



'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER NO. 2

11th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a real delight to welcome our new Nursery and Reception children into school this week. We have been so proud of how well they have settled in, got to know one another, and begun to make new friendships and become familiar with their new routines.

We know that starting Nursery or Reception is a big milestone. There are so many new experiences, new faces and new things to learn, and it can take a little time for children, and their families, to adjust. Our children have made a wonderful start, and we look forward to seeing their confidence grow as they learn, play and flourish as part of our St Mary's community.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new parents and carers. We are delighted to welcome you to the St Mary's community and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's time with us.

Please remember that we are always here to help. If you have any questions, concerns or simply need a little guidance, please speak to your child's class teacher, who will be very happy to support you or point you in the right direction.

Welcome to St Mary's, we are so pleased to have you with us!

How will your children learn at St Mary's?

We believe that every child is a unique and precious gift from God. Our mission statement is

'Learning to Love, Loving to Learn' and 'Aspire not to have more but to be more'.

We have high expectations for all and provide a rich inclusive and purposeful curriculum that reflects the spirit of our school community.

We prepare children for a life in modern Britain and actively promote British Values -democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect tolerance for those with different faith and beliefs and weave these in to our daily School life. In doing so we help children to grow as respectful citizens ready to contribute positively to society with respect, compassion, and integrity.

We ensure smooth transitions for all our children as they continue their learning journey. Our approach to teaching and learning is guided by: creativity, thinking freely, taking risks and expressing themselves.

We believe that children learn through hands-on experiences that brings learning to life and sparks curiosity and nurture a love of discovery. We adapt our teaching to meet the needs of every child and enabling all to flourish and to fulfil their God given potential.

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We also encourage independence and reasoning, giving children the time and space to explore their ideas, ask questions and develop confidence in their own abilities. We value expression and ensure that every child feels heard and respected in our nurturing faithful environment. As a Catholic community we foster sense of belonging, identity and service, working closely with families, our parish and the wider community.

Our children are also encouraged to find joy and wonder in the natural world through regular outdoor learning they connect with God's creation, develop responsibility of the environment and grow in awe and gratitude.

At St Marys, our curriculum was not just about what we teach but how we teach always with love purpose and the belief that every child is made in the image of God with unique potential to grow thrive and shine.

What will your child learn this year?

Attached to this newsletter, you will find an overview of the learning your child will be undertaking in their year group this half term. We hope this will give you a helpful insight into what they will be doing in school and enable you to talk to them about their learning at home.

Please take some time to read through the overview, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

You can also find the curriculum overview for each year group for the whole academic year on our school website:

<https://www.stmaryscatholicprimaryschoolstrust.co.uk/Curriculum/Curriculum-Maps/>

During our Curriculum Meetings in the week beginning 21st September, we will share further information about your child's learning and how you can support them throughout the year.

We have worked hard to ensure that our curