



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01606 516171 E: admin@stmrc.uk



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St Mary's Newsletter 13.09.2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you had a relaxing summer holiday and the children are rested and ready to get back to work. There are lots of exciting events coming up so it's going to be a busy time. We would like to welcome our new parish priest, Father Vijay Bhupathi.

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher

Nursery Proposal

Our aim is to run nursery provision here at St Mary's. Val Simons, Cheshire East Pupil Place Planning Officer, has confirmed that the local authority will start the consultation the second week in September and the decision will go to the November Children and Families Committee meeting. If you are interested, please register your interest at schooloffice@stmrc.uk. If there is sufficient interest, we could potentially offer nursery places from January 2025.

Diary Date Reminders

Wednesday 18 th September 2024	Year 5 Swimming begins
Thursday 26 th September 2024	CHANGE OF DATE TO 26.09.2024 Academy Photography Families, Siblings and Individual Photos Photographs for Families and siblings to arrive at 8.30am in the School Hall
Tuesday 1 st October 2024	Book Bus Visit Education Library - RY1-6
Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	Flu Nasal Spray (FLUENZ) to all school aged pupils in the Autumn term 2024
Thursday 3 rd October 2024	Cross Country Competition Cledford Primary School Years 5 & 6 3.30pm to 5.00pm – See ParentPay for details
Wednesday 16 th October 2024	St Nicholas Music Festival
Thursday 24 th October 2024	PTA Autumn Disco see flyer for details
Friday 25 th October 2024	Pyjama Appeal 2024 – Pyjama day/dress down in exchange for donation of PJ's for Children's Hospital Pyjamas. See flyer for details
Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	Half term school closed
Monday 4 th November 2024	School opens 8.30am
Wednesday 13 th November to Thursday 14 th November 2024	Parents' evenings
20 th November 2024 to 22 nd November 2024	Year 4 Savio House Trip
Friday 29 th November 2024	Year 6 Crucial Crew Trip 9am to 12pm
Tuesday 10 th and Wednesday 11 th December 2024	School Christmas Performances
Friday 20 th December 2024	Rocksteady Christmas Music Concert
Monday 23 rd December to Monday 6 th January 2025	School Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 7 th January 2025	School opens at 8.30am

Residentials and Trips

Our Year 4 residential to Savio House is coming round again. This particular residential is a chance for pupils to spend a few days away from their normal surroundings with the opportunity to reflect on their lives and experiences, learning more about their gifts and qualities, and discovering a little of the reality of God in their lives. It's great fun especially the disco on the second night!

Year 6 will be going to Crucial Crew on 29th November. Crucial Crew is an innovative and interactive way of delivering health and well-being messages to Year 6 children in preparation for their migration

to secondary school. The event encourages model behaviour and good citizenship through active participation in a range of health and safety activities.

PE Timetable

PE Timetable

Monday - Rec, Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 5,

Tuesday - Yr 1, Yr 4,

Wed - Yr 1, Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 4, Yr 5 (Swimming), Yr 6

Thurs – Rec, Yr 6

Children are to wear their PE Kit's on their PE day and swimming day.

Year 5 swimming will commence on Wednesday 18th September 2024

Filming

Kaki Wong is the film director involved with the production of a documentary for Channel NewsAsia about the lives of Hong Kong migrants in the UK. She continues to delve deeper into this narrative, aiming to create a comprehensive and compelling documentary which sheds light on their experiences and challenges.

The Film Crew will not use any footage of children who did not have permission for filming. The documentary is a long-term project and it will not be published for a considerable amount of time.

As an extra cautionary measure, there is already an agreement to let the school to watch the final product when it is complete before publishing it.

Thank you for assisting with this project.

Harvest Festival

Mini Vinnie Competition

- 50 pence to enter
- Money goes to CAFOD
- Draw a harvest picture
- Add a thank you prayer
- 5 winners announced on 20th September



Dear God, Thank you for the season of harvest. Thank you for providing all the food we need. We pray that people will be more determined to help end world hunger and that across the world, people will do more to look after our planet.

Please see attached Mini Vinnie competition in support of CAFOD.

We would be very grateful if parents and carers could donate some food items to help those who are struggling to put enough food on the table. Middlewich Food Bank has experienced a huge increase in demand over the last 12 months - in fact a 240% increase. We are always overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our parents and local community - even one tin would be appreciated. The food will be collected by our Mini -Vinnies and a display created in the hall before donations are taken down to the Food Bank. Items can be dropped off at classroom doors from Monday or handed to the office by Friday 20th September 2024.

PTA Events



Pyjama Appeal 2024 Friday 25th October 2024



PYJAMA APPEAL!

CHARITY NUMBER: 1185739

Please donate a brand new pair of pyjamas
for a poorly child in your
**LOCAL HOSPITAL OR
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

Each year, we collect donations of brand new pyjamas from new-born to age 18, which are then gifted to children in hospital on Christmas morning.

In reality, they are also used in other situations where children may have had their clothes cut off in A&E or in an emergency situation where there hasn't been time to pack essentials.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Please donate a brand new pair of non-fleece pyjamas (as hospitals are cosy enough). Have a collection at work, through family & friends or even your local school could have a PJ Day or simply donate a pair yourself.

