



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

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St Mary's Newsletter 09.02.2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had an eventful couple of weeks in school with the visit from Ofsted which was a very thorough and insightful process. Thank you to all those who had time to complete the Ofsted questionnaire and for your positive and encouraging comments. The children were amazing and portrayed the school in the very best possible light.

As this is the last newsletter before half term, please check ParentPay for any new notifications and the Diary Date Reminders below.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher

Diary Date Reminders

Monday 12 th February	Y5 Redridge Parent Information Evening, 3pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday 14 th February	Ash Wednesday – See update on school menu choices
Thursday 15 th February	PTA School Disco - See poster for times
Friday 16 th February	School finishes at 3.00pm
February Half Term	Monday 19 th February to Friday 23 rd February
Monday 26 th February	School opens 8.30am
Tuesday 27 th February	Year 1 and Year 2 End of Theme Assembly 2.30pm to 3.00pm in school hall, parents are invited to attend
Tuesday 5 th March	2024 World Book Day
Wednesday 6 th to Friday 8 th March	Year 5 Redridge Residential
Monday 11 th March	Parents Evening bookings open on ParentPay
Thursday 21 st March	2024 Gingerbread Sock Biscuit Campaign
Monday 25 th March	Year 4 Level 1 Bikeability
Thursday 28 th March	School finishes at 3.00pm
Spring Break	Friday 29 th March to Friday 5 th April
Monday 8 th April	School opens 8.30am
Wednesday 10 th April & Thursday 11 th April	Parents Evening in Hall
Wednesday 24 th April	School Photographs for Reception and Year 6 leavers

School Trip Reminders

Please pay on ParentPay

Cost	Place	Year Group	Date
£219.00 due 1 st March 2024	Redridge	5	6th to 8th March 2024
£105.50 due 15 th March 2024	Petty Pool	3	16th May to 17th May 2024
£295.00 due 28 th April 2024	Abernant Lake	6	26th June to 28th June 2024

PE & Swimming Timetable

Children are to wear their PE kit on their PE day & swimming day.

Days of the Week	PE	Swimming
Monday	R, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	
Wednesday	Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y6	Y5 (Y4 will be swimming on 6 th March as Y5 are on residential)
Thursday	Reception	

Ash Wednesday 14th February School Meal Menu



The day before Lent starts is known as Shrove Tuesday. Lent is the time when Christians prepare for the greatest of the Christian festivals known as Easter, by thinking of things they have done wrong. It was a time for spring-cleaning lives, as well as homes!

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday and opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting.

Father Peter will administer ashes during Mass on Wednesday, 14th February. Parents are invited to attend Mass on Wednesday and to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's palm Sunday Mass. We hope that you will be able to join us at 9.15 am.

Menu for Ash Wednesday

Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans

Veggie Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy

Tuna Sandwich

Chapel group and Weekly Mass

I look forward meeting children in the Chapel at 8.00 am on Tuesday mornings for a time of discovery and reflection. Please encourage your child to come along.

The weekly Thursday Mass is a wonderful opportunity to take time to be still and quiet before God and celebrate Mass (it is Year 4 next week) with one of the junior classes – the Chapel corridor door is open for easy access.

Year 1 & Year 2 End of Theme Assembly 27th February

Dear Parents & Carers of Year 1 & Year 2,

The children have been working very hard in school and we are excited to invite you to Year 1 and Year 2 End of Theme Assembly on Tuesday 27th February in the school hall from 2.30pm to 3pm.

We do hope you can attend and you children can be collected once the performance has finished.

Kind regards

Miss Cook, Mrs Martin and Mrs Reed

Hockey Competition St Nicholas High School

Well done to all the students in Year 5 & 6 which took part in the Hockey Competition at St Nicks Catholic High School on the 1st February, you did a fantastic job representing our school, well done!



Today's Year 1 Sports Festival

Today Matthew Armstrong, St Nicholas Assistant Subject Leader for Physical Education, organised a Sports Festival for all the feeder primaries.

This was a Year 1 Festival event. He created eight stations that students moved between with a theme/focus on each. There was no scoring system, but instead a focus on personal bests and having fun. The maximum entry for this was 10 pupils. Pupils were chosen at random. He is looking to roll out a second event for other pupils to participate later on in the academic year.







St Mary's PTA Bag Pack

Well done to all the children for giving up their own time on Saturday 3rd February to help pack shopping bags at Morrisons. You all did an excellent job in supporting the school and raised an amazing £312.00!! We would also like to thank the PTA for arranging this wonderful event!

