

STMARY'S



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

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Follow us on social media

Newsletter 1st May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

May is a very special **month** as it marks the **month of Mary**. This is a time when we should take time to think about **Mary** and reflect on how she is the Mother of Jesus and Mother to us all.

The Feast of the **Ascension** also takes place in May. It is also known as Holy Thursday, **Ascension Day**, or **Ascension Thursday** and it commemorates the bodily **Ascension** of Jesus into heaven. This year it falls on 14th May.



Our New Mission Statement

Staff, pupils and governors have worked on a new mission statement and we would like parents' input. Let us know what you think. The previous Mission Statement was very wordy and the children and adults had trouble remembering it. This is the final version - hopefully.

"As a school, we live, learn and love with God in our hearts."

Pettypool Residential











Exciting Hatching Success in Year 2!

A huge **well done and congratulations** to **Miss Cook and the Year 2 children** on their fantastic hatching success this term.

We are thrilled to share that **15 chicks have been successfully hatched**, which is **the most chicks we have ever hatched at school!**

The project has been a wonderful hands-on learning experience, allowing the children to observe the life cycle up close while developing their care, responsibility and curiosity. The excitement and enthusiasm from Year 2 has been lovely to see. Well done to everyone involved on this egg-cellent achievement! 🐣 ✨



Sporting Success



🌟 Well Done, Naomi! 🌟

A huge **congratulations to Naomi in Year 2** for her outstanding achievement at a gymnastics competition last weekend.

Naomi performed brilliantly, winning an incredible **4 medals**, a **trophy**, and being crowned **Overall Champion** – an amazing accomplishment and a testament to her hard work, dedication and talent.

We are extremely proud of you, Naomi. Very well done! 🏆 🎉

🍀 Good Luck, Elijah! 🍀

We would like to wish **Elijah in Year 3** the very best of luck this weekend as he represents **Sandbach Rugby Club** on tour in **Somerset**.

This is a fantastic opportunity and a wonderful achievement. We hope you have an amazing time, play hard, and enjoy every moment of the tour.

Good luck, Elijah – we are all cheering you on! 🍀 🙌 🌟

Thank you to our PTA

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful PTA for their generous donation of a new bench for our Peace Garden. This thoughtful addition provides a calm and welcoming space for all pupils to enjoy reflection, friendship and quiet time outdoors. Inspired by this donation, our Mini Vinnies are now hoping to raise funds to purchase an additional bench, so even more children can benefit from this special area. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.



PTA Summer Disco

Tickets for the upcoming PTA Summer Disco are available to purchase via the **Arbor School Shop**. Please note that children will not receive a physical ticket; instead, a register will be compiled and names will be checked off on the evening.

If any parents are able to support the PTA by volunteering some time on the night, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office if you are able to help. Thank you for your continued support.



Reception and KS1
Summer disco

Tuesday 20 May
17:00 - 18:00

Tickets cost £4 and include a snack
and drink
Please hand in ticket money to class
teacher or purchase on ARBOR
Sweets and toys for sale on the night

FUN!

With thanks
✕
St Mary's
Primary School
PTA

The poster features a teal background with a white disco ball, a smiling sun wearing sunglasses, and a purple flower. The text is centered on a pink rectangular area.



KS2
Summer disco

Tuesday 20 May
18:15 - 19:15

Tickets cost £4 and include a snack
and drink
Please hand in ticket money to class
teacher or purchase on ARBOR
Sweets and toys for sale on the night

FUN!

With thanks
✕
St Mary's
Primary School
PTA

The poster features a green background with a white disco ball, a smiling sun wearing sunglasses, and several white hearts. The text is centered on a pink rectangular area.

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 out more, visit: <https://www.carneyacademy.co.uk/musicaltheatre>

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

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/>



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)

Collection4clothes

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 2 nd May	Mini Vinnies invite to help with the Marian Garden at St Mary's Church – meet at 9:30.
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Thursday 7 th May	Football MHS Astro turf Year 5 & 6
Thursday 7 th & Friday 8 th May	Y5 Level 2 Bikeability
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
Friday 19 th June	Y3 – Trentham Gardens Trip
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

ATTENTION
YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

SUMMER PRAISE
EVERYONE'S WELCOME

SUN 21 JUNE @ 10.30am

CHURCHES TOGETHER MIDDLEWICH

VENUE: ON THE SALINAE
MIDDLEWICH CW10 9DG

FESTIVAL CHOIR

CHURCHES TOGETHER INCLUDES:

- METHODIST CHURCH
- MID-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY CHURCH
- ST MARY'S CHURCH
- ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
- UNITED REFORMED CHURCH


CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Upbeat songs & actions performed by pupils from the local schools

