



St Mary's Catholic Academy



Newsletter No.1 – 7th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school. Unlike last year, the weather was less kind, but I hope you had plenty of time to relax and enjoy some family time.

It is good to see the children have returned safe and well. A special **welcome** to all our new children and families who have joined us in Foundation 1, F2 and across the school - we look forward to watching you grow and develop over the coming years.

Please read each newsletter carefully so you are informed about all that's going on in school.

Dates for your diary

Tues 5 September	Return to school
Wed 20 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning – 9am All welcome
Fri 22 September	Year 4 Geography fieldtrip to Skegness
Mon 25 September	INSET – School Closed
Wed 27 Sept and Thurs 28 September	Year 6 – Narrowboat Trip – Group 1 and Group 2 Year 6 – Narrowboat Trip – Group 3
Wed 18 October	Parent / Carer Consultations 1:30 – 3pm; 3:30 – 5pm
Fri 20 October	Break up for Half Term
23 – 27 th October	Half Term – Week 1 – School closed
30 th Oct – 3 November	Half Term – Week 2 – School closed
Mon 6 November	School reopens

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for quickly adapting to the new school start time of 8:45am.

The school gate opens at 8:35am.

Every child must attend school each day if at all possible. Please support us by ensuring your child is in school by 8:45am, so they can enter class on time. The school gate will be locked each day at 8:50am. If your child arrives late, **you must sign them in at the school office. Children should not enter school late alone – please do not drop them at the gate.**

Our school attendance stands at 98.2% today. THANK YOU! I ask for your continued support to ensure holidays are taken in the breaks we have throughout the school year. Please understand that **no holidays** can be authorised and there can be no exceptions.

Attendance Matters



The School Playground – Before and After School



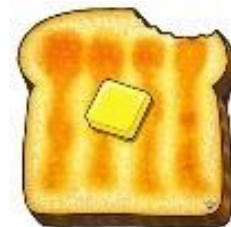
School play equipment - Please can we ask that children stay off the play equipment first thing in the morning – children should not use the gym or the climbing equipment. Staff are on the playground to catch up with parents and say good morning to children.

No running – as families come in to school, please can children avoid running about. The playground is busy with families including very small children to ensure a calm and safe start to the school day.

Parents/carers – please stand back on the playground to give the children space to line up.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts at 7:50am. Last entry to have breakfast is at **8:20am**. The cost of the club remains at £3.00 a day. Please pay in advance. Children have a choice of cereals and toast and fruit juice or water is available to drink.



Flu Immunisations F2 – Y6



These will take place on 27th November. Watch out for an e-mail. Please consider signing your child up for the good of your child and the health of our community. [Please refer to the email sent by the school office.](#)

School Uniform

Children have started the school term looking very smart - there are just a few reminders. Please ensure your child wears a sky-blue **shirt – not a polo shirt**. Jumpers should be **V-neck so the school tie can be seen clearly**.

Earrings should be small studs and headbands/clips must be simple and blue in colour – no bright colours or large decorated bobbles please.

Uniform will be closely monitored this year and your teacher has been asked to speak to parents where children aren't wearing full school uniform.

Notes will be made in your child's school diary when your child does not meet the school uniform expectations.



A few clarifications:

- Winter **or** summer uniform is acceptable as long as it adheres to our uniform policy
- Winter uniform must include a tie
- Children can attend school without a school jumper in hot weather – this is recommended so they do not use it
- Summer dresses should only be worn in warm/hot weather. If a child needs to wear tights to keep warm, they should be wearing their winter uniform.

Reminder - Nursey Full-Time Lunch Payments

Nursery children who attend full-time must pay for the lunch time session in advance. Where you wish for your child to have a school dinner, this also must be paid in advance. All payments should be made on Arbor. Where payment is not made, children should be collected at 11:30am and return at 12:30 for the afternoon session.

Session cost	£3.50
Dinner cost	£2.10
Total cost	£5.60

A packed lunch from home can be provided, in which case the cost would only be £3.50 for the lunch session.

We are keeping our prices as low as possible. The £3.50 is to cover the cost of the staff member supervising your child. We do not want to get to the point where we state a child cannot attend. Thank you for your support.

MacMillan Coffee Morning – 20th September at 9am

Please join us for tea and cake in the school hall on Wednesday 20th September. There will be a donation dish as we will be raising money for MacMillan Cancer Research. This is a great opportunity for families to catch up and for us to welcome new families to our community. All are welcome.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE MORNING** 

Parent and Visitor Code of Conduct

All visitors including parents /carers are expected to:

Speak kindly to staff and each other

Live by our school values

Bring children to school on time

Make an appointment with a staff member if concerns arise

Helmets

If your child is cycling to school, please make sure they are also wearing a helmet. If they are not, they will not be welcome to bring their bike onto the school grounds.



Helmet's are also recommended if your child is riding a scooter. Children can experience serious injuries if they are not properly protected.

Thank you for your support with this.

Hot Weather

Please send your child with a sun hat and apply sun cream before school while we enjoy this beautiful weather.

Each child should have a water bottle that they should bring to school all year round.



Here to help

It has been lovely to speak to many of you on the playground since school has reopened.

I hope you and your children are happy that the new term has begun and are starting to get back into a routine.

Please make an appointment with the school office if the need arises to speak to me. Your child's class teacher should be your first port of call but I am here if you need anything further than the support they can offer.

I look forward to serving you and your families this year.

Yours sincerely,

Anne-Marie Bell