



St. Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus

Message from Mrs Waldram

This has been a hugely busy half-term with formal assessments in every class, trips galore, sports days, special assemblies, Masses, transition visits to new classes or schools, Year 6 activity week, sleepover and spectacular performances, end of year reports and SATs results, a Catholic Schools Inspection, as well as a whole host of wonderful SMSA events. The children's and staff's energy has been flagging at times, (especially after a long walk around the zoo), but we are finally in sight of the end of term and the end of another year at St Mary's. We are hopefully keeping a bit of energy in reserve for the discos or parties on Thursday, and for our final Celebration assembly on Friday afternoon.

It has been a very special and poignant half-term for me personally, counting down the days to my retirement – the last week has gone very quickly! My retirement Mass was a lovely celebration and will be a treasured memory; thank you so much to those who came along, sang in the choir or organised the evening, including the SMSA for serving refreshments afterwards.

It has been a joy and an honour to work at this lovely school for the past 18 years. The glowing CSI report (sent to you on Parentmail) confirmed all of my beliefs about St Mary's and about what a special community it is. Thank you for all of the kind wishes that I have received for my retirement. I would particularly welcome your prayers for my upcoming month in Zambia, where I will be volunteering as a Teaching Assistant. I am really looking forward to it, but also quite nervous!

I pray that God will continue to bless the whole school community, and that you will thrive under the leadership of Mrs Dowling and her team.

God bless,

Mrs Waldram

Some goodbyes...

This term we say a fond farewell to:

- ♥ **Miss Adrienne Azzopardi**, who is taking up a new Deputy Head role at another school.
- ♥ **Miss Rachel Kendrick**, who is moving out of the area and joining a new school.
- ♥ **Mrs Donnah McCarthy**, who is transferring to St Vincent's as a Teaching Assistant.

We are thankful for the teaching and support you have given our children. We wish you all the best in your new roles, and that you take with you many good memories.

- ♥ **Our Year 6 children**, who are moving on to pastures new.

We are so proud of the way you have acted as role-models for the younger children this year. 'May the Lord bless you and keep you' as you join your new schools. Do come back to visit us soon!

- ♥ **Our wonderful SMSA chair, Becky, and other post holders, Tracey, Anna, Faye and Laura**, who are sadly stepping down. We all have fond memories of the many events you have put on over the years. We also greatly appreciate the thousands of pounds raised for the children. Many thanks and best wishes! *See the following SMSA End of School Year Report ...*

St Mary's School Association (SMSA)

SMSA End of School Year Report

Father's Day Table

This term, we hosted the Father's Day Table event, where the children showcased their immense love and care through their creative projects. It was heart-warming to hear them excitedly share their plans to make Father's Day special at home. Although numbers were lower than normal, **we raised £220 for the school.**

Bounce into Summer

A few weeks ago, we organised the 'Bounce into Summer' event. Approximately 200 children enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon on the school field with their friends and teachers. This year, the committee decided to increase the number of activities while maintaining the 2022 prices, ensuring everyone could participate. **We are thrilled to announce that the event raised just over £1,000 for the school community.**

Time to Say Goodbye

After thousands of hours over the past 6 years spent organising and running events, sourcing Christmas and Easter gifts, and fulfilling the school's requests, it is time for us to pass the baton to a new team. This year marks my final year as Chair of the SMSA, along with the other committee members that are stepping down. As we conclude our tenure, **we are proud to present the school with £9,392.69 that we have raised to fund future projects.** This amount will be officially presented at the Leavers Assembly on Friday.

Acknowledgments

There have been many people who have helped us over the years. I would particularly like to thank:

- Tracey Crouch (Vice Chair)
- Anna Chesnutt (Past Treasurer)
- Faye Duggan (Secretary)
- Laura Green (Current Treasurer)
- Phoebe Clarke-Woods
- Erica Layton

Without your hard work and support, none of these events would have been possible.

Additionally, I extend my gratitude to the teachers who have supported us at the discos and numerous Christmas and Summer Fairs we have organised. A special thank you to Mrs. Davies and Miss Peacham for their assistance with endless lists and payments, and to Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Waldram (and formerly Mr. Chiswell) for trusting us to run all the school events. Lastly, a massive thank you to the parents and children who have attended our events and volunteered their time. It is the smiling faces of the children that have kept us motivated, even during challenging times. Thank you all so much!

I would like to wish the new SMSA committee, starting in September, the best of luck. I am confident that the SMSA is in good hands for the future.

Becky

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.

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.

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

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

St Mary's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

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| Thursday 18 th July 2024 | EYFS class parties SMSA Discos | During the day Y1-Y3, 3:30 – 4:30 pm Y4-Y6, 4:45 – 5:45 pm |
| Friday 19 th July 1.20 pm | Final Celebration Assembly | All welcome |
| Friday 19 th July 2:00 pm (Pre-school 3:30 pm) | End of Pentecost Term and School Year | No After-school club. |
| SUMMER HOLIDAY | | |
| Monday 2 nd September | Training day | STAFF ONLY – NO PUPILS |
| Tuesday 3 rd September | Advent term starts | |
| Friday 18 th October | End of 1 st half of Advent term | |
| ADVENT HALF-TERM – 2 WEEKS | | |
| TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.STMARYSPRIMARY.ORG.UK/OUR-SCHOOL/TERM-DATES/ | | |