LIVELY CHURCH SERVICE

PLEASE STAY AFTERWARDS
ON THE SALINAE
FOR FOOD, MUSIC,
ACTIVITIES & CRAFT STALLS



The Wych Centre Presents



YOUTHIE

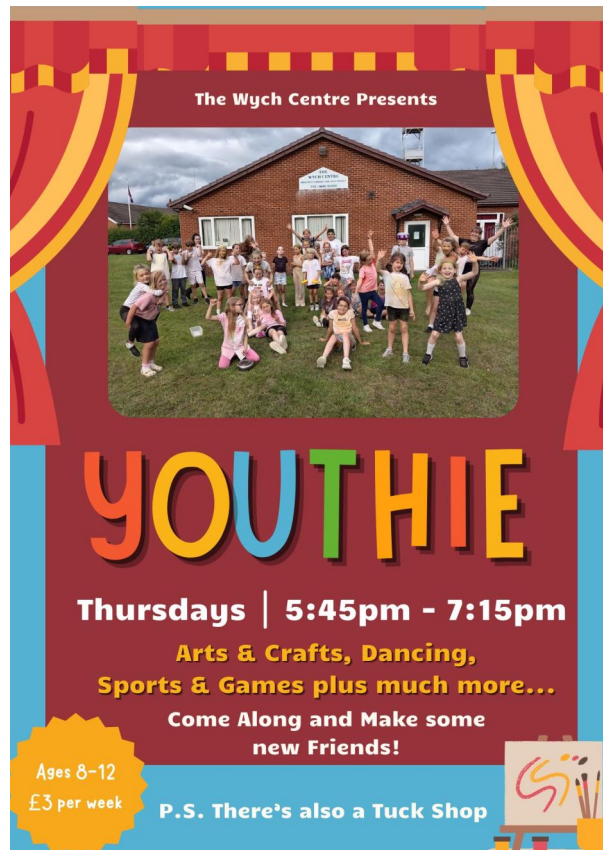
Thursdays | 5:45pm - 7:15pm

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


FREE ENTRY

MIDDLEWICH

Rose Fete

11AM-4PM

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





MIDDLEWICH
 BRITISH LEGION

FAMILY DISCO

HOSTED BY
the one and only
Dolly Disco



PARTY GAMES!
 FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
 PRIZES TO BE WON!

RAFFLE!
 FANTASTIC PRIZES
 TO BE WON!

RAFFLE TO SUPPORT
 MIDDLEWICH SCOUTS
 ROOF FUND

★ RAFFLE TO SUPPORT MIDDLEWICH SCOUTS ROOF FUND ★

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

★ 2PM TILL 5PM ★

ADMISSION: **£2** PER CHILD (UNDER 16) **ADULTS FREE**

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE RAFFLE WILL SUPPORT MIDDLEWICH SCOUTS ROOF FUND

MIDDLEWICH BRITISH LEGION ★ LEWIN STREET ★ MIDDLEWICH CW10 9EE



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

Crisis and Resilience Fund

The UK Government, through the Department of Work and Pensions, has introduced the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) for local authorities for the period from April 2026 to March 2029.

The CRF is intended to provide timely and effective support to residents who experience a financial shock and find themselves in financial crisis. CRF also aims to strengthen long-term financial resilience and reduce the need for crisis support in the future.

For more information, click on the link below:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/benefits_housing_council_tax/crisis-and-resilience-fund/crisis-and-resilience-fund.aspx

If you require support, please contact the school office via email schooloffice@stmrc.uk¹

Middlewich & District Foodbank



**We're
here
to
help.**

Middlewich & District
Foodbank is here to support
your school community.



EMERGENCY FOOD

Parcels are available with essentials like milk, tinned foods, cereals, pasta, rice, biscuits.

REFERRAL

Your school can facilitate a confidential referral to ensure you receive the help you need.

NEXT STEP

Get in touch with the Food Bank via the details below, through your school office, doctor's surgery or social worker.

Telephone

0771 227 9949

¹<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

Email info@middlewichdistrict.foodbank.org.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)

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

School Nursery



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

Attendance

Every Day At School Counts

More days in school = more friends, more learning

90% attendance = 19 days missed

80% attendance = 38 days missed

27% of primary pupils miss 10+ days of school

6 days absence = drop in reading and maths

Absence

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

- 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
- useful information for parents - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

The Importance of Good Attendance

Regular school attendance is vital to ensure children make the most of their learning opportunities, build strong friendships and develop positive routines.

Any leave requested during term time must be made in advance by completing a **Request for Leave** form. Please note that leave taken during term time may result in a **fine being issued by the Local Authority**, in line with current regulations. Please refer to chart below for details of the PN process including fines and timelines.

For further information, please refer to the school's **Absence Policy** and **Cheshire East Council's Penalty Notice guidance**, which are available via the school website [HERE](#)⁴.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting excellent attendance.

PENALTY NOTICE AND PROSECUTION	
<p align="center">Penalty Notices may be issued for</p> <p>Term time leave: Penalty Notice fines may be issued for term time leave of 5 or more days (10 sessions) in a 10-week period.</p> <p>10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.</p> <p>However, school retain the discretion to request a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents/carers are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold.</p>	
<p align="center">Per Parent/Per Child</p> <p>Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent/carer per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent/carer receiving 3 separate fines.</p>	
<p>First Offence</p> <p>The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at:</p> <p>£160 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent/carer, per child if paid within 21 days.</p> <p>(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)</p>	<p>Second Offence</p> <p>Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent/carer for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:</p> <p>£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)</p>
<p align="center">Third Offence</p> <p>On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued.</p> <p>The Local Authority will decide on appropriate next steps which may include:</p> <p>*Prosecution under s444 (1) or (1a) of the Education Act 1996 which may result in a fine of upto £1000 or £2500 respectively.</p> <p>*Referral to other agencies.</p>	

OFFICIAL

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

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

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/>

⁵<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

⁶<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

⁷<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

⁸<mailto:ldziamarski@stmrc.uk>