



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01606 516171 E: admin@stmrc.uk



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St Mary's Newsletter 13.12.2024

Dear Parents / Carers

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas, rooted in the true meaning of this festive season. Let us keep Jesus in our hearts and minds so that we truly experience the peace and joy of Christmas this year.

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.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher

A Thank You to Madame Dellapiana

Madame Dellapiana will no longer be teaching French after Christmas but we hope she will continue to have a close association with St Mary's as her service and commitment have benefited St Mary's children over a great number of years. We wish her good luck in all her new ventures.

Sponsored Elf Run

The children were amazing yet again. They look to make a difference to our community. Don't forget to return your sponsor forms for St Luke's Hospice.







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!

Initially, our Nursery children will be joining our Reception class and will be supported by Mrs Ashley and Mrs Welsh who will be working full time in EYFS from January. Mrs Welsh has a wealth of experience which she can bring to bear. Thank you to Mrs Ashley, Mrs Bourne and Miss Cook for laying the groundwork for us to be able to welcome Nursery-age children into St Mary's so that we are best placed to serve our Reception and Nursery pupils. From September, our Nursery class will be based in the spare classroom.

**St Mary's Catholic Primary
School
Nursery**

Opening January 2025

15 hours and 30 hours funding
available

Places available for 3+

Wrap around care available

**REGISTER YOUR CHILD'S
PLACE NOW**

01606 516171

schooloffice@stmr.c.uk



Our Christmas Nativity

The Advent Calendar Nativity was definitely amazing! Congratulations to staff and pupils for a wonderful performance. The residents from Newton Court certainly enjoyed it alongside our parents/carers and grandparents. Joanne Sedgwick from Newton Court said:

"Thank you so much for inviting us to the children's play yesterday, it was wonderful.

There are some very talented children at the school.

It brought back many memories for the residents we brought along to watch"











School Uniform

From January, pupils are to come to school in their uniform every day. PE kits are to be brought into school at the start of term and pupils will change for their PE lessons. This will help the children with their life skills. It is another step towards normality after the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a reminder of the school uniform:

- *Grey trousers/shorts
- *Grey skirts or tunics.
- *White shirts worn with school tie.
- *Green sweatshirts/cardigans, with school logo.
- *Grey socks - preferred
- *School Baseball cap (optional)

Summer uniform options:

- *green & white classic gingham dress
- *Showerproof jacket/Storm jacket in green with St Mary's logo

Sensible black school shoes are required. Trainers are not allowed other than for outdoor PE.

PE Uniform:

- *Black shorts – tight, hot pant type shorts are not advised
- *Green Polo shirt with school logo
- *Black slip-on plimsolls.
- *Black Trainers (for outdoor PE only)
- *Black jogging bottoms, with school logo

Each child needs a named PE bag to be kept in school.

School Dinners

Just a little bit of context regarding school dinners:

Cheshire East Catering Services notified the school that they were withdrawing their services by April 2025 and from September 2024 increased the school meal cost to £3.20 which was passed onto parents.

The school served notice to Cheshire East Catering Services and underwent a vigorous catering procurement process with RPJ3 Group, who are a Facilities, Food Service and Audit Group. An audit was carried out at the end of September which led to the conclusion that Aspens Catering Service were the best option in terms of presentation, reputation, financials, food offering and promotion.

Having given it a lot of consideration we decided to proceed and appoint Aspens from January 2025 to deliver the school catering services. The price of the meals offered to parents is £3.20, we had hoped it would be lower but this is the minimum cost the school can charge in line with the providers selling price and the school budget.

Please see our school website for the new menu School Catering information¹

¹<https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/page/school-meals/9768>