LOOK ONLINE AT
www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk
FOR YOUR NEAREST PYJAMA DROP OFF POINT

Or order via Amazon with free delivery to Co-ordinator
<https://amzn.eu/acJOv8t>

WHY? Because no child wants to be in hospital at Christmas and if they have to be they want to be wearing brand new cosy PJ's to make their stay as comfortable as possible at such a fearful time.

**OUR APPEAL IS FROM
1ST SEPTEMBER
TO 31ST OCTOBER
2024**



Follow us on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages
'Children's Hospital Pyjamas' to see me delivering your PJ'S x

Lisa, Area Coordinator | 07835 660083

On Friday 24th October, in support of the Pyjama Appeal, school will be holding a non uniform day in return for pyjama donations, please can you help support this wonderful cause by using the below Amazon Wish List to donate, or if you wish to purchase your own pyjama's, please do so and bring them into the school office before Friday 24th October.

<https://amzn.eu/acJOv8t>

Half-term Holiday Club

There will be a holiday club running at St Mary's for the week of half-term from Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024 run by Coach Gary, Coach Jack and Coach George. Please contact Coach Gary directly on garyssc@hotmail.co.uk¹ to book a place and he will provide booking forms in due course.

'Rock and Pop' Music Lessons!



We welcomed Rocksteady Music School last Friday. It's an incredible opportunity for the children to be in their very own bands with a choice of drums, keyboards, electric guitar, bass guitar or vocals.

These fun and inclusive lessons are taught by highly trained professional musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of music. At the end of term, the bands will perform a concert for the school and their families on Friday 20th December in the morning. More information to follow.

¹<mailto:garyssc@hotmail.co.uk>

If you wish to sign up for lessons online, visit www.rocksteadymusicschool.com².

If you have any questions about Rocksteady lessons, you can call 0330 113 0330 (local rate, office hours are Mon –Thurs 8am – 8pm, Fridays 8am – 6pm).



**ROCK
STEADY**

IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK!

**Inclusive rock and pop
band lessons at your school**

With Rocksteady Music School, your child can learn to play an instrument in their own band with no experience necessary. Our inclusive band lessons tune into children's creativity, amplifying their self-belief and igniting a sense of confidence that carries far beyond the classroom!

**BOOK YOUR
CHILD'S PLACE
ONLINE!**

0330 113 0330 (Mon-Thurs 8am-8pm, Fri 8am-6pm, local rate)

rocksteadymusicschool.com



St Nicholas Music Festival 16th October 2024

For Key Stage 2 Children that have joined the Choir

Children who have joined the choir are invited to participate in our Partner Primary School's Music Festival event. St Nicholas Catholic High School will arrange transport for the children from St Mary's to the High School, arriving at 2.45 pm. Students will then practice their performances (songs they have learnt as part of the choir) and will be served a light tea at approximately 5 pm (please inform

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

us of dietary requirements as requested by your primary school.) At 6 pm parents and carers are invited to attend the performance free of charge at St Nicholas Catholic High School. The performance will last approximately one hour. Students will need transport for leaving the High School at the end of the evening.

Love Music Trust (LMT) Opportunity

Nantwich Young Voices rehearsals with LMT resume next Tuesday at Elim Chapel from 4.15 - 5.30pm. This vibrant area children's choir meets every term-time Tuesday at Elim Chapel, London Road, Nantwich, CW5 6LW from 4.15 - 5.30pm.

They have lots of exciting things planned for this academic year, including a Music for Youth competition this term and next term and their usual Love Music Trust and Nantwich Choral Society carol concerts, on Monday 9th December and Saturday 14th December respectively. The North West Singing Partnership Singing Day, of which Nantwich Young Voices are a part, is, this year, at a venue in the Wirral on Saturday 22nd March from 9am - 5pm (coach travel will be provided) and the LMT Choral Celebration Concert at an exciting venue on Saturday 28th June 2025. They also run a Vocal Residential at the Stanley Head outdoor pursuits centre in May 2025.

If interested, just turn up for their first open rehearsal next Tuesday 17th September.

Digital Inclusion



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 14th September
Saturday 5th October
Saturday 23rd November
Saturday 14th December

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

**Refreshments provided by
Able Together**

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



Attendance



As we start a new academic year in supporting your child's education, we want to inform you of important changes to the law regarding school attendance as attached letter. These changes, are effective from 19th August 2024, are part of a new National Framework for Penalty Notices, including those for unauthorised holiday absences.

We understand that these new regulations might bring up some questions or concerns, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you through this transition.



2nd September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHANGES TO ATTENDANCE LAWS

We hope this message finds you and your family well and that you have had a restful summer. As we start a new academic year in supporting your child's education, we want to inform you of important changes to the law regarding school attendance. These changes, are effective from 19th August 2024, are part of a new National Framework for Penalty Notices, including those for unauthorised holiday absences.

We understand that these new regulations might bring up some questions or concerns, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you through this transition.

What Are the Changes?