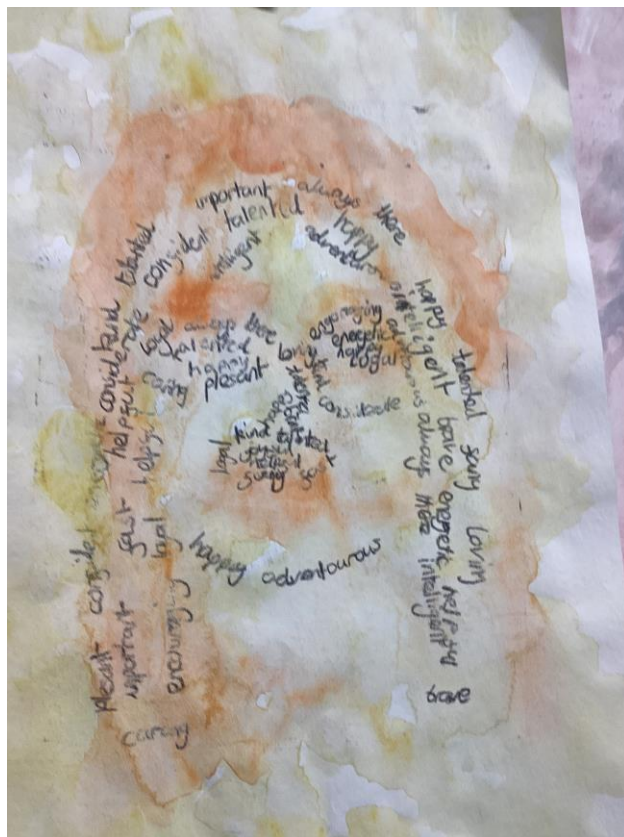




Art Gallery Afternoon 8th February

St Mary's Art gallery afternoon was a huge success on the 8th February, thank you to all the staff and children for arranging it and for all that attended.







Digital Inclusion

A poster for free IT sessions. The background is a blurred image of a hand holding a tablet with various app icons. The text is in bold, black and red fonts.

FREE IT SESSIONS

**DO YOU LACK CONFIDENCE IN
FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND YOUR
PHONE, LAPTOP OR DEVICE?**

**If so, please come along to St Mary's Catholic
Primary School (Manor Lane, Middlewich) on:**

**Saturday 20th January,
Saturday 17th February
Saturday 23rd March**

**10—10.45am—Help with phones and tablets
11—11.45am—Help with using Word, Excel etc.**

Volunteers from the Cheshire East locality are providing free digital inclusion workshops at St Mary's for anyone struggling with the complexity of features on their mobile phone or for anyone who needs help using their IPAD or laptop. This has been organised by Lucie Ferneyhough, Community Development Officer. Emma Kennedy from Age UK will be attending the next session on 17th February to speak to people about staying safe online.

For more information, please contact Lucie Ferneyhough on 07929 717909 or lucie.ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk

PTA Valentine Disco 15th February

A poster for St Mary's Valentine Disco. The background is dark purple with pink hearts and a disco ball. The text is in white and pink fonts.

St Mary's Valentine Disco

Thursday 15 February 2024
Reception and KS1 @ 5:00pm - 6:00pm
KS2 @ 6:15pm - 7:15pm

£2.50 each, this includes a drink and crisps

Don't forget to bring some pocket money for our tuck shop and friendship bracelets

No mobile phones

Don't forget it's the school disco next Thursday - 15th February. Please bring the exact amount of money in an envelope marked with the child's/children's name, class and amount and hand to your child's class

teacher. Don't forget to bring some extra pocket money for the tuck shop. This year, the PTA are also selling bracelets. Entry is through the hall door and collection at the end of the disco is at the foyer at the front office.

World Book Day 5th March

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!

This year, we will be celebrating World Book Day with



There will be lots of fun 'Where's Wally?' themed activities during the day and you are invited to come to school dressed as Wally or any of the other main characters from the books.



Maybe Charlie can even join in too!


TUESDAY 5TH MARCH



Behaving sensibly on digital devices


Please can I ask parents/carers to monitor their child's messages on Whats app and remind them to use kind and considerate language when texting. When pupils fall out at school, this can spill over into conversations on Whats app that can become unpleasant. If any child is worried or upset, they can always talk to a teacher, teaching assistant or even myself. We will support every child and try to resolve any issues sensitively.

