

St Mary's Newsletter 29.11.2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Excitement is growing in school as we move towards Christmas and we all look forward to sharing some of our Christmas Celebrations with you! We will be starting our Advent journey by lighting our first Advent candle in Gospel assembly on Monday, 2nd December.

Christmas themes and activities will now be filtering into school and the class rooms in the next few weeks, we have some exciting events ahead. As per usual, we try to avoid sending Christmas cards to do our bit for the environment as 30 children sending 30 cards to their peers equates to 900 cards just in one class! The Faith in Action Team would like to encourage children to donate a few coins to the Diocesan chosen Christmas charity - Caritas - instead.

School will be setting up our annual prayer trail in the Project Court which is intended to be a mini reflective experience for the children. The prayer trail allows a little "time out" to encourage the children to reflect upon their own journey during Advent and help them to prepare well for the birth of the Christ child.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher

Faith in Action Group

Our Faith in Action Group were awarded their special embroidered ties last week in Praise assembly. Please read about their fundraising efforts for Caritas above.



St Mary's Nursery Opening in January 2025

We are pleased to announce that the school nursery has been approved and will be open in January 2025.

St Mary's would like to say a huge thank you to the PTA for contributing a fantastic £1,290.00 towards nursery resources and furniture!



World Premature Day

Some children wore something purple to mark World Premature Day to raise awareness of premature birth and the sometimes devastating impact it can have on families.

















The Feast of Christ the King

We celebrated the feast of Christ the King by making crowns. More chapel fun praying and being creative together. All welcome Tuesday mornings at 8 am. Entry through the chapel corridor.















Diary Date Reminders

Monday 2 nd December Remaining spare tickets will go on sale on ParentPay on Monday 2 nd December 2024, and will be on a first come first served basis. Wednesday 4 th December 2024 Christmas Play Costumes to be in school Elf Run – Children to wear their PE Kits this day Thursday 5 th December 2024 S th S × 6 Dodgeball Competition is being heid a Middlewich High School - Selected team members see details on ParentPay Monday 5 th December 2024 Christmas Crafts in school – All children will make a Christmas craft during this week to bring home on Friday 13th December. If you wish, you can make a voluntary donation of £1.50 towards the cost of the craft, which can be paid on ParentPay. Monday 5 th December 2024 Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Play to the Community 1.30pm 2024 Wednesday 11 th and Wednesday 11 th Last session of Kids with Bricks 3-4pm 2024 Wednesday 12 th December 2024 School Christmas Grotto Photograph £5.00 – please pay on ParentPay Friday 13 th December 2024 Santa's Christmas Grotto Photograph £5.00 – please pay on ParentPay Friday 13 th December 2024 All sports clubs finish this day 2024 Christmas Crafts will be sent to meet Santa in the Christmas 2024 Christmas Cards to be sent to the community 2024 Friday 13 th December 2024 Christmas Parly PM – Reception & Year 6 Year 4 Geography field Trip – See ParentPay for permission and volunteers Monday 16 th December 2024 Christma		
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Residentials and Trips

Savio Year 4

Year 4 have had a wonderful time at Savio House, we hoped you enjoyed seeing some of the photograph updates on the class page. It was a lovely experience for them 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. They are and were miniature heroes!

Crucial Crew Year 6

Year 6 went on the Crucial Crew trip today. This event encourages model behaviour and good citizenship through active participation in a range of health and safety activities.

Up and coming Trips and Residentials

As a school for consistency we try and run the same residentials each year. We are very conscious that parents will need to know about the residentials and visits within the academic year, in order to help plan we have listed below what will be on offer over the year.

The trips have already been added to ParentPay in advance so that parents can choose whether to spread the cost to help budget accordingly or pay for the trip in full nearer the time.

There will be presentation evenings for each residential prior to the trip to answer all queries. Class teachers will make parents and children aware of any up coming trips and what they will entail.

Please see ParentPay for payment dates and instalment options.



















