



## St. Mary's Catholic Primary Newsletter

*Growing in faith: loving and learning together with Jesus*

### Message from Mrs Waldram

The children have quickly settled back into the school routines and are working hard. Most classes are taking assessments in the next couple of weeks, just for us to keep an eye on how their learning is going. Once we have the results, we can feed this back to you.

For further news on how your child is progressing, you can register for email alerts about their Accelerated Reader quiz scores, and for the results of any Star Reading or Star Maths tests that they take throughout the year. To register, visit

<https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/studentprogress/homeconnect?t=6654747>

and use your child's AR login and password (from their reading diary).

Please remember to check the calendar at the bottom of the newsletter. There are lots of dates for Christmas events coming up and we don't want you to miss any of them! Lots of events will also be put on ClassDojo, but this time of year is so busy that we all need help to keep track of everything!

God bless,

*Mrs Waldram*

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*Focus virtue of the 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)*

### Harvest

What a wonderful Harvest assembly we had! It was standing room only to see all the songs that the children had prepared. Well done to all the children and staff for the hard work that went into their performances. How lovely as well to see all the donations which came in for the Foodbank collection. We hope you have seen the letters on ClassDojo from Foodbank saying thank you for all the food you contributed. Please can we take this opportunity to say thank you to you as well. Please remember that you can donate at any time of the year and we will make sure that the food is taken to the Foodbank centre.

### Monies paid in advance

Please remember to pay for After School Club, Breakfast club and dinners **in advance**. Your account should never be in debt. If this does occur, we may need to ask you not to use the clubs or phone you to bring in a packed lunch for your child instead of giving them a school dinner.

## School uniform

Please can we remind you that your child needs to wear full school uniform every day. PE kits should now be kept in school and only taken home at half-term to be washed. Children will change into their PE kits at school when they have a PE lesson. More detailed information can be found on the school website: <https://www.stmarysprimary.org.uk/parents/uniform/>  
If you have good quality, second-hand uniform, please bring it to the school office as we can often pass this onto people who need some spare items, thank you.

## Sporting events

Year 5/6 boys' team: Jacob, Kory, Josiah, Aaron, Jace, Oliver, Csaba, Michael, Leon & Frankie.  
Played away against Lancot.

In the second half, great goals scored by Jace & from Kory, who scored from a corner kick! Aaron kept saving what would have been impressive goals but final score: 3 - 2 to Lancot.

Year 5/6 girls' team: Tia, Heidi, Lilly-Mai, Savanna, Blubel, Ajora, Zuzanna, Lexi, Ivy, Faith, Orlagh & Lily. Played at home against Hadrian.

All the girls played a good game! Starting the second half at 0-0, Lilly-Mai was so determined and kept striving to get a goal with many attempts but luck wasn't on her side for this game.

Final score 3-0 to Hadrian.

Mrs Vassallo says, 'I am looking forward to many more, great matches!'

## Attendance

It has been great to see the children trying to get the best attendance in their class and to see numbers gradually rising. Please can we take this opportunity to remind you to phone the school office before 9am if you know your child is going to be absent. We are closely monitoring absence in school and we do look at percentage attendance as well as patterns in absence. It is so important for children to be in school every day that it is open so do continue to encourage your children to be in school each day, ready to learn. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

**The class with the best percentage attendance for October was Year 6 with 97.94 %.**  
**Attendance for the whole school was 95.21%. Can we get this above 96% next month?**

## Free School Meals reminder

Just a reminder that you can apply for Free School Meals for your child at any age. If you are unsure whether you are eligible, do phone up and find out. The number to call is 0300 300 8306. You will need to have your child's date of birth and your National Insurance number ready.

## St Mary's School Association (SMSA)

The SMSA are so excited to be announcing the line-up of Christmas Events this half term.

### **SMSA School Trip – Jack & the Beanstalk Pantomime – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

'It's behind you!...' The SMSA has funded a trip for the children from Reception to Year 6 to see Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime at the Grove Theatre this December. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that the SMSA has been able to fund a panto trip and we are super excited to see the children enjoy the performance again! The letter with permission slip will be going home today.

### **Non-Uniform Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

We will be holding a Non-Uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November in exchange for bottles (from wine to tomato sauce) from Early Years and Key Stage 1 and festive chocolates from Key Stage 2 to support the Tombola stalls at the Christmas Fair. The Tombola is always one of our most successful stalls and we really appreciate the donations so **if your child is in non-uniform then the staff will expect to collect a donation from them.** Thank you for your understanding.

### **Christmas Fair & Father Christmas Grotto – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

We are proud to announce that we will be holding the Christmas Fair this year on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 11.00am – 2.00pm. A letter will be coming home with your children with more details, but we'd love to see you all there as this is one of our biggest fund-raisers and (hopefully) makes special memories for the children.

We are also looking for donations of the following items. Donation boxes will be around the school or leave at the school office:

- Complete board games/puzzles
- Bottles / festive chocolates
- Teddies
- Any unwanted gifts
- Christmas jumpers or clothing
- Dressing up outfits
- Branded school jumpers / cardigans
- Children's coats

### **Christmas Discos – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

We will be running Discos again this Christmas. It's so lovely to see the children in their festive finery and dancing away. We will be issuing further details nearer the time.

### **Father Christmas Visit**

We're very lucky (& excited) to confirm that Father Christmas will be visiting the school to deliver presents to each of the classes during the last week of term.

Lastly, we understand that it is a very busy (& expensive) time of year but if anyone could help us with either donations or time we'd be so grateful.

**The SMSA coffee morning will take place at 9am in the top lodge on 1<sup>st</sup> December. All parents and carers are warmly invited!**

# St Mary's School Calendar 2023-24

(All dates are subject to change)

| Date                                                        | Event                                           | Notes                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ADVENT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY                                    |                                                 |                                                                     |
| 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 2pm                           | 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                          | <b>Bring items for the Christmas fair</b>                           |
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November<br>6:30 – 8:30pm           | Dunstable Torch Light Procession                |                                                                     |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November                          | SMSA Christmas Fair                             | 11am – 2pm                                                          |
| 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                            |                                                                     |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Fr Tony – Reconciliation                        | Y4 – Y6                                                             |
| Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December                           | SMSA Pantomime trip                             | Grove Theatre – see letter                                          |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1:30                          | Pre-school Pantomime trip                       | Grove Theatre                                                       |
| Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec                               | Christmas lunch                                 |                                                                     |
| 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                                | 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><br>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<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 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 |                                                                     |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2 pm                                                                                                                                           | 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. |                                       |                             |