Picture News



Hello!

Welcome to this first edition of *Picture News for Parents*, a newsletter to keep you updated with Picture News coverage and how children can explore the news in a productive, child-friendly way. But first, let us introduce ourselves!




What is Picture News?

We make weekly news resources to help schools teach current affairs. We go beyond simply telling children what is happening in the world, to instead find opportunities for discovery, deeper thinking and self-reflection.


A Picture News session uses real-life learning, covering topics including real people and scenarios, to bring the world to the classroom. This helps children learn more about themselves and others: what interests them, what they are passionate about, and what they want to change or act on.

This half term's pack recap




Are emojis an important part of communication?
8th January 2024

This first pack of 2024 explored Teddy Cottle's petition for Apple to change the glasses emoji, also known as the 'nerd' emoji, as he thinks it misrepresents glasses-wearers. This story led to wider thoughts of how we use emojis to communicate and express ourselves.




Is an e-reader better than a book?
15th January 2024

This pack detailed a recent study from the University of Valencia, which found that print reading could boost skills by six to eight times more than digital reading. This news inspired children to debate how they felt about print books versus e-readers, and reflect on the value books bring to our lives.




Is fashion important?
29th January 2024

News of BBC's new programme, *Style It Out*, was the subject of this pack. The contest show requires budding designers to only use second-hand materials, which led us to explore sustainable clothing and the impact fast fashion is having on our environment.



What makes someone inspirational?
5th February 2024

This pack covered the news of Spain's first elected parliamentarian with Down's syndrome, Mar Gacáron. Talk of Mar's election led us to explore the power of pursuing interests despite facing obstacles, and prompted discussions about what traits make someone inspirational.



Each week, Picture News chooses a current news story, provide an image, a thought-provoking question and a variety of teaching resources. This resource helps our pupils become more aware of current topics in the news and encourages them to be active citizens.

Diversity Calendar 2024

Please look on the school website under school information -equality, diversity and inclusion for the NAHT diversity calendar 2024.

Diversity Calendar 2024¹

Fun Fest Holiday Club Reminder

We are excited to announce Fun Fest Holiday Club are returning to the school for the following dates:
20th, 21st & 22nd February 2024 and bookings are now live.

¹https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/22722638

(Bookings for the next holiday will open once the previous has finished - Easter bookings will go live from 26th February 2024)

2nd – 5th April 2024

28th – 31st May 2024

Summer holiday dates to be confirmed - the club will run for at least 4 weeks of the holidays.

Please contact Fun Fest to make holiday club bookings ASAP as places will get booked up.

The priority booking line for St Mary's is:

Contact: 07570 270 839

If you have any queries or would like to book for holiday dates in between, please email: middlewichoffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk²



fun fest
HOLIDAY CLUB

For children aged
3 - 12 years

St Mary's Catholic Primary
School, Middlewich

7:30am to 6pm

- £35 for a full day
- £32 for a sibling
- £20 per morning or afternoon
- £160 full week (Monday - Friday)

Child Care Vouchers accepted

Booking now open
fun-fest.co.uk

Contact Fun Fest Cheshire Office
Email: middlewichoffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk
Telephone: 07570270839

OFSTED Registered

²<mailto:middlewichoffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk>

Year 6 Leavers Party



St Mary's Fundraising Updates

Elf Run



Caritas - Silver Trail

St Mary's Catholic Primary



Thank you

for your generous donation of

£126.55

Please give our thanks to the students,
staff and parents who supported our
Caritas at Christmas appeal.



CARITAS
DIOCESE of SHREWSBURY
CHILDREN | FAMILIES | COMMUNITY

Winter 2023/24

Choir Performs for Father Peter and the whole school



Attendance



Morning registration takes place at 8.30am each morning and school finishes at 3pm.

Good attendance is essential for pupils, pupils that are consistently late are disrupting their education and that of others and staff.

Please ensure your child arrives to school on time and has everything for the day ahead to reduce staff and your child being interrupted during the school day.

We would also appreciate if your child could be collected on time at 3pm, we understand there are occasions when traffic has been congested around Middlewich but so that staff are not delayed in their commitments, please ensure you allow enough time to collect your child from school.

Parent Contact Details & Notifications

Please can you ensure the school has your up to date mobile number and email address, when urgent messages need to be sent out on ParentPay we like to send text messages rather than email so that they are seen.

