



Working, Praying, Sharing
&
Learning Together

St. Mary's R.C. Primary School
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8th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back!

We hope everyone had a lovely Summer Holiday and a great first week back to school. To all our families that are new to St. Mary's R.C. Primary School, welcome - We can't wait to get to know you and your children, and we're excited to welcome you to our family.

I'd like to take this opportunity to give you some updates and key information for the coming year.

Staffing

| Year Group | Class Teacher | Support Staff |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nursery | Mrs Evans | Miss Watkins & Miss Lukins |
| Reception | Mrs Flynn/Miss Phillips | Mrs Barrett & Mrs Thurston |
| Year 1 | Mrs Gurmin/Mrs Bryant | Miss Edwards |
| Year 2 | Miss Curtis | Miss Gardner |
| Year 3 | Mrs Fitzgerald | Mrs Bridgeman |
| Year 4 | Mrs Hawkins | Mrs Lane |
| Year 5 | Miss Isaac | Miss Thomas |
| Year 6 | Miss Natale | Mrs Jones |
| HLTA - PPA Cover | Mrs Blackwell | |
| Targeted intervention Support | Mrs Cronin | |
| Office/Admin | Mrs Davis | |

Planned School Closure Days for Staff Training.

*Planned training days for 2023/2024 are subject to change.

| Date of School Closure | Main Training Focus |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| September 1 st 2023 | Curriculum for Wales |
| November 6 th 2023 | Developing oracy and writing. |
| January 8 th 2024 | Supporting language development |
| | Ensuring pupil wellbeing |
| April 8 th 2024 | Religious Education Curriculum |
| TBC | TBC |

Universal Free School Meals

All Primary School children in Wales are now able to receive free school meals - Wonderful news. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, please ensure that your child/children is/are entitled to the benefits of eligibility for free school meals. Eligibility for free school meals (EFSM) will mean that your child/children will receive more targeted support at school, and it will mean that would will receive benefits such as a school uniform grant, additional rebates on utility bills, and potential tax relief.

Attendance.

Last year our total school attendance sat at around 90%, this year we are aiming to increase this to 95%. We aim to achieve this by;

- Celebrating excellent and increased attendance with rewards and celebrations.
- Introducing first day response - you will be contacted by your child/children's teacher after the first day of an absence for an update and/or an estimated date for return to school.
- Introducing parent/guardian/teacher consultation phone calls if you child/children's attendance drops below 90% over a half-term.

Healthy Schools.

The Healthy Schools Scheme endeavours to promote the health of all who 'learn, work, play and live' by supporting pupils to engage with issues that affect their physical and mental health. We will begin this year by promoting healthy eating at St. Mary's. We politely ask that pupils replace crisps, sweets, chocolate and fizzy drinks with healthy snacks for break times (we'll provide more information in the coming weeks).

Parental/carer Engagement

We greatly value your opinion on how we can shape and develop all forms of school life. During the year there will be lots of opportunities to feedback and to let us know how we're doing, to make suggestions as to how we can improve, and to spend time in school sharing learning with you child/children. Surveys and questionnaires will be shared on ClassDojo, please support us by engaging.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate get in touch.

Cofion cynnes / Kind regards

Martin Buckley
Acting Headteacher

