VERY much appreciated. Please contact the school office.**