



St. Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

A very warm welcome back to everyone after the long summer break! I hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable time.

You might notice that I have been playing with the format of the newsletter again – hopefully for the better. Responding to parental feedback from the end of last term, the aim is now to have a separate monthly newsletter for each of St Mary's and St Vincent's. This will allow us more space to focus on the St Mary's events that matter most to you, and to avoid confusion over irrelevant dates from St Vincent's. It will also include a fuller school calendar on the last page that will be amended and added to each month. I'm sure that you will welcome this improvement in home-school communication. We will still continue to use ClassDojo for announcements, so if you don't yet have a login linking you to each of your children's classes, please speak to the class teacher or to the office staff.

Finally, some staff news – we have a new Year 5 teacher, Miss Kelly. She is excited to be joining our happy school family and I'm sure that you will make her feel very welcome. Sadly, we are also saying goodbye in September to two of our much-valued teaching assistants, Mrs Nangle and Miss Reidy. We wish them all the very best for the future.

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

### Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA (or the St Mary's School Association – SMSA, as it is known) plays a vital role in the life of the school. It is made up of parents who give their time for free, to support the children, staff, school and other parents in many different ways. A lot of what is done is fundraising to give the children extra opportunities they otherwise wouldn't be able to experience. You can help too! The SMSA would welcome any support that you can give.

### Sporting events

Miss Azzopardi has again arranged a full sports calendar, starting with some of the Year 5/6 girls and boys, who will be taking part in football competitions next week. The girls will be at Creasey Park on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and the boys will be at Houstone School on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. You will receive a letter if your child is involved.

## First Holy Communion

If you have any children who are now in Year 3 or above, **online registration** for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation (Confession) and First Holy Communion is now open between 1<sup>st</sup> August and **30<sup>th</sup> September**. Please use the following link to register – <http://www.lutonpastoralarea.org/registration>

## Finance

Please make sure you keep all your monies up to date. Your dinner, breakfast club and after school club accounts should never be in debt. If you book sessions yourself using the app, you will need to pay for it at the time and we would encourage you to do this. You can put credit onto your account. If you need help with this, please come to the school office. If you have concerns over paying for items at any time, please speak to us so we can make arrangements for you.

If you have an idea for fundraising, please come to the school office and we will put you in touch with one of the members of the PTA.

**We raised £120 from our Bags2School collection in Pentecost term! Thank you for all of your donations. Look out for our next collection!**

## Attendance and registration change

### Reminder: Change to registration in September

Due to a new government directive, the registration time of school will move forward 10 minutes to **8.50am**. The school doors will still be open from **8.45am**.

This means that the classroom doors will be closed from 8.50am and, if your child arrives after this time, they will need to come through the school office to be signed in and it will be recorded on their attendance record as late. For last school year, this would only have been the case from 9am.

Also, this means if your child arrives after 9.10am, while they are still late, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. For last school year, this would only have been the case from 9.20am. Some lenience will be given for the first couple of weeks. Please be aware, if your child builds up a number of unauthorised absences, you may be liable to a fine from Central Bedfordshire.

While we do appreciate there are times when being late is unavoidable, this should be the exception rather than the rule. Our School Attendance Office and our Educational Welfare Officer monitor your child's attendance, number of late arrivals and unauthorised absences. You are encouraged to bring your child to school **on time** every day as this is a key way to support them in their education. Thank you for your support of us in this way.

Please remember we have a breakfast club available so you can drop your child off from 8am if this is easier for you. The cost is £3.50 per session. Please ensure you book this in advance.

# St Mary's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

| Date                                                       | Event                                                                                                                                                        | Notes                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 5th Sept 2023<br>8:45 am                           | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Advent Term for <b>all</b> children <b>except Nursery</b> .<br><b>Pre-school</b> is open, but with no wrap-around sessions. | <b>Reception class</b> go home at <b>1pm</b> this week (after lunch).<br><b>Nursery</b> home-visit appointments take place in the afternoons this week. |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept                               | Start of term for <b>Nursery</b> and full days for Reception                                                                                                 | Morning nursery 8:45 – 11:45 am<br>Afternoon nursery 12:30 – 3:30 pm<br>Reception 8:45 am – 3:20 pm                                                     |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 9 am                          | Celebration of Mass for the new school year (Y2 – Y6)                                                                                                        | In the hall – all welcome                                                                                                                               |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept                               | Parents' meeting – Year 5 residential trip                                                                                                                   | 3.30pm and 6pm                                                                                                                                          |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept                            | Years 5/6 girls – football competition                                                                                                                       | Children involved will return to school by 4:45 pm                                                                                                      |
| Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept                               | Years 5/6 boys – football competition                                                                                                                        | Children involved will return to school by 4:45 pm                                                                                                      |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept                             | St Matthew's feast day                                                                                                                                       | <b>St Matthew's team</b> wear own clothes, including some <b>red</b>                                                                                    |
| Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Year 5 residential journey to Green Park                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 6:30 pm             | Parent Consultations                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct<br>3:30 – 5:30 pm           | Parent Consultations                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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>                                                                                    |
| 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.                                                                                                                    |
| ADVENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                   |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 8:45 am                       | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Advent Term                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Monday 18 <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>                                                                                      |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec <b>2 pm</b>                   | End of Advent Term                                                                                                                                           | <b>No After-school club</b>                                                                                                                             |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY                                          |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wednesday 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                                             |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                         |

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| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr<br>8:45 am                                                                                                                                        | Start of 1 <sup>st</sup> half of Pentecost<br>Term |                                                                        |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> Apr                                                                                                                                                  | St Mark's feast day                                | <b>St Mark's team</b> wear own clothes,<br>including some <b>green</b> |
| Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                                                     | Bank holiday – school closed                       |                                                                        |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday<br>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<br>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<br>Term |                                                                        |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July <b>2 pm</b>                                                                                                                                       | End of Pentecost Term and<br>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<br>EITHER TUESDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> OR WEDNESDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024. |                                                    |                                                                        |