Can parents also ensure that their notification settings on ParentPay are turned 'ON' so that they do not miss important school messages and updates.

Important Reminder - ParentPay Accounts

Re: Breakfast Club / After School Club / School Meals / Sports Clubs

Please can you check your ParentPay accounts for each child are up to date and in credit by the end of each week.

There are a number of large payment amounts outstanding and the office are spending far too much time in chasing them.

Please note this message does not apply to school trip items which already have payments schedules in place.

Absence

Reporting an absence, please ring 01606 516 171 & select option 1, by 9am latest each day. State child's full name, class and reason for absence.

Email finance@stmrc.uk³ for:

- ParentPay & School Club queries
- Medical appointments & Absence Requests

Breakfast Club price increase

After the February half term, we will be making a small increase to the Breakfast Club price to cover costs, the new price from Monday 26th February will be £4.50

³<mailto:finance@stmrc.uk>

ParentPay online booking system for St Mary's Breakfast & After School Club is now live.

The cut-off date for Breakfast Club bookings is 11am the day before the booking.

The cut-off date for After School Club bookings is 11am on the day.

This is so that staffing and numbers can be set and managed.

Users will be able to cancel and make changes to their booking up until the booking cut off time.

If a child is picked up late from After School Club a charge of £5 will be made for every 15 minutes beyond the collection time.

After the cut off time, if a child is booked into a club and does not attend, the fee will still apply as the charge relates to the place being held not the actual attendance.

Clubs prices

Breakfast Club	£4.00 7.30am to 8.30am - (Increasing to £4.50 from Monday 26th February 2024)
After School Club	£4.00 3pm to 4pm Fruit & drink provided £6.50 4pm to 6pm Snack & drink provided at 4pm £10.50 3pm to 6pm - Sibling's price is £8.50

The Breakfast Club and After School Club number for emergencies operates whilst the club is running
0777 4496 483

Clubs provided by other agencies at the school - Sports / other clubs, when running, are charged at £4.00 3pm to 4pm and can also be booked by Parent Pay, please note when these clubs are full, as places are limited, we operate a waiting list system.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have been reviewing the clubs provided by others and would like to thank all the parents that provided their feedback for the French, Art, Musical Theatre and Dance, unfortunately there was not enough interest to run these clubs.

As Sports Clubs are the most popular, we will be running additional Sports Clubs after the February half term. These will be put up on ParentPay shortly, the cost will be £4.00 per session and they will run from 3pm to 4pm.

School Clubs	Current Clubs	Clubs starting from 26th February 2024
Monday	Health & Fitness in the Hall with The School Sports Company KS1	Football Club outside with The School Sports Company KS2
Tuesday	Gym in the Hall with Sports Coaching Group KS1 & KS2	Basketball outside with The School Sports Company KS2
Wednesday	Football Club outside with The School Sports Company KS2	Netball outside with The School Sports Company KS2
Thursday	Forrest School outside with The Sports Coaching Group KS2	Dodgeball outside with The School Sports Company KS1
Friday	Street Dance in the Hall with The Sports Coaching Group KS1 & KS2	Hockey outside with The School Sports Company KS2

School Building Fund

Please can you help support us with termly pledge money from September. **This is £15.**

Each year every Catholic school is asked to contribute to the Diocesan Build Fund, this fund supports the building projects of all Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Shrewsbury, as we do not receive full funding for builds and refurbishments from the government.

Since 2021 it has supported our school at St Mary's with a new hatch in the foyer, sky lights, replacement gutters, resurfacing of the pathways, new boiler, garage repair, new dishwasher, steamer, CCTV, new gates, upgrades to school lighting.

The money you provide is also used to provide extra outstanding provision for our children throughout the year.

We would like to thank all those parents who have already donated, especially in the current climate; it is extremely appreciated by the school.

Contact Us

Absence

- Reporting an absence, please ring 01606 516 171 & select option 1, by 9am latest each day. State child's full name, class and reason for absence.

Email finance@stmrc.uk⁴ for:

- ParentPay & School Club queries
- Medical appointments & Absence Requests

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

⁴<mailto:finance@stmrc.uk>

Manor Lane, Middlewich. CW10 9DH

01606 516 171

admin@stmrc.uk⁵

Office hours are Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm

Visit us on the web at <https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/>

⁵<mailto:admin@stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk>