



St. Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

September has been a hugely busy month and the summer holidays seem like a distant memory. The children have all settled well into their new classes and are now used to their new routines and teachers.

Later this month, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their work so far and how well they are settling. Please put 17th & 18th October onto your calendar now, and look out for the booking invitations when they come out. Lots of other events have been added to the school calendar too.

We welcome two new members of staff to Early Years – Mrs Healy and Mrs Young. We wish them a long and happy future at St Mary's. Congratulations also go to Mrs Dowling on her recent appointment as Headteacher across the Federation from next September.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

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*Focus virtue of the half-term: Loving*

*This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. (John 15:12)*

*Focus virtue of next half-term: Forgiving*

*If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:14)*

### Green Park

Our Year 5 children had the fabulous opportunity to go on a residential trip to Green Park, Aston Clinton at the end of September. They had a very enjoyable time, with some of the highlights being rock climbing, abseiling, archery, problem solving, shelter building, fire-lighting and singing around a campfire, as well as eating lots of lovely food and making their own beds!

Miss Kelly is very proud of the children, and amazed by all they managed to achieve in a short time. Well done Year 5!



## Harvest

*Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."*

As you will have seen on ClassDojo, we are collecting items for Foodbank during this month for Harvest. **Please bring in any non-perishable items you can spare to the school office by 19<sup>th</sup> October.** Find out more at: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>

**Harvest assembly is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 9am – all parents/carers are welcome.** On the same day, we invite you to donate £1 on Parentmail for CAFOD's Brighten Up harvest campaign, in exchange for wearing your own brightly coloured clothes. What a lovely way to end the half-term!

## St Mary's School Association (SMSA)

Hello everyone, we are excited to announce that the programme for this term is now finalised and we will be setting up a number of activities for parents, staff and children, particularly as Christmas draws nearer. Some of the events will be: coffee mornings, Christmas discos, a Christmas Fair and a variety of other events which we will announce nearer the time.

**Coffee mornings will take place at 9am in the top lodge on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December. All parents and carers are warmly invited!**

## Attendance

**Thank you all for your efforts in getting your children to school on time as a result of the change to registration. Do keep making sure they are through the door by 8.50am so they can start their learning straight away. This applies also to any Year 5 & 6 children who travel to school independently; if they arrive late, you will be informed and the privilege may be withdrawn.**

We will be displaying each class's weekly attendance in the school hall to encourage the children to get their class up to 100% attendance for the week. Good attendance is so important to support your child with their learning. Please help your child to be in school on time all week, so they can get as close as possible to that magic 100%!

**[The class with the best percentage attendance for September was Year 2 with 98.16 %.](#)**

Attendance for the whole school was 94.34%. *Can we get this above 96% this month?*

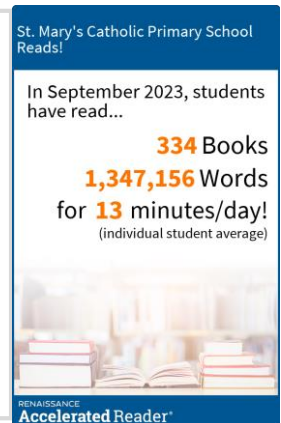
## Fr. Tony

Fr. Tony will be in school this month to help the younger children learn about Baptism. As always, it is lovely to have him come into school and to share our learning with him. Please ask your children about what they have learnt with Fr. Tony. Please remember you can see him at St. Mary's church too. Mass times can all be found on the church website: <https://www.stmarys-dunstable.org/>

## Reading – Accelerated Reader

Our AR *Word Millionaires* and *Multi-millionaires* were presented with a silver or gold star badge in recognition of their outstanding achievements in reading over the past few years. The badges will identify them as children who are avid readers, and who might be able to offer some good advice on book choices. Well done to Franchesca, Daniel, Michael, Aaron, Ajora and Tia!

*Who will be next to join the Millionaire Club? Will it be you?*



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School Reads!

In September 2023, students have read...

**334** Books  
**1,347,156** Words  
for **13** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE Accelerated Reader

## Sporting events

We started this term with two football events at Creasey Park for our older children – they played really well and Mrs Vassallo (our new manager) was very proud of them all. Well done St. Mary's footballers! There will be a number of football fixtures being organised over the coming weeks so we look forward to them. Your child will receive a letter if they are involved.

## School Elections 2023

Well done to all of the children who wrote applications or gave speeches in our recent elections. Here are the results:

### Faith Ambassadors –

Year 2 – Lexie and Luisa; Year 3 - Eva T and Ellie; Year 4 - Ella and David; Year 5 - Zuzanna and Owen; Year 6 - Franchesca, Heidi, Alan and Michael

### School Council –

Year 1 – Harry and Reggie; Year 2 – Rex and Ella; Year 3 – Kiera and Amelia; Year 4 – Maniah and Rehmell; Year 5 - Dacray and Kory

### Year 6 Team Captains

St Matthew - Vani (Cap), Leon (Vice)

St Mark - Csaba (Cap), Tia (Vice)

St Luke – Hayley (Cap), Jace (Vice)

St John – Blubel (Cap), Lilly-Mai (Vice)

The team captains are also members of the school council.

## Parking

Our parking problems have started already! Although it can be difficult to park on the school site at times, please continue to be mindful of all school site users when parking -

- Make sure you are not blocking the playground gates as this is our emergency access point.
- If you park in the layby, you **must** park so that the school buses have room to get safely round the roundabout.
- Do not walk through the car park – please use the pavement instead. One of our members of staff was concerned this week to see a very young child walking alone in the car park and being unaware of cars moving around them.

