



www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk

T: 01606 516171 E: admin@stmrc.uk



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St Mary's Newsletter 14.03.2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

We started Lent with our annual Ash Wednesday Mass and would like to share this beautiful Lenten prayer with you:

A Prayer for Lent

Loving God,

As we begin this season of Lent, we come before You with open hearts.

Help us to see this time as an opportunity to grow closer to You and to reflect on our lives.

Teach us to embrace sacrifice, not just in giving things up, but in giving more of ourselves by our kindness, our patience, and our love to those around us.

May we follow the example of Jesus, who walked the path of humility, compassion, and selflessness.

Lord, strengthen us to choose what is right even when it is difficult,

and to grow with You through prayer, fasting, and acts of service.

Bless our school community, our families, and all those in need.

May we journey through Lent with hearts full of faith, hope, and love.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Mrs Janet McKinlay

Headteacher

St Mary's Nursery



Please see our nursery page for more information

Nursery Page¹

Churches Together Walk of Witness

Churches Together in Middlewich are planning to put leaflets through the doors of as many of the houses in Middlewich as possible to invite people to the Good Friday Walk of Witness and to become part of our Christian community. St Mary's has been asked to leaflet the estate off Sycamore Drive (off Warmingham Lane). We need lots of volunteers to help us. If you take a daily walk or walk your dog, could you help out? Many hands make light work! It would be really great if St Mary's parishioners and St Mary's parents/carers could support the other churches in town. Please let Fr Vijay or school know ASAP if you can help. Many thanks.

¹<https://www.stmarysmiddlewich.cheshire.sch.uk/page/nursery-page/155819>

Mini Vinnies



Congratulations to our newly appointed Mini Vinnies. A big thank you to Father Vijay and Miss Cook for interviewing the candidates. They are working hard on fundraising ideas and their next initiative will be Bags 2 School which starts Tuesday 22nd April. Please have a clear out over Easter and leave donations outside the front entrance any time between Tuesday, 22nd and Tuesday, 29th April. We can accept donations before Easter if you have a bag ready for recycling and want to get rid of it!

All donated clothing/items will be collected on Wednesday 30th April 2025.

BAG 2 SCHOOL
FREE FUNDRAISING FOR SCHOOLS
In partnership with your school or organisation
St Mary's Catholic Primary School


www.bag2school.com



Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the reuse and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from your school. All the bags will be weighed and you will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more you collect the greater the benefit to your school.



PLEASE USE YOUR OWN BAGS (THERE IS NO LIMIT).

When the clothes have been removed from the bag the plastic will be packed and sent for recycling.

We are collecting good quality items for RE-USE:
Men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories.
(No uniforms, workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

The more we weigh the more we pay!
Extra bags are welcome - there's no limit

Please return your Bag2School on:

Wednesday 30 April 2025 by 9:00am

 01609 780 222  www.bag2school.com  helpdesk@bag2school.com

Ash Wednesday Mass



Thank you to Father Vijay, father Peter and Deacon Tony for celebrating Mass with us. It was lovely to see so many parents and parishioners. Thank you to the Faith in Action Group for doing the readings and thank you to the Mini Vinnies for doing the bidding prayers and offertory.

Come and See



Tuesday Get Togethers.....

The Chosen series is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus, seen through the eyes of those who knew Him. Set against the backdrop of Jewish oppression in first century Israel, the show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus's revolutionary life and teachings.

This TV series will hopefully be a way for you to experience Jesus for yourself and a chance to discuss the content and reflect on what it means to you personally. We hope that you've already heard about it, and maybe even watched it, and our desire is to help you share it with the wider community.

When: every Tuesday for 5 weeks

Dates: 22/04/25, 29/04/25, 06/05/25, 13/05/25, 20/04/25

Time: 19:00 - 20:00

Location: St Mary's Catholic Primary, Manor Lane, Middlewich, CW10 9DH

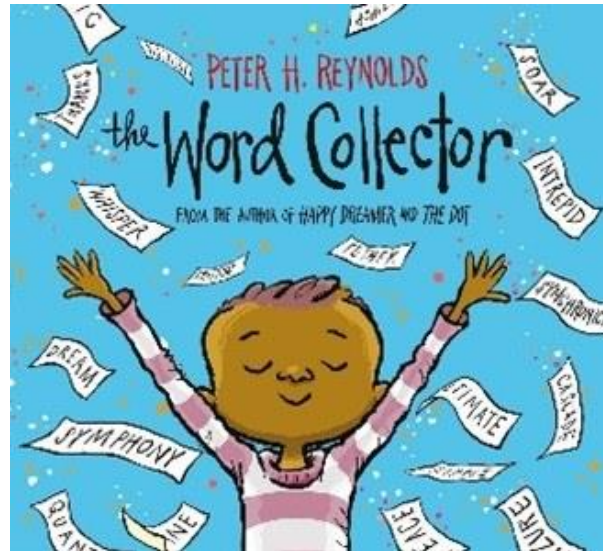
Come along. Refreshments provided.

CAFOD ASSEMBLY



Mrs Noyce, who was the previous Headteacher here at St Mary's, now works for CAFOD and she very kindly came into school on Monday to deliver a CAFOD assembly all about how we, as a school, could fundraise during Lent to help fight global poverty.

World Book Day 6th March 2025



This year's theme for World Book Day was to dress up as a word, which is inspired by the book 'The Word Collector' by Peter H. Reynolds.

We had some fabulous outfits in school!

Thank you to Mrs Hughes for organising a great event in school.















Best Costume









Year 1 British Farming Visit

This week Year 1 were lucky enough to have a British Farming visit where they could see first-hand how food is grown and reared as well as showing how farmers manage their land sustainably to encourage wildlife and protect the environment. The visit was an enriching experience for our children, helping them to connect where their food comes from as well as highlighting the opportunities for employment within the agricultural sector.





Holiday Clubs

Please register your interest with Coach Gary.

Depending on numbers, Coach Gary intends to run future holiday clubs during our holiday periods. If this would be of interest to you, please contact Coach Gary directly with your dates on garyssc@hotmail.co.uk² or pick up the booking forms from the office.

²<mailto:garyssc@hotmail.co.uk>



The School Sports Company
Professional Sports Coaching

THE SCHOOL SPORTS COMPANY, 40 Windmill Rd,
Walkden, Manchester, M283RP. 07572 553 362
garyssc@hotmail.co.uk

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MULTI ACTIVITY CAMPS

The School Sports Company are pleased to confirm that coaches will be running activity camps during school holidays at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Middlewich for all school pupils.

As School Sports Company is the no. 1 sports coaching company in the Northwest, your child can enjoy the following:

OUTDOOR SPORTS, ADVENTURING, INDOOR ACTIVITIES, CLIMB, ARTS & CRAFTS, INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE!

In addition, children will learn about the skills of various sports and enjoy indoor & outdoor activities by participating in fun based coaching sessions.

AGE: 4 – 11 years old Times: 08:15am to 5.30pm (pick up from 3.30pm)


All sessions will take place indoor / outdoors weather permitting

PACKED LUNCH / DRINKS REQUIRED

COST: £25 per day, or £100.00 for the whole week (5 days)
Reduced rate for siblings of £80.00 per week (£20 per day)

ALL STAFF ARE:

- FULLY QUALIFIED
- Experienced professional sports coaches
- DBS checked
- Fully insured
- 1st Aid Qualified



The School Sports Company
Professional Sports Coaching

THE SCHOOL SPORTS COMPANY, 40 Windmill Rd,
Walkden, Manchester, M283RP. 07572 553 362
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BOOKING FORM

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All sessions will take place indoor / outdoor weather permitting

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COST: £25 per day, or £100.00 for the whole week (5 days)
Reduced rate for siblings of £80.00 per week (£20 per day)
(reduced rate for siblings)

TO BOOK A PLACE: Please tick which days you wish your child/ren to attend in the boxes below.
Places must be booked by the Friday prior to the holiday club starting the following week.
Refunds will not be given for cancellations, however where possible days can be swapped.

	October - Half Term	February - Half Term	April - Easter	May - Whit	
	28/10/24 - 05/11/24	17/02/25 - 24/02/25	14/04/25 - 17/04/25	27/05/25 - 30/05/25	02/06/25 - 05/06/25
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

July - Summer holidays					
	23/07/25 - 25/07/25	28/07/25 - 01/08/25	04/08/25 - 06/08/25	11/08/25 - 13/08/25	18/08/25 - 22/08/25
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					

TO SECURE YOUR CHILD'S PLACE, PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE.