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Cost	Place	Year Group	Date
£20.00	Eureka Science and Discovery on the Wirral	6	16 th January 2025
£110.00	Petty Pool	3	6 th to 7 th March 2025
£190.00	Redridge	5	Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st March 2025
£26.00	Tatton Park	4	21st March 2025
£19.00	Weaver Hall and Workhouse	1	1 st April 2025
£20.00	Trentham Gardens	3	24 th April 2025
£20.50	Jodrell Bank	5	12 th June 2025
£304.00	Robinwood Activity Centre	6	18 th June to 20 th June 2025
TBA	Jodrell Bank	Reception & Nursery	ТВА
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Updated PE Timetable

PE Timetable

Monday - Rec, Yr 2, Yr 3, Yr 5, Y6

Tuesday - Yr 1, Y4,

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

Thurs – Rec

Children are to wear their PE Kits on their PE day and swimming day.

St Mary's Sporting Events

Please see attached dates of all competitions for St Mary's, which we hope to attend unless it clashes with a residential or event in school.

Before we break up for Christmas we will send out the teams for the Spring term on ParentPay, please can parents ensure they turn their ParentPay notification settings on, so that they don't miss them and let the school office know if they are chosen and cannot attend the event for any reason.

Sports	Competitions	24/25
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Who	What	When	Time	Where
Year 5/6	Girls Football	Wednesday 18th September	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's playing fields
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 26th September	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's playing fields
Year 3/4	Mixed Football	Wednesday 2 nd October	4:00-5:15	St. Nic's playing fields
Year 5/6	Cross Country	Thursday 3rd October	3:30-5:00	Cledford Primary
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 17th October	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's netball courts
Year 3/4	Mixed Football	Thursday 24th October	3:30-5:30	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Mixed Basketball	Thursday 21st November	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's sports hall
Year 5/6	Dodgeball	Thursday 5th December	3:30-5:00	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Mixed Indoor Athletics	Tuesday 28th January	3:45-5:30	St. Nic's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Quicksticks Hockey	Thursday 6th February	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Indoor Hockey	Thursday 6th February	3:30-5:00	Middlewich High
Year 1-6	Smile for a mile	Thursday 6 th March	3:45-4:30	St. Nic's playing fields
Year 3/4	Mixed Netball	Thursday 13th March	3:30-5:00	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 27th March	3:30-5:00	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Mixed Cricket	Tuesday 29th April	3:00-5:30	Winnington Park CC
Year 5/6	Mixed Dodgeball	Tuesday 6th May	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 8th May	3:30-5:30	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Mixed Tag Rugby	Thursday 22 nd May	3:30-5:00	Middlewich High
Year 5/6	Quadkids Athletics	Wednesday 11th June	3:45-5:15	St. Nic's
Year 5/6	Town Sports	Wednesday 18th June	3:30-5:30	Middlewich Primary
Year 5/6	St. Mary's Cup Cricket	Sunday 29th June	9-2pm	Middlewich Cricket Club
Year 5/6	Rounders	Thursday 3rd July	3:30-5:00	Middlewich Primary

Last Computer Session for The Community

We are lucky to have the support of Cheshire East Community Liaison Officer, Lucie Ferneyhough, who provides cakes and biscuits for our IT sessions for the more elderly of our population who may need help with phones, IPADS and any kind of device. There are also master classes in our IT suite so if you know of ANYONE who would like a bit of technical help - old or young - come along on a Saturday morning at 10 am. All welcome! The next session is on Saturday, 14th December. It is not limited to St Mary's community - it is for everyone in the area.

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

School Events

Elf Run 4th December 2024



The annual sponsored Elf Run will take place on Wednesday 4th December.

All children will need to wear their PE kit this day. Each child will receive an elf's hat and a pot of porridge supplied by St Luke's Hospice which they can take home with them afterwards. We appreciate that families may be struggling with the cost of living so all children will receive their hat regardless of whether parents/carers return the sponsor forms which will be sent home with each child.

Christmas Crafts Monday 9th December to Friday 13th December 2024



Christmas Crafts in school – All children will make a Christmas craft during this week to bring home on Friday 13th December.

If you wish you can make a voluntary donation of £1.50 towards the cost of the craft, this can be paid on ParentPay.

Santa's Coming 12th December 2024



Santa's Christmas Grotto Photograph £5.00 – please pay on ParentPay

Children to wear their Christmas jumpers with their school uniform and this is their chance to meet Santa in the Christmas Grotto and have their photograph taken and receive a present.

