



St. Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

Here we are in the last half-term of the year – still with lots of interesting things to learn, but hopefully with plenty of fun thrown in too! Some of our children have already had a brilliant time this week helping the residents and staff of Caddington Grove care home with a gardening project.

For some staff, it is also their last half-term with the school. You already know that I'll be retiring but we'll also be saying a fond farewell to Miss Azzopardi, who is starting a Deputy Headship at another school in September. Miss Peacham is also leaving at the end of this week to start a new job at her church. Both of our colleagues will be sorely missed, but we wish them every happiness in their new ventures.

Mrs Dowling has been doing a great job of preparing for Headship in September. Joining her as Deputy Head across both schools will be Mrs Jo Healy. I will give a full list of new starters and their classes in the July newsletter. As you can see, this is a period of change for both schools, and I thank you all for your patience as we finalise and communicate our plans.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

~~~~~  
Focus virtue of the half-term: Hopeful

*'Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.'*

*Psalm 25 v 5*

### Attendance

**The class with the best percentage attendance last half-term was Year 6 with 97.9%.**

Well done, Year 6! You made great efforts to be in school every day as you geared up to your SATs week.

Please remember how important it is that your child attends school, on time, every day. If you know your child will be absent, please inform the school office before the start of the school day. Be ready to provide evidence for absences as our attendance staff need to detail this on your child's record.

## St Mary's School Association (SMSA)

The SMSA is excited to be holding several events this term.

Bounce into Summer is back! Our annual inflatable event will be on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 3.30 – 6.30pm – more details to follow but put it in your diary now and book your tickets via the link on ClassDojo.

We will also be holding a Father's Day Table as well as some end of year discos. Further details will go onto Dojo as the events come nearer.

This term will sadly be my last as SMSA Chair, as I and several other members will be stepping down in July. For the SMSA not to close we are urgently looking for more people to come forward. Without the SMSA, the school will no longer have events such as the summer and Christmas fairs, school discos and the very popular Mother's & Father's day tables, as well as access to the much needed additional funds. If you are interested in joining a great group of parents to take the SMSA into a new phase, then please do either see myself, Mrs Dowling or leave your contact details at the school office and we can arrange a chat.

Thanks, Becky SMSA Chair.

## Sporting events

This term we also have our Alternative Sports Day coming up on 14<sup>th</sup> June and our more traditional Sports Day (to which you are invited) on the afternoon of 21<sup>st</sup> June. More information will follow on this so you know what to expect.

## Bikes, scooters and buggies

It is great that, with the weather being fair, children are coming to school on their bikes and scooters. Please could we remind you to park scooters and bikes in the bike racks as thoughtfully as possible so we can get them all in. Also, please could you remember to give your child a helmet to wear when riding in order to keep them safe. When our Year 5 children did Bikeability this year, they were told the importance of wearing a helmet.

Could we also request that buggies are not left in the bike racks. If your child needs a buggy to come to school, please take it with you after you have left them here. This will free up space for the bikes and scooters. The buggies also often get damp while they are sat here, which must be unpleasant for the child when they get in at the end of the day.

Finally, do keep reminding your children **not to ride their bike or scooter while they are on school property**. They must walk along with it, taking care not to knock into other pedestrians.

Thank you for your support in all of these matters.

## School dinners

Please can we remind you that school dinners need to be paid for **in advance** of being ordered. The kitchen will be able to supply one lunch without credit but otherwise, if your account is in debt, you will need to send your child into school with a packed lunch.

Please ensure that your account is not in any debt for the school holidays. Parents may be phoned to ask them to bring in a packed lunch if the credit on the account does not cover the dinners for the last week of term.

The kitchen manager is not allowed to give dinners without credit and the office staff are having to spend too much time chasing parents to pay. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

## Holiday during term-time

Please remember that holidays during term-time should not be taken. Children need to be in school every school day unless they are particularly unwell or have an appointment which cannot be rescheduled. Central Bedfordshire Attendance Officers keep a close check on schools and require school to inform them when parents have taken children out of school for holidays. Please use the link below to see their guidance:

[https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/97/school\\_administration/538/access\\_and\\_inclusion\\_for\\_schools/2](https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/97/school_administration/538/access_and_inclusion_for_schools/2)

If you are planning holidays, do remember that we will have a **2-week** half-term break in October.

## School Trips

It has been great to see so many classes going on school trips this term. Please make sure you check on Dojo events for up-to-date information and to ensure you have completed consent forms for your children. Any payments for trips can be made through ParentMail. If you go to Payments and Shop, they should be available for you there. As ever, if you have any queries, please speak to the school office.

| <h1>St Mary's School Calendar 2023-24</h1>                                                                                                                                     |                                                         |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (All dates are subject to change)                                                                                                                                              |                                                         |                                                                       |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jun 8:45 am                                                                                                                                             | Start of 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of Pentecost Term         |                                                                       |
| w/b 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                  | Year 4 Multiplication practice and screening weeks      |                                                                       |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                  | K'Nex Challenge event                                   | Year 5 pm and Y6 am                                                   |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                   | Phonics screening week                                  | KS1                                                                   |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                 | Father's Day Table                                      | Pre-booked                                                            |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                   | Alternative Sports Day & packed lunch                   | Arrive in PE kit                                                      |
| Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                | Fire Service visit – Year 2                             |                                                                       |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June                                                                                                                                                   | Sports Day (afternoon)                                  | Parents welcome                                                       |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June                                                                                                                                                   | PTA 'Bounce into Summer' event                          | 3.30-6.30pm – ticket link on ClassDojo; book by 16 <sup>th</sup> June |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July                                                                                                                                                   | Transition afternoon – meet your new teacher!           | Years 1-5                                                             |
| Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July                                                                                                                     | Y6 transition days for Queensbury and Manshead students |                                                                       |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                  | Y6 transition day for Cardinal Newman students          |                                                                       |
| w/b Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                | Year 6 Activity Week                                    | See letter for details                                                |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                | Year 3 and 4 trip to ZSL Whipsnade                      | See letter for details                                                |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                 | French Day                                              | Cross-curricular French lessons and themed lunch                      |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                 | Y6 transition day for JFK students                      |                                                                       |
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                   | Year 5 and 6 Production                                 |                                                                       |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                  | Year 5 and 6 Production                                 |                                                                       |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                | Leavers Mass                                            | At St Mary's Catholic Church                                          |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                | Music assembly                                          | 9:00am Parents welcome - performances by our talented musicians       |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                                                                                                                                                 | Discos                                                  | Rec – Y5; details to follow                                           |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2 pm                                                                                                                                              | End of Pentecost Term and School Year                   | <b>No After-school club</b>                                           |
| SUMMER HOLIDAY                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                         |                                                                       |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September                                                                                                                                               | Training day                                            |                                                                       |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September                                                                                                                                              | Advent term starts                                      |                                                                       |
| TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: <a href="https://www.stmarysprimary.org.uk/our-school/term-dates/">HTTPS://WWW.STMARYSPRIMARY.ORG.UK/OUR-SCHOOL/TERM-DATES/</a> |                                                         |                                                                       |