



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

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St Mary's Newsletter 17.01.2025

Dear Parents / Carers

Happy New Year!

We have had a fantastic couple of weeks in school to begin 2025 and we welcome our nursery children to St Mary's, it has been lovely to see all the children settle back into the school routine and the snow last week was a treat for them in the playground!

On behalf of St Mary's I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Nixon for donating the potted Christmas Trees to the school, it was a very kind gesture,

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher



School Meals



We would like to say a big thank you to our catering manager Sam Grant - the past couple of weeks have been very challenging with the changeover from our catering providers. We have also had a few initial teething problems with the food delivery order due to the icy weather last week and catering staff being poorly this week, which has meant we have had some last minute menu changes, but we have had some really positive feedback about the new menu and presentation.

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

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

Return to School Reminder dates

Monday 20 th January 2025	School Health screening – Reception children
Tuesday 21 st January 2025	Computing Workshop Year's 1 to 6 – See ParentPay for details
Wednesday 22 nd January 2025	<p>Year 4 swimming commences and will run until 02.04.2025</p> <p>Kids with Bricks After School Club commences for 6 weeks until Wednesday 12th February 2025</p> <p>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.</p>
Friday 24 th January 2025	Jubilee Launch
Tuesday 28 th January 2025	Year 5 and Year 6 Indoor Athletics Competition -St. Nick's, 3:45-5:30pm.
Thursday 6 th February 2025	<p>MHS Hockey Competition 3.30 - 5.00pm.</p> <p>St Nicks Hockey Competition on Thursday 6th Feb 2025, 3.45 - 5.15pm</p>
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Smile for a mile cross country competition at St Nicks Catholic High School on their school field at 3.45 - 4.30pm
Thursday 27 th March 2025	Netball Competition at Middlewich High School 3.30-5pm

School Trip Reminders

Please pay on ParentPay

Green are school residentials

Red are school day trips

Cost	Place	Year Group	Date
£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
£24.00	Jodrell Bank	Reception & Nursery	26 th February 2025
TBA	Llandudno	2	TBA

PE & Swimming Timetable from 07.01.2025

Day of week	PE	Swimming
Monday	Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 5	
Tuesday	Year 1, Year 4	
Wednesday	Reception, Year 2, Year 3, Year 6	Year 4 will run until 02.04.2025
Thursday	Year 6	
Friday	Year 5	

PE Changing Arrangements

Children are to now wear their school uniform each day and bring their PE and swimming kit on their PE/Swimming day.

We have listened to concerns raised by parents regarding the PE changing arrangements. Although some schools only provide separate changing facilities for years 5 and 6, we have included all of Key Stage 2, i.e. years 3, 4, 5 and 6. During PE lessons, other pupils are in class and no one is outside in the playground looking in. I hope this reassures parents and carers.

Other School Clubs

Monday to Friday - Sports Clubs 3-4 pm £4.00 per session details are on ParentPay for parents that have signed up. These will run until Friday 28th March 2025 and re-commence after April 2025 half term Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Kids with Bricks After School Club is running for 6 weeks until Wednesday 12th 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.

Rock Steady Music run inclusive rock and band sessions in school on a Friday morning 8.30 am to 10.30 am. To book a place, please go to the below link.

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

Residentials and Trips

Eureka Trip

Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip yesterday.

Up and coming Trips and Residentials

As a school we try and run the same residential for consistency each year. We are very conscious that parents 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 with budget planning 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.





Upcoming 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.

Notifications are on ParentPay for the Spring term, 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	When	When	Time	Where
Year 5/6	Girls Football	Wednesday 18 th September	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's playing fields
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 24 th September	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's playing fields
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Wednesday 2 nd October	4:00-5:15	St. Nick's playing fields
Year 5/6	Green Country	Thursday 3 rd October	3:30-5:00	Clasfina Primary
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 17 th October	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's netball courts
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 24 th October	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Mixed Basketball	Thursday 21 st November	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's sports hall
Year 5/6	Bodgeball	Thursday 6 th December	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Mixed Indoor Athletics	Tuesday 26 th January	3:45-5:30	St. Nick's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Quidditch Hockey	Thursday 6 th February	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Indoor Hockey	Thursday 6 th February	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5-8	Smile for a mile	Thursday 6 th March	3:45-4:30	St. Nick's playing fields
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 12 th March	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 27 th March	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Mixed Cricket	Tuesday 2 nd April	9:00-9:30	Warrington Park CC
Year 5/6	Mixed Bodgeball	Tuesday 3 rd May	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 8 th May	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Mixed Tag Rugby	Thursday 22 nd May	3:30-5:00	Widdowson High
Year 5/6	Quidditch Athletics	Wednesday 11 th June	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's
Year 5/6	Town Sports	Wednesday 18 th June	3:30-5:30	Widdowson Primary
Year 5/6	St. Mary's Cup Cricket	Sunday 29 th June	9-2pm	Widdowson Cricket Club
Year 5/6	Rounders	Thursday 3 rd July	3:30-5:00	Widdowson Primary

Community Events



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 18th January

Saturday 15th February Saturday 15th March

10—11.30am—Help with phones and tablets, and using Word, Excel etc.

Refreshments provided

For more information, please contact Lucie Ferneyhough on 07929 717909 or

lucie.ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk

2025 Jubilee Year reflection on Pilgrims of Hope at St Mary's Middlewich

Are you wondering what the 2025 Jubilee Year is all about? Please join parishioners at St Mary's Parish in Middlewich as they explore the biblical background to the Jubilee Year and what the theme *Pilgrims of Hope* means for us today using material produced by CAFOD.

The meeting will take place in St Mary's Parish Centre on King Street, Middlewich CW10 2EB on Saturday, February 8th 2025 for tea and toast at 9.45 am for a 10 am start. They aim to finish by 1pm at the latest. For more information and to book a place, please contact Anne Sturman by email: annesturman17@gmail.com². You can just turn up on the day if you prefer.

²<mailto:annesturman17@gmail.com>

Attendance



As we start a new 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, became effective from 19th August 2024, and 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.

17.01.2025

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 Christmas. As we start a new year in supporting your child's education, we want to remind you of important changes to the law regarding school attendance. These changes were effective from 19th August 2024 and have been in place since September 2024 as 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 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 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 is offering advice, resources, or helping to find solutions that work for your family.

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

Concerns about a child – Cheshire East Consultation Service³ (CHECS) 0300 123 5012 (opt 3),
Out of Hours⁴ 0300 123 5022

³http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/education_and_learning/first_contact_service.aspx

⁴http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/adults_18_social_care/contact_the_social_care_team/social_care_out_of_hours_team.aspx

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 Fund⁵.

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.

⁵https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx

Please see below link

Free school meals⁶

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.

ParentPay Accounts

Please can you check your ParentPay accounts for each child are up to date for the week ahead. When paying for items please use the option - Add to Basket - Other Payment Method option as the Pay by One-click payments is causing problems with payments pending.

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.

⁶https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

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 school office email which is: schooloffice@stmrc.uk⁷

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.uk⁸

⁷<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

⁸<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

To contact the headteacher Mrs Janet McKinlay, please email head@stmrc.uk⁹

To contact our school SENCO Miss Laura Dziemarski, please email ldziemarski@stmrc.uk¹⁰

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.uk¹¹

⁹<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

¹⁰<mailto:ldziemarski@stmrc.uk>

¹¹<mailto:aturnbull@stmrc.uk>