Thank you for your co-operation in these matters.

# St Mary's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

| Date                                              | Event                                              | Notes                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 9:00 am               | Parents' meeting - Phonics                         | Reception and Year 1 parents                                                                                                             |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | Y3 & Y4 girls' football tournament at Creasey Park | Letters sent out to those involved.                                                                                                      |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct 3:30 pm              | Girls' football team vs The Vale                   | At St Mary's                                                                                                                             |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct 9:00 am                | SMSA coffee morning                                | In the top lodge - all welcome                                                                                                           |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct, am                    | Diocesan Schools Mass at St Mary's Church          | Faith Ambassadors will attend, along with representatives from every Catholic school in Northampton Diocese. Full school uniform please! |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct                      | Girls' football team vs Larkrise                   | 2:30 pm at St Mary's                                                                                                                     |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct pm                 | Boys' football team vs Lancot                      | At Lancot                                                                                                                                |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Flu immunisations for Reception to Year 6          | Parents need to have registered their child for them to take part in the immunisations.                                                  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Fr. Tony in to see Early Years and Years 1 - 3     | Fr Tony will help the children to learn about Baptism                                                                                    |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct                       | Girls' football team vs Hadrian                    | 1:30 pm at St Mary's                                                                                                                     |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 - 6:30 pm    | Parent Consultations                               | Booking links will be sent out                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 - 5:30 pm  | Parent Consultations                               | Booking links will be sent out                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct                    | St Luke's feast day                                | <b>St Luke's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>yellow</b>                                                                     |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October                 | Foodbank collection                                | <b>Please bring your donations in by the end of today</b>                                                                                |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Harvest assembly & CAFOD Brighten Up day           | <b>9am start - All welcome<br/>£1 for CAFOD for wearing your own brightly coloured clothes</b>                                           |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                   | PTA Harvest pop-up festival                        | <b>3:30 - 4:00 pm All welcome</b>                                                                                                        |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 3:20 pm               | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Advent Term         | After-school club will run as usual.                                                                                                     |
| <b>ADVENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY</b>                   |                                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October                   | Staff training day                                 | <b>No children in school today</b>                                                                                                       |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 8:45 am              | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Advent Term       |                                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov<br>11:30            | Mass - Feast of All Saints                         | At school - parents welcome                                                                                                              |
| Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov 9:00 am                | SMSA coffee morning                                | In the top lodge - all welcome                                                                                                           |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November                  | SMSA - non-uniform day                             | Bring items for the Christmas fair                                                                                                       |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November<br>6:30 - 8:30pm | Dunstable Torch Light Procession                   |                                                                                                                                          |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November                | SMSA Christmas Fair                                |                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 9:00 am                | SMSA coffee morning                                | In the top lodge - all welcome                                                                                                           |
| Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9:15                | EYFS Nativity                                      |                                                                                                                                          |
| Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 6:00                 | Key stage 1 Nativity                               |                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 9:00              | Mass - St Mary's feast day                         |                                                                                                                                          |
| Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2:00              | Key stage 1 Nativity                               |                                                                                                                                          |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December                                                                                                                                            | Fr Tony - Reconciliation                        | Y4 - Y6                                                             |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1:30                                                                                                                                          | Pre-school trip (TBC)                           | Grove Theatre Pantomime                                             |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                                                                                                                                 | (Early celebration of) St John's feast day      | <b>St John's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>blue</b>  |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                                                                                                                                 | Christmas lunch                                 |                                                                     |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                                                                                                                                | Class parties<br>SMSA Christmas discos          | <b>Y1-Y3 3:20 - 4:20</b><br><b>Y4 - Y6 4:30 - 5:30</b>              |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec                                                                                                                                              | Christmas jumpers<br>Carols around the tree 1pm | <b>All welcome</b>                                                  |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December <b>2pm</b>                                                                                                                              | End of Advent Term                              | <b>No After-school club</b>                                         |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                           |                                                 |                                                                     |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024<br>8:45 am                                                                                                                                | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Lent Term      |                                                                     |
| Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 3:20 pm                                                                                                                                         | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Lent Term        | After-school club will run as usual.                                |
| LENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                      |                                                 |                                                                     |
| Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 8:45 am                                                                                                                                         | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Lent Term      |                                                                     |
| Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> Mar <b>2 pm</b>                                                                                                                                   | End of Lent Term                                | <b>No After-school club</b>                                         |
| EASTER HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |                                                                     |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr<br>8:45 am                                                                                                                                     | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Pentecost Term |                                                                     |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr                                                                                                                                               | St Mark's feast day                             | <b>St Mark's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>green</b> |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                                                  | Bank holiday - school closed                    |                                                                     |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                    | SATs week (Year 6)                              |                                                                     |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 3:20 pm                                                                                                                                         | End of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Pentecost Term   | After-school club will run as usual.                                |
| PENTECOST HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                 |                                                 |                                                                     |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun 8:45 am                                                                                                                                          | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Pentecost Term |                                                                     |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July <b>2 pm</b>                                                                                                                                    | End of Pentecost Term and School Year           | <b>No After-school club</b>                                         |
| SUMMER HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |                                                                     |
| 2024-25 DATES HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED YET, BUT THE START DATE FOR THE CHILDREN IS LIKELY TO BE EITHER TUESDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> OR WEDNESDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024. |                                                 |                                                                     |