

STMARY'S



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01606 516171 E: admin@stmrc.uk



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Newsletter 17th April 2026

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school! It's already the summer term! I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break, with time for family and friends. There will be lots happening this term so please keep a close eye on the newsletters.

Parents' evening went well and there has been lots of positive feedback. Thank you for your continued support for the school!

Congratulations to Mrs Hughes!

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Hughes has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher to work alongside Miss Cook. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the care, enthusiasm, and commitment she brings to our school every day. In her new role, she will continue to support high-quality learning, help nurture our pupils' curiosity and confidence, and work closely with staff and families to keep our school a happy, thriving place to learn. We are excited to see the positive impact she will continue to make as part of St Mary's leadership team.

Parental Survey

The parental questionnaire results were extremely positive. We have captured some of the wonderful comments and posted them on the website. 90% of parents said they would recommend the school to another parent.

Other comments include:

Thank you all for your continued hard work throughout the year - it's very much appreciated.

Everyone from teachers to caretakers support my child and want the best for her and understand her.

Thank you for the support and care you provide to the students. It is greatly appreciated.

Overall, we are happy with the school and appreciate the staff's hard work.

St Mary's is a fantastic school. I would and have been recommending St Mary's to all parents who are looking for a wonderful school for their children.

Thank you for your hard work

Thanks for everything you do as a school. Both my children enjoy St Mary's and feel happy and safe.

No school is perfect and our children are happy so thank you.

Staff are approachable and responsive to parent queries.

Effective communication.

Exceptional school

What we can do better

We are always trying to listen, respond and act on parental feedback and looking at ways we can together more closely. We have tried to address some of the points made.

Raising Our Profile in the Community

School: We have advertised in the past in 'Go Local' but the cost was phenomenally high. We purchased the banner for our Nursery which is on the school gate. We also hold regular craft fairs which attract members of the wider community. We also spend a huge amount of money on advertising through 'Localiq' which did not have any impact.

Strengthening School–Home Communication

School: We need to be careful we don't send too many messages via email. We can start to include more information on the 'Diary Dates' section of the newsletter.

Exploring Why Fewer Pupils Chose St Nicks

School: As our school population is only 51% Catholic, parents look at a range of High Schools with Middlewich High School being the closest and convenient for some parents. The cost of transport to St Nicholas is a barrier for some.

Exploring Ways to Reduce Residential Costs

School: The school already subsidises some of the residentials. The PTA prefer to fund projects that benefit the whole school population.

Balancing Curriculum Priorities and Outdoor Learning

School: As a Catholic school, we are required by the Diocese to teach 2 and a half hours of RE each week as it is seen as a core subject. Foundation subjects are taught for an hour a week. Unfortunately, this is out of my control. PE has been taught twice a week unless there is staff absence or things like Holy Week assemblies or workshops. I agree more lessons outdoors would be beneficial which is why we have purchased the tables outside Year 3 and 4. We hope to purchase more in due course.

Improving Outdoor Play Areas for Reception and Years 3–4

School: I agree but the cost is astronomical. Just to have the slide removed as it was no longer fit for purpose and replace with a board was £3000. It would have been £26,000 to replace the whole structure. The trim trail we installed recently cost £6860.

Increased Feedback between Parents' Evenings

School: We will discuss this at one of our upcoming staff meetings.

Simplifying Communication Platforms for Parents

School: Over this term we will be reviewing all of our communication systems, including how homework is set and where key notices are shared.

School Car Park

We would like to remind all parents and carers that the **school car park must not be used at any time**. It is strictly for **staff and authorised personnel only**, and this policy is in place to ensure the **safety of our pupils**.

This applies to **all times of the school day**, including:

Drop-off for Breakfast Club

Collection from After-school Clubs

When parking nearby, we kindly ask that you **park safely and respectfully**, taking care not to block driveways or cause inconvenience to our neighboring properties.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our children and community safe.



Free Musical Theatre Classes

Carney Academy Cheshire, based in Sandbach, is offering free musical theatre classes all summer term long to new sign-ups. Classes open to different age groups from age 6 to 16.

To find our more, visit: <https://www.carneyacademy.co.uk/musicaltheatre>

To book a free taster class, visit: <https://www.carneyacademy.co.uk/taster-cheshire>

The Addams Family

SOMETHING SPOOKY IS COMING TO NORTHWICH!


❤️🦇 Northwich... something spooky is coming your way. 🦇❤️


Mrs Lea's incredibly talented young performers are bringing the weird, wonderful and hilarious world of The Addams Family to the stage.

Expect huge musical numbers, brilliant characters and a cast that is absolutely throwing themselves into every chaotic moment.