- National Threshold for Unauthorised Absences:**
Beginning 19th August 2024, a penalty notice will be considered if your child accumulates 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10-week school period, for any reason.
- Holiday Absences:**
We understand the importance of family time, but under the new rules, taking your child out of school for a week's holiday during term time will now result in a penalty notice being issued.
- Increased Penalty Fines:**
The fine for unauthorised absences will increase from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. If not paid within this period, the fine will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days.
- Repeat Offences:**
If a second penalty notice is issued for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the fine will automatically be £160, with no option to pay the lower rate. Should further absences occur, the local authority may consider additional enforcement actions.
- Additional Enforcement Options:**
In the case of a third offence within a 3-year period, the local authority will consider further steps to address the attendance issues.

We're Here to Support You:

We understand that these changes may seem challenging, and that life can sometimes make regular attendance difficult. If you have any concerns about how these new rules might impact your family, we encourage you to reach out to your child's Education Family Support Worker. They are available to discuss your situation and provide support, whether it's offering advice, resources, or helping to find solutions that work for your family.



I'm Kelly Gooch and I work as an Education Family Support Worker in the Attendance and Children out of School Team at Cheshire East Council. Data analysis shows that every minute counts in school, and those with higher attendance achieve higher scores both academically and socially as a result. I'm very pleased to be working with St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and becoming part of your local school community, to increase attendance and to help achieve the best outcomes for your children.

Kelly Gooch**Education Family Support Worker**

Attendance and Children Out of School Service
Children & Families | Cheshire East Council
Floor 5 Delamere House | c/o Municipal Buildings | Crewe
CW1 2BJ
07881037622
Concerns about a child – [Cheshire East Consultation Service](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/consultation-service) (CHECS) 0300 123 5012 (opt 3), [Out of Hours](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/out-of-hours) 0300 123 5022

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Q: If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

A: Yes, if the absence is not authorised by the Head Teacher. However, if you have concerns or special circumstances, please discuss them with your child's Education Family Support Worker or Headteacher as soon as possible.

Q: Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

A: Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has unauthorised absences. This includes anyone who lives with the child and is involved in their day-to-day care, such as step-parents or partners.

Q: Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

A: No, they apply to all unauthorised absences, including truancy, arriving late after 9:15 am, and failing to provide reasons for absence.

Q: How do I request leave for my child during term time?

A: If you need to request leave, please submit a written request to the Head Teacher at least 20 days before the proposed absence. We understand that there may be exceptional circumstances, and your child's Education Family Support Worker can help you navigate this process.

Q: Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence need to be consecutive?

A: No, the 10 sessions can occur at any time within a rolling 10-week period, either consecutively or non-consecutively.

Q: What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

A: If you're concerned about your child's attendance, we encourage you to reach out to your child's Education Family Support Worker. They are dedicated to working with you to improve the situation and ensure your child receives the support they need.

We sincerely appreciate your co-operation and understanding as we work together to ensure the best possible educational experience for your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for any assistance you may need.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Janet McKinlay
Headteacher

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
MANOR LANE, MIDDLEWICH, CHESHIRE, CW10 9DH
<https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/>



Well done Stars of The Week!

Reception - Henry Grant-Smith

Year 1 - Indie Barnes

Year 2 - Joseph Haluska

Year 3 - Ruby Woods

Year 4 - Arzan Mohammed

Year 5 - Naomi Camacho

Year 6 - Henry Fox

After School Club Stars

Autumn Martin - Year 3 & Daisy Martin Year 4

ParentPay Accounts

Please can you check your ParentPay accounts for each child are up to date for the week ahead.

The school operates a **NO DEBT** rule relating to the provision of school meals so please ensure your school meal account is in credit for the week ahead.

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

We would like to thank all parents / carers that pay promptly, as this ensures that all money that is for children's learning is available.

After School & Breakfast Club bookings

Please book on ParentPay.

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	£4.50 7.30am to 8.30am
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

Morning Registration & End of Day Release

Morning registration takes place at 8.30am each morning. Please ensure your child arrives to school on time and has everything for the day ahead.

To ensure a smooth end of day release for children, please can Parent's / Carer's ensure any messages regarding alternative collection arrangements are relayed to the teacher first thing in a morning or to the office by 2pm latest and if your child is not booked into a club, please ensure they are collected on time at 3pm.

Contacting the School Office New Email Address

When contacting the school office for parent queries relating to clubs, medical appointments or school payment items, please contact the new school office email which is: schooloffice@stmrc.uk³

If you have a general enquiry or a query regarding admissions or paper copies of any information published on our website, please contact the School Business Manager at: admin@stmrc.uk⁴

To contact the headteacher Mrs Janet McKinlay, please email head@stmrc.uk⁵

To contact our school SENCO Miss Laura Dziamarski, please email ldziamarski@stmrc.uk⁶

³<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

⁴<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

⁵<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

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

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

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/>

Lost Property

If you have an item of lost property or your child has mislaid their lunch box please contact the school Site Manager Mrs Anne Turnbull so that she can look into locating it aturnbull@stmrc.uk⁷

⁶<mailto:ldziamarski@stmrc.uk>

⁷<mailto:aturnbull@stmrc.uk>