Child's Name: DOB:

Medical Details / Allergies:

Address:

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Name: Telephone no:

Email:

PAYMENT: Bank Transfer ☐ CASH ☐

I understand that The School Sports Company or it's employees cannot be held responsible for any loss or injury except those caused by the negligence of its employees whilst attending the holiday club sessions.

Signed Parent/Guardian: Date:

Return to School Reminder Dates

Friday 21 st March 2025	World Down Syndrome Day 2025 Gingerbread Sock Biscuit Campaign, bring a £1.00
Monday 24 th March 2025	Level 1 Bikeability Year 4
Friday 28 th March 2025	Year 4 Activity Day St Nicholas High School Sports clubs finish and resume after half term Tuesday 22nd April 2025.
Tuesday 1 st April 2025	Whole school House of Dance Workshop 9.00am in School Hall
1 st April to 30 th April 2025	Limb Loss Awareness Month 2025
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 6 Netball Competition at Middlewich High School 3.30-5pm
Friday 4 th April 2025	Rock Steady Concert 9.15am to 11.45am
Friday 11 th April 2025	Last day of Breakfast Club. School finishes for Easter at 1.30pm – NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Saturday 12 th April 2025	Creative Craft Fair 11am to 4pm School Hall
Monday 14 th April 2025 to Monday 21 st April 2025	School Closed – Easter Break
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	School returns 8.30am School clubs resume
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Bags2School – Please leave donations outside the front entrance any time between Tuesday, 22nd and Tuesday, 29th April.
Wednesday 23 rd April 2025	Academy Photos Class Groups and Leavers -Reception and Year 6
Wednesday 23 rd and Thursday 24 th April 2025	Year 1 to Year 5 Parents Evening School Hall – Bookings will open on ParentPay on the 7 th April 7.30pm and close 21 st April 2025 at 9.30am
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	Mixed Cricket Comp Year 5 & 6 Winnington Park
Wednesday 30 th April 2025	Bags2School ends
Monday 5 th May 2025	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	Mixed Dodgeball competition 3.45-5.15pm St Nic's Sports Hall
Thursday 8 th May 2025	Mixed Football 3.30pm-5.30pm Middlewich High
Sunday 11 th May 2025	Year 3 Holy Communion
Thursday 8 th May to Friday 9 th May 2025	Level 2 Bikeability Year 4
Monday 19 th May 2025	May Procession
Thursday 22 nd May 2025	Mixed Tag Rugby 3.30-5.00pm Middlewich High
Friday 23 rd May 2025	School finishes at 3.00pm
Half Term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 6 th June 2025
Monday 9 th May 2025	School opens at 8.30am
Wednesday 11 th June 2025	Quadkids Athletics 3.45-5.30pm St Nic's
Wednesday 18 th June 2025	Town Sports 3.30-5.30pm Middlewich Primary
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	Sports Day
27 th June to 3 rd July 2025	Book Fair
Sunday 29 th June 2025	St Mary's Cup Cricket 9am to 2pm Middlewich Cricket Club
Thursday 3 rd July 2025	Rounder's 3.30-5.00pm Middlewich Primary
Friday 18 th July 2025	Last day of Breakfast Club. School finishes for Easter at 1.30pm – NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Wednesday 3 rd September 2025	School opens at 8.30am

School Trip Dates

Please pay on ParentPay - Green are school residential - Red are school day trips

Cost	Place	Year Group	Date
£190.00	Redridge	5	Wednesday 19 th to Friday 21 st March 2025
£26.00	Tatton Park	4	25 th April 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
FREE	Forest Day in School	KS1 & KS2	June 23rd & 30th, July 7th & 14th
FREE	Ranger Day Delamere	KS1	8 th July 2025 9.30am to 2.30pm
£24.00	Jodrell Bank	Reception & Nursery	26 th February 2025
£26.00	Chester Zoo	2	1 st May 2025 Pupils will leave at 9am and have a full day including a workshop, arriving back at school at 5pm
£128.00	Savio House	4	19 th to 21 st November 2025