Diary Date Reminders

Friday 13 th December 2024	All sports clubs finish this day Christmas crafts will be sent home
Monday 16 th December 2024	Christmas Cards to be sent to the community
Tuesday 17 th December 2024	Christmas Party PM – Reception & Year 6 Year 4 Geography field Trip – See ParentPay for permission and volunteers
Monday 16 th December to Friday 20 th December 2024	Monday 16th December to Thursday 19th December – After school club will run. Monday 16th December to Friday 20th December – Breakfast Club will run.
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Christmas Lunch - Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers with their school uniform
Thursday 19 th December 2024	Christmas Party AM - Year's 3,4,5 PM – Year's 1 & 2
Friday 20 th December 2024	Rocksteady Band Members Christmas Music Concert 9am to 10am SCHOOL FINISHES AT 1.30PM – ALL CHILDREN NEED TO BE COLLECTED AT THIS TIME. THERE IS NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB RUNNING ON THIS DAY. PLEASE CAN YEAR 5 & 6 GIVE PERMISSION TO WALK HOME ON PARENTPAY.
Monday 23 rd December to Monday 6 th January 2025	School Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 7 th January 2025	School opens at 8.30am Afterschool Club and Breakfast Club resume
Wednesday 8 th January 2025	Kids with Bricks After School Club commences for 6 weeks until Wednesday 12 th February 2025 The club costs £3.99 +VAT per child per session and is paid for termly in advance. All club places are reserved and paid for online. Just go to www.kidswithbricks.com to book your child's place.
Monday 13 th January 2025	Sports Clubs will resume and can be booked on ParentPay from week commencing 7th January 2025

Residentials and Trips

Crucial Crew Year 6

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their Crucial Crew trip.

Up and coming Trips and Residential

As a school for consistency we try and run the same residential each year. We are very conscious that parents will need to know about the residential 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.

School Trip Reminders

Please pay on ParentPay

Green are school residentials

Red are school day trips

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 19 th to Friday 21 st March 2025
£26.00	Tatton Park	4	21 st 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	TBA
TBA	Llandudno	2	TBA

Updated PE Timetable

Day of week	PE	Swimming
Monday	Reception Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6	
Tuesday	Year 1	
Wednesday	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 6	Year 5
Thursday	Reception	

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

In the next week 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.

All available event information will be in the ParentPay description and final details will be issued 2 weeks before the event when the school receives them from the event organiser.

The team kit will be issued to each pupil on the event day and they can get changed in school.

Sports Competitions 24/25

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



Christmas Crafts



We hope the children have enjoyed making their Christmas Crafts in school and you will enjoy hanging them on your tree.

Visit from Santa



What a wonderful experience for the children to meet Santa in the Grotto, all the children had a magical time.

Thank you for all the donations from parents for the Santa Grotto photographs, Christmas Crafts & Nativity tickets, we have raised an outstanding £822.30 after costs and the stage, which will be put towards improving the Peace Garden area as many of the planters are rotten and need some tender loving care to create a beautiful space for the children to enjoy.

A BIG thank you from us all at St Mary's!

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 £3.20 and payment needs to be made by ParentPay, www.parentpay.com².

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.

‘Rock and Pop’ Music Lessons!

Rocksteady Christmas Music Concert Friday 20th December 9 am to 10.00 am. Entrance through the hall door.

²<https://www.parentpay.com>

Kids with Bricks



Dear Parents,

Kids With Bricks After School Club at St Marys Catholic Primary School (Cheshire)

We are pleased to be able to offer our Kids With Bricks after school club running from 3:00-4:00 every **Wednesday** for **6 weeks from 8th January 2025**. This club is open for **Years 1-6** and there are a maximum of 30 places available. The club is organised, administered and supported by Kids With Bricks Ltd, an external provider who deliver after school clubs across the whole of the UK.

As well as completing a range of exciting educational challenges, students will have the chance to work both individually and to work in teams.

As an added bit of fun, students from the club will also take part in a weekly inter-school competition where parents can vote for their favourites and points are won for the national leader board.

BOOK ONLINE!

The club costs £3.99 +VAT per child per session and is paid for termly in advance. All club places are reserved and paid for online. Just go to www.kidswithbricks.com to book your child's place.

* Ticket sales go live on Wed 11th Dec at 12:00 midday!

Any problems please contact us on 01633 383211 or bookings@kidswithbricks.com

Kind regards,

John Gallacher

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?

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 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.

5. 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](#) (CHECS) 0300 123 5012 (opt 3), [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/>

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**.

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 Fund³.

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 meals⁴

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 http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx 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.

³https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx

⁴https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

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
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After School Club	£4.00 3pm to 4pm Fruit & drink provided
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	£6.50 4pm to 6pm Snack & drink provided at 4pm
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	£10.50 3pm to 6pm - Sibling's price is £8.50
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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 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, please contact the School Business 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.

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/>

⁵<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

⁶<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

⁷<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

⁸<mailto:ldziamarski@stmrc.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.uk⁹

⁹<mailto:aturnbull@stmrc.uk>