

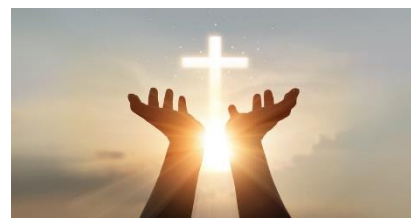


St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Start of term letter
Advent Term 2023

Dear Parents, Children and Carers,

We thank you Lord, for all that was good during the summer, For the love of our family and friends, and for the sunshine and warm days. As we begin a new school year we ask for your help and pray your blessing on everybody in this school. Show us how to work together for the good of all. May we share our talents and abilities to the full and grow in knowledge, wisdom and happiness. Give us the grace to become more like Jesus in the ways we think and behave. During this school year let us become builders of your ways and instruments of your peace. We ask this school year blessing through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.



Amen

My first letter for this school year comes with my very best wishes for the start of term and a wonderful school year for all of you. I trust that you have all had a chance to relax, have fun and enjoy the company and love of your families over the Summer holiday period. School is filled again with the buzz and noise of the children that comes with the excitement of the new term. As a staff, this is a wonderful time of the year as we too look forward to the new term and new classes commencing.

We are delighted to welcome many new children and their families to our school. I am sure you will join us in helping to make them feel very welcome and part of the school community. We also welcome Mrs O'Callaghan, Miss Chada and Miss Begum to our staff team. We also welcome Mrs McElhatton as our School Chaplain.

There will be important information being sent home over the next few weeks, so please make sure you check bags regularly for any letters and make sure you have signed up to My Child in School APP as this is the main platform we will use for communication and payments.

Newsletters will be sent from next week and will have the diary dates for events /assemblies /trips included so please take the time to read it as dates can occasionally change. May I remind that we have an open-door policy, which means you can speak with your child's class teacher, Mrs Blincow or myself regarding any concerns or queries you may have.

School Day

Our school opening is at 8.45am where children are able to go straight into classes in readiness for a prompt 8.55am start. If you arrive after 8.55am please accompany your child to the school office for them to be signed into school on the late register. We all finish the school day at 3.15pm.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
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NN5 7HX

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"With Christ as our guide, we let our light shine."

Please support us by ensuring your child's attendance is the best it can be by being in school on time each day and not taking any holidays during term time.

Term dates

Autumn Term – Wednesday 6th September – Wednesday 20th December

Half Term Break- Monday 23rd October – Sunday 29th October 2023



Term Dates for 2023 to 2024: Term dates for the 2023 to 2024 academic year are available on our school website in a downloadable format..

Uniform:

At St Mary's we believe children should feel a sense of pride in being a member of our school community. This is reflected in the pride they show when wearing our school uniform. It is our policy at St Mary's that all children should wear school uniform when attending school. As such, please be reminded of our uniform details detailed below. Your support in meeting these expectations is greatly appreciated. Our school uniform can be purchased at The Schoolwear shop, Abingdon Square, Northampton. Can I remind all parents to ensure that their child adheres to the following guidelines:

Uniform for Reception Class:

The children in our Reception Class wear a plain white (non-logo) polo shirt all year round together with the navy school logo jumper for both boys and girls.

Years 1 – 6:

Boys Uniform:

- White cotton shirt and tie
- Navy v-neck sweatshirt inc. school logo
- **Grey** school trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Girls Uniform:

- White cotton shirt and tie
- Navy v-neck sweatshirt inc. school logo
- Either a **grey skirt** or pinafore or **grey** school trousers
- White socks or grey/black tights
- Black shoes

PE Uniform

We will continue to the routine of children attending school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. As this is in place of the school uniform, it is really important that the **correct**

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school PE kit is worn, not football kits or branded sportswear. Please support us in ensuring your child is dressed appropriately.

- Royal blue round-neck school logo t-shirt
- Navy shorts/ Plain navy jogging bottoms
- Black plimsolls/ black or white trainers
- Navy school logo hoodie or jumper

Breakfast Club and After School Club



We continue to offer our Breakfast and afterschool club this year for all pupils. Please note -It is really important for health and safety reasons that the children are booked into the club at least the day before they are due to attend, as last year we have a number of children not booked in and this is not in line with the procedures for allowing your child to attend the club.

The school office is here to help you to organise the booking and payment of the club. Should you need to contact the club this should be done via the main school number.

Our Breakfast Club operates from 7.45-8.45am and the cost for session is a flat rate of £4.00. Any parent needing a place in Breakfast Club must contact the school office and then book and pay in advance for the half term.

Our after- school Club operates each day after school from 3.15pm - 5.30pm in the Nest. We provide a variety of fun and relaxing activities for the children to choose from. They are also provided with a healthy snack. The cost of the session is a flat rate of £9 which covers the 2 hours 15 mins of childcare facility and refreshments. Full details are available on our website under the parent tab.

Extra Curricular Clubs

We once again have a range of before and after school clubs on offer throughout the term. Information will be shared this week about these and how to book places.

Meet the Teacher Presentations

We will be once again holding our Meet the Teacher Presentations on **Tuesday 12th September**. This is a chance for parents to meet their child's new teacher and find out your child's intended learning for the coming year. This will include information on the curriculum, any trips their teachers have planned and about statutory testing in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. I hope that parents will find these meetings useful and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The meetings will take place in the classes **at 3.20pm**.

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Free School Meals – Pupil Premium

We are all aware of the rising cost of living crisis we are currently living in, please remember the Free School Meals that is available from West Northants Council if you are eligible. The form takes minutes to complete and the information you share on there is confidential and not shared with school. It may be one way of support or help during this difficult time that you may not be aware of. If you think you may be eligible please use the link below for more information.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium>

Please remember this is different to the universal infant free school meals, where every child in EYFS, Year 1 and 2 are eligible for. If you are successful in your free school meal application the school office will be notified by your child's names joining our list and you will be sent further information from us as we offer a bespoke package for our children who are eligible, this includes:

- *support with school uniform if needed
- *£25 worth of reading books, individual to your child
- *all school trips paid for
- *school lunches paid for
- *an opportunity to take part in a sporting club (one a term), or attending breakfast or afterschool club free of charge.

If you have any questions about free school meals or pupil premium please speak with **Mrs Annis our Family Support Officer or Mrs Yuen**

Inhalers and medical needs

Please can I ask that all parents of children who suffer from asthma and have inhalers in school to fill in a Medication Consent Form, which can be obtained from the school office, if you have not already done so. Please provide an inhaler that can be kept in school and ensure that it is in date and clearly marked with your child's name. These should be brought to the school office in the first instance.

Fruit Snack

All Reception and Key Stage 1 children receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day that is given out mid-morning. Please remember that children in Key Stage 2 are able to bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable for a mid-morning snack. As a school we aim to comply with the Healthy Eating Standards for schools and I would appreciate your support in encouraging the children to eat healthily.

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Important dates in the church calendar

ALL SAINTS

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(26 November)

ADVENT

(Begins 3 December)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and

co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

(31 December)

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Pupil Leaders

At the start of the school year there is great excitement as we accept nominations for the various Pupil leader roles. These include; Prayer leaders in each class, school council representatives, Peace Makers and Mission team and our year 6 head and deputy pupil leaders. Please do encourage your child to consider putting themselves forward for these roles. More information will be given by Mrs Blincow and pupils will be appointed in the next few weeks.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. There will always be a solution and we will always endeavour to help everyone as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued support for our school. Working in partnership with our parents and carers will ensure that our children receive the very best education that they can at St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K. Yuen

Executive Headteacher

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