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	

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

Other School Clubs

Monday KS1 & KS2 health & fitness, & smile for a mile training

Tuesday KS2 netball & hockey

Wednesday KS2 football

Thursday KS1 & KS2 forest school & outdoor activities/Spanish

Friday KS1 & KS2 dance & gym

Monday to Friday - Sports Clubs 3 - 4pm £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 commences from Wednesday 26th February 2025 until Wednesday 9th April 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.com³ to book your child's place

Starting from 24th April 2025 there will be a KS2 Spanish Club on a Thursday 3pm to 4pm. To book please visit www.llamalanguages.co.uk⁴

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

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

Spanish Club

Llama Languages Presents

ST MARY'S SPANISH CLUB

HELLO
HOOR
CHOR
CHOR

LLAMA
LANGUAGES

LEARN THE BASICS FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS,
TO PREPARE FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ...
OR JUST FOR FUN!

Thursdays 3:00 - 4:00 pm

24th April 2025
1st May 2025
8th May 2025
15th May 2025
22nd May 2025

£ 40 for all 5 sessions

Open to all KS2 children currently on roll at the school.

For info and to book your place:
www.llamalanguages.co.uk sara@llamalanguages.co.uk

³<http://www.kidswithbricks.com/>

⁴<http://www.llamalanguages.co.uk/>

Art at After School Club





Residentials and Trips

Up and coming Trips and Residentials

Due to annual inflation, the costs for Residentials and travel costs have increased in 2025, to make Residentials more affordable this year to parents but not compromise on the enrichment experience, the school has subsidised them so that where there are increases they are less than £10.00. Providers offer free places to staff who accompany/supervise children on residentials.

Costs in 2024

Petty Pool Y3 £105.50

Savio House Y4 £119.00

Redridge Y5 £219.00

Abernant Lake Y6 £295.00

Costs in 2025

Petty Pool Y3 £110.00

Savio House Y4 £128.00

Redridge Y5 £190.00

Robinwood Y6 £304.00

Please contact Mrs McKinlay if you missed the presentation evenings as she is happy to answer any queries.

Year 3 Petty Pool

Year 3 could have not asked for a better residential, Petty Pool staff were engaging and enthusiastic with a real passion for delivering a fantastic experience!

We would also like to say a big thank you to Miss Dziemarski, Mrs Coe, Mrs Quilliam and Mrs Turnbull for volunteering their free time to ensure our children had a wonderful time!





Sporting Triumphs

Netball Friendly

The netball teams had a great time during the netball friendlies. It was a great opportunity to practise everything that they have learnt in their PE lessons. They showed great communication and teamwork. They all improved their passing, footwork, attacking, defending and shooting skills ready for the match in a few weeks' time. The team has been chosen, please check your Parent Pay to give permission. If your child has not been selected then they will have another opportunity to play in other competitions.

Health and Safety Reminder

Please could parents ensure that children's nails are trimmed or kept at small length to avoid injuries. Correct footwear must be worn for any PE lessons or sporting events.

Smile for a Mile

Congratulations to all of the children that ran in the 'Smile for a mile' cross country event. You represented St. Mary's wonderfully with determination and passion. A special mention goes to Jamie, Lizzie and Nikola who came 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the girl's race. Also well done to the KS1 children for completing the course as it is a long way for those little legs. Keep up the running everyone and you can try and beat your position next year!

Weight lifting



James Cove lifted in the English Olympic Weightlifting Championships in Birmingham. Despite being a year younger than all other lifters, he finished a very respectable 4th, successfully completing 5 out of 6 lifts and a new personal best in the clean and jerk. We wish him good luck when he lifts in the British Championships this autumn.

Well done James from all at St Mary's!

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	Six Football	Wednesday 18 th September	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's playing fields
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 25 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	Cross Country	Thursday 3 rd October	3:30-5:00	Clelland 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	3:30-5:30	Middleton 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	Middleton High
Year 5/6	Mixed Tennis 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	Middleton High
Year 5-6	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	Middleton High
Year 5/6	Mixed Netball	Thursday 27 th March	3:30-5:00	Middleton High
Year 5/6	Mixed Cricket	Tuesday 29 th April	3:00-5:30	Warrington Park CC
Year 5/6	Mixed Bodgeball	Tuesday 4 th May	3:45-5:15	St. Nick's sports hall
Year 5/6	Mixed Football	Thursday 8 th May	3:30-5:30	Middleton High
Year 5/6	Mixed Tag Rugby	Thursday 22 nd May	3:30-5:00	Middleton High
Year 5/6	Queekids 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	Middleton Primary
Year 5/6	St. Mary's Cup Cricket	Sunday 29 th June	9-2pm	Middleton Cricket Club
Year 5/6	Rounders	Thursday 3 rd July	3:30-5:00	Middleton Primary

Join us in taking part in our Big Walk and Wheel 2025!

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are again supporting Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and as a past participant, would love for you to join the primary and secondary schools from our area already taking part.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

We would like to overlap this challenge with the CAFOD Big Lenten Walk and would ask parents/carers to make a donation at the end of CAFOD so we can continue to help people living in poverty. Please mark envelopes with the words 'CAFOD Donation'.

The event aims to encourage more families to travel to school actively to help create healthier and happier communities. On each day of the challenge, schools compete to see who can record the greatest proportion of their pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting or cycling to school.

This year's challenge will run **24 March to 4 April 2025** and is free for all primary and secondary schools in the UK, including SEN, ALN and ASN schools. Schools can choose to enter as a whole school or an individual class.

I've registered St Mary's School, so parents please can you support us by walking (bike, scoot etc.) to school these weeks if you are able.

A school's best five days will determine their final position, but schools can log journeys on all ten days if you wish. There are fantastic daily prizes to be won for schools if over 15% of their pupils walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on that day of the challenge. Participating in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel also contributes towards gaining Modeshift Stars accreditation.

The feature I know which has worked well for our schools in the past is that you can take part in the challenge against similar schools - this means we can have a local leader board, as

well as challenges for different sizes of school, regional challenges as well as the big national event.

There are lots of free resources, including curriculum linked lesson plans, which can be used in schools to ensure everyone can feel involved during Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel. Pupils can help reduce air pollution and learn about the benefits of active travel for themselves, their school, their neighbourhood, and the whole planet. Additionally, we are focusing on helping schools and families overcome the barriers that prevent pupils taking active journeys to school. See our inclusivity guide for more information.

A 2021 YouGov study showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels. Taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel and travelling actively instead of taking a car, is great and fun way to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. Active travel is also a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which helps them to arrive to school more relaxed and alert and is great for their mental wellbeing too.

For more information visit the www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk⁵

I look forward to supporting you with this great challenge!

Kind regards

Mrs Katy Martin

PE Lead

Community Events

IT Support at St Mary's

Do you want help setting up parental controls on your child's phone, help with privacy settings or setting up a tracking app to keep your child safe? Come along for 10 minutes on Saturday, 15th March and we have professionals on hand to help. If you can't as you haven't got a babysitter, bring the children as well. this is an important issue.

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:

⁵<http://www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk>

Saturday 15th March

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

cake and doughnuts provided and occasionally toast!

For more information, please contact Lucie Ferneyhough on 07929 717909 or lucie.ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk⁶ or the school office.

SEND Parents Coffee Morning

We have set up a survey on school spider to find out how we can support parents. Please have a look as we would really like to hear your views and ideas.

Creative Craft Fairs



We are excited to announce that Creative Craft Fairs will be using St Mary's to host their Craft Fairs on the following dates.

We hope you can support them and the school to raise money for St Mary's.

Saturday 12th April 2025

⁶<mailto:lucie.ferneyhough@cheshireeast.gov.uk>

Saturday 4th October 2025

Saturday 29th November 2025

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 Service⁷ (CHECS) 0300 123 5012 (opt 3),
Out of Hours⁸ 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.

⁷http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/education_and_learning/first_contact_service.aspx

⁸http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/adults_18_social_care/contact_the_social_care_team/social_care_out_of_hours_team.aspx

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 Fund⁹.

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

⁹https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_information/financial-support/household-support-fund.aspx

- 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 meals¹⁰

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.

¹⁰https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

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

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.uk¹¹

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.uk¹²

To contact the headteacher Mrs Janet McKinlay, please email head@stmrc.uk¹³

To contact our school SENCO Miss Laura Dziamarski, please email ldziamarski@stmrc.uk¹⁴

¹¹<mailto:schooloffice@stmrc.uk>

¹²<mailto:admin@stmrc.uk>

¹³<mailto:head@stmrc.uk>

¹⁴<mailto:ldziamarski@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.uk¹⁵

¹⁵<mailto:aturnbull@stmrc.uk>