Parents who have paid on ParentPay will receive a photograph via school spider.

Christmas Lunch



On Wednesday 18th December 2024 we will be having our school Christmas Lunch. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to this meal free of charge. For other Year Groups, the cost of the school Christmas Lunch is £3.40 and payment needs to be made by ParentPay, www.parentpay.com¹.

If your child WILL NOT be having a Christmas Lunch on this day, please can you advise the school office so that we have an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers on this day with their school uniform.

¹<u>https://www.parentpay.com</u>

'Rock and Pop' Music Lessons!



Rocksteady Christmas Music Concert Friday 20th December 9 am to 10.00 am.

At the end of term, the bands will perform a concert for the school and their band member families on Friday 20th December. The concert will start at 9.00am to 10.00am.

Please could parents of the band members arrive to the school office to be seated in the hall at 8.45am. Other members of the school community are welcome provided we have enough seats.



Community Events



Every Tuesday 6-7pm Middlewich Town Football Club 4G Pitch

Open to all girls aged 5 – 11 Just turn up ready to play!

Gain football skills , meet new friends, build confidence.

Any questions/more information contact Andy on 07738 203486 or Jordan on 07765 401075





Face Family Advice

OCT/NOV TIMETABLE Talks are delivered online via zoom 7pm to 9pm E24 each Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk			
FREE SESSIONS Introduction to Facing Defiance Decreasing Depression	24 OCT 25 NOV		
Anxiety Explained	17 OCT		
Understanding Anger	21 OCT		
Autism: Improving Communication	28 OCT		
Introduction to OCD	29 OCT		
Improving Family Communication	4 NOV		
Anxiety-Based School Avoidance	12 NOV		
Anxiety Explained	14 NOV		
Understanding Anger	18 NOV		
Drug Awareness for Parents	19 NOV		
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	21 NOV		
What is ACT?	26 NOV		
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 NOV		
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC		
facefamilyadvice.co.uk. info@facefa	facefamilyadvice.co.uk. info@facefamilyadvice.co.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.
- 4. Repeat Offenses: 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
- 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 – <u>Cheshire East Consultation Service</u> (CHECS) 0300 123 5012 (opt 3), <u>Out of</u> <u>Hours</u> 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/

Nut Free School



As our schools have pupils who suffer from a serious nut allergy, we therefore request that parents and carers do not send food to school that contains nuts.

School Catering

From January 2025 we are excited to announce that the school catering service will be carried out by Aspens Catering Service, their kitchen's provide delicious home cooked food each day and the meal price will not alter from £3.20 per meal.

We will provide more details, parent communication and the menu choice in due course.

Important Information about additional funding for your child's school - PLEASE READ

The Council provides two types of free school meals to children attending a school within the Cheshire East Borough.

Free school meals for infants - Children at school and in reception class, year 1 or year 2 (key stage 1) can have free school meals. This is called universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You don't need to claim for UIFSM, just contact your child's school.

Income related free school meals IRFSM - If your child is in receipt of income related free school meals, they are automatically eligible for the Household Support Fund².

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

We suggest you do make a claim for free school meals even if your child is in key stage 1 as the school can claim additional funding (pupil premium) for new equipment and resources.

You can apply for nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

Please see below link

Free school meals³

²<u>https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx</u>

³https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Please check your entitlement by phoning the helpline Free School Meals Helpline - 0300 123 5012

Alternatively you can complete the Free School Meals enquiry form online at <u>http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx</u> Cheshire East will assess your claim and if successful will begin the same day. If your claim is not successful or requires further information, they will contact you

If you think you may be eligible it is really important that you apply online or by phone to help make sure St Mary's school is as well funded as possible.

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.uk⁴

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.uk⁵

To contact the headteacher Mrs Janet McKinlay, please email head@stmrc.uk⁶

To contact our school SENCO Miss Laura Dziamarski, please email ldziamarski@stmrc.uk⁷

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

Absence

- ⁵mailto:admin@stmrc.uk
- ⁶mailto:head@stmrc.uk

⁴mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk

⁷mailto:ldziamarski@stmrc.uk

• 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.uk⁸

⁸mailto:aturnbull@stmrc.uk