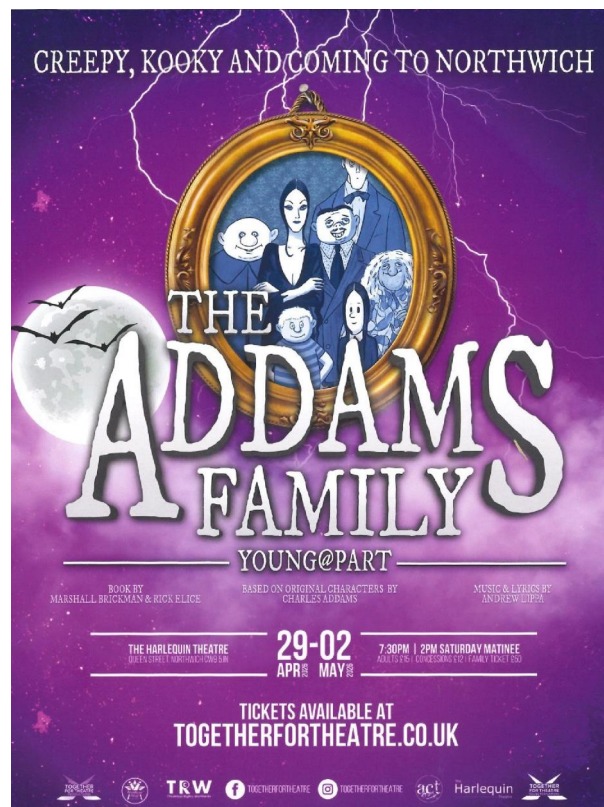
Trust us... you're going to want to see this one.

 29th April - 2nd May

 The Harlequin Theatre, Northwich

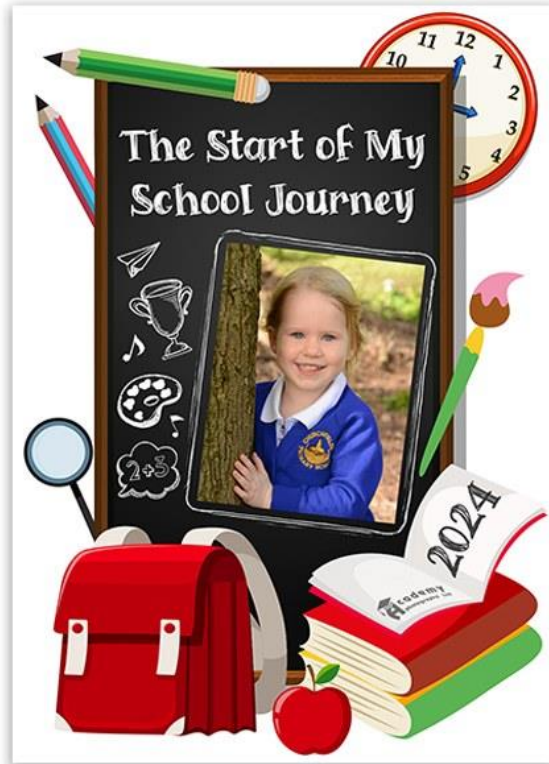
 Grab your tickets before they mysteriously disappear:

<https://www.togetherfortheatre.co.uk/tickets>



Whole Class Photographs 22nd April

Academy Photography will be at St Marys Catholic Primary School (Middlewich) on 22/04/2026 to take whole class photographs. Each year group will have their photograph taken not just Reception and Year 6 as has been done previously. There is also an option for Reception children to have a My School Journey photo taken individually. Please let the office know if you wish to take up this option.



Music for Life

Is your child interested in learning to play a musical instrument? Follow the link for more information and to book your place! <https://www.musicforlife.org.uk/>

Learn an instrument at school!



INSPIRE | CREATE | PERFORM

[musicforlife.org.uk](https://www.musicforlife.org.uk)
info@musicforlife.org.uk
01244 728 922

Big Lent Walk

Each class raised money by walking to Jack's park in the final week of this term. We will update you when we receive notification of the final figure raised.

PACKED LUNCHES

The DfE has announced reforms to the requirements for School Food Regulations 2014 (known as the School Food Standards) which provide the legislative framework to ensure

schools in England provide children with healthy food and drink, and to make sure that children have the energy and nutrition they need across the school day. Under the reforms, deep-fried and high-sugar items like ice cream are set to be removed from school menus. The changes reflect growing concern within government about children's diets and their long-term impact on public health. Therefore, we ask that packed lunches **do not include**:

- Fizzy or energy drinks
- Sweets or chocolate bars
- Crisps more than once per week
- Nut-containing products (due to allergy risk)

Y3 Residential Kit List for Pettypool 23rd and 24th April



- Packed lunch for first day
- Sleeping Bag/ Duvet
- Waterproof jacket and trousers if you have them (we have spares)
- Wellies if you have them (marked clearly with your child's name)
- 2 pairs of old trainers
- 2 Pairs of warm trousers – e.g. tracksuit bottoms (not jeans)
- 2 warm sweaters / hoodies / fleeces
- 3 T-Shirts (ideally non-cotton: sports shirts / base layers are ideal)
- At least 3 pairs of socks (including 2 pairs of thick socks)
- Hat and Gloves
- Underwear
- Towel
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc)
- Nightwear / pyjamas
- Torch & spare batteries
- Water bottle – at least ½ litre – an old juice bottle will do

- Slippers or indoor footwear
- 1 set of clothes for non activity time
- Bin bag for taking home wet clothes
- Pocket Money for Centre souvenir shop (we recommend £10 at most!)

Medication: if you have an epipen make sure you bring two.

Optional Extras:

- Walking Boots
- Disposable Camera
- Sunglasses, hat, suntan lotion and insect repellent in the summer time
- If you wear glasses, a spare pair should be brought along

It is important to remember that activities will be hard on clothes so – the older the better!

Collection4clothes

Thank you to everyone that has placed clothes into the Collection4clothes box outside the chapel corridor, we've requested our second collection as the box was overflowing again!


Please bring bags of clothes and any listed items and place them in the recycling unit to continue to raise funds for school.

Dates for the diary 25-26

Saturday 18 th April	IT support sessions in school hall – open to all
Wednesday 22 nd April	Reception, Class Groups and Year 6 (Leavers) Photographs
Thursday 23 rd April	Year 5 & 6 Mixed Dodgeball Competition
Thursday 23 rd to Friday 24 th April	Y3 Residential to Pettypool
Thursday 7 th May	Football MHS Astro turf Year 5 & 6
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th May	SATS WEEK
Tuesday 19 th May	African Dance Workshop during the school day
Wednesday 20 th May	PTA Summer Disco Reception and KS1 17:00 – 18:00 KS2 18:15 – 19:15
Friday 22nd May	School closes for Whit at 15:00
Monday 8 th June	School opens for the summer term
Tuesday 9 th June	Reception New Intake Meeting 6pm in the hall
Wednesday 10 th June	Quad Kids Athletics Y5 and 6 St Nicholas 3:45 – 5:15pm
Wednesday 17 th June	Y5 Activities' Day at St Nicholas High School
Thursday 18 th and Friday 19 th June	Y6 Transition Days at Holmes Chapel Comprehensive School
Wednesday 24 th June	KS2 Town Sports 3:30 – 5:30pm MPS
Thursday 25 th and Friday 26 th June	Y6 Transition Days at Sandbach Boys School
Wednesday 1 st and Thursday 2 nd July	Y6 Transition Days at Middlewich High School
Monday 6 th July	School Sports Day
Tuesday 7 th & Wednesday 8 th July	Y6 Transition Days at St Nicholas High School
Friday 3 rd July	Summer fair 3pm onwards (CHANGE OF DATE)
Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6 production 6pm (advance notice)
Thursday 16 th July	Leavers Mass in the morning
Friday 17th July	School closes for Summer at 13:30

Community Notices

The Wych Centre Presents



YOUTHIE


Thursdays | 5:45pm - 7:15pm

Arts & Crafts, Dancing,
Sports & Games plus much more...

Come Along and Make some
new Friends!

Ages 8-12
£3 per week

P.S. There's also a Tuck Shop



GROWING FEELINGS

PARENT-CHILD GROUP
EMOTIONAL LITERACY SUPPORT APPROACH
(ELSA)



Are you a parent/carer looking to enhance your understanding & support your 3 or 4 year olds emotional development?



Join us in a safe and welcoming space where we explore our feelings, build emotional literacy, and support one another. A chance to connect with other parents and explore play-based learning with your child.

Across the 5 weeks we will explore:

Parent only workshop (week 1): 2.5 hours

This workshop is for parents only, creating space for open conversation & focused learning without distractions. A crèche will be available for families who need childcare during the session.

Following weeks: 4 play-based sessions (1.5 hour)

The following 4-weeks will be play-based sessions for parents and children, where practical strategies are explored & modelled by ELSA-trained Start for Life Portage Practitioners. Sessions are informed by psychology, with a gentle focus on understanding regulation for both you and your child.

Upcoming Groups:

Oak Tree Family Hub - 01270371250

21st April 09:15-11:45

28th April, 5th May, 12th May, 19th May at 10:00 - 11:30





Wildcats Girls' Football.
Every Tuesday 6-7pm at Middlewich Town Football Club

Open to all girls aged 5 – 11, just turn up ready to play!
 Gain football skills, meet new friends, build confidence.

If you've got any questions or want more information, contact:
 Andy on 07738 203486 or Sarah on 07858 002672




SPONSORED BY


MIDDLEWICH

FREE ENTRY

11AM-4PM

Rose Fete

SATURDAY 9TH MAY

& CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

CROWNING CEREMONY
 LIVE MUSIC
 DANCE DISPLAY
 PUNCH & JUDY
 FAIRGROUND RIDES
 STALLS
 AND MUCH MORE!

FEATURING
 POPPY'S KREW

**MARKET FIELD, CIVIC WAY
 MIDDLEWICH**

**STREET PARADE STARTS AT 11AM
 WHEELOCK STREET**

K-POP PARTY
 WITH RUMI AND ZOEY



Mental Health Toolkit

Cheshire East partners have created a practical wellbeing reference tool to help parents strengthen mental health support for their children - using simple, sustainable strategies paired with clear local support pathways.

Please use the link below.

<https://live-chesheast.cloud.contensis.com/pdf/schools/bulletins/documents-for-bulletins-2026/april/parent-carer-version-mental-health-toolkit.pdf>

Affordable Counselling Flyer



Affordable **counselling** **delivered remotely**

Improving accessibility to mental health support across the UK.

We understand that cost can be a barrier to seeking help, which is why we're making counselling more accessible by offering sessions at an affordable rate. Our goal is to ensure that anyone who needs support can find it.

Available at **£25** per session



Scan here to self refer

or email support@healthboxcic.com



All profits **re-invested** **into our community** **wellbeing services**

By accessing this service, you're not only supporting your own wellbeing, you're also helping us to support others in the community.

- ☑ Available to anyone aged 18+ living in the UK
- ☑ Sessions delivered by phone/secure video call
- ☑ No need to travel or attend in person
- ☑ Flexible around work, childcare, etc
- ☑ Affordable pricing at £25 per session

Take the **first step** towards getting the support you need today.

HEALTHBOX
COMMUNITY WELLBEING SERVICES

Telephone

0771 227 9949

Email info@middlewichdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Middlewich IT Sessions



FREE IT SESSIONS

DO YOU LACK CONFIDENCE IN FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND YOUR PHONE OR TABLET?

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

Saturday 24th January
Saturday 7th March
Saturday 18th April

10.00 — 11.30am

Help with Smartphones and Tablets

Refreshments provided

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

Extracurricular Clubs - sign up on Arbor

Monday

- KS1 and KS2 Cricket 3pm to 4pm - pay per session now available on Arbor

Tuesday

- Chapel Group 8 - 8:30am - all welcome (entrance in the morning through Chapel corridor next to year 6)
- KS1 and KS2 Athletics 3pm to 4pm - pay per session now available on Arbor

Wednesday

- KS1 and KS2 Football 3pm to 4pm - pay per session now available on Arbor
- Mini Vinnies 3pm to 3:45pm
- Yr 6 Maths Club

Thursday

- Lunchtime Choir
- KS1 and KS2 Rounders 3pm to 4pm - pay per session now available on Arbor

Friday

- Rock Steady Music - 8.30am to 10.30am (to book click [HERE](#)²)
- Homework Club (whilst in ASC)

School Nursery



Please see our nursery page for more information on our school website - Nursery³

²<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

³<https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery&pid=15>

Attendance



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
- Please refer to the school's absence policy and Cheshire East Councils Penalty Notice via the school's website [Here](#)⁴
- useful information for parents - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Contacting the School Office

When contacting the school office for parent queries relating to clubs, medical appointments or school payment items, please contact the school office email which is: schooloffice@stmrc.uk⁵

⁴<https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=30>

⁵<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

If you have a general enquiry or a query regarding admissions or paper copies of any information published on our website, or assistance with Arbor please contact the School Office Manager at: admin@stmrc.uk⁶

To contact the headteacher Mrs Janet McKinlay, please email head@stmrc.uk⁷

To contact our school SENCO Miss Laura Dziamarski, please email ldziamarski@stmrc.uk⁸

If you have a query or concern regarding your child please speak with your child's class teacher in the first instance.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Manor Lane, Middlewich. CW10 9DH

01606 516 171

Office hours are Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm

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

⁶<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

⁷<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

⁸<mailto:ldziamarski@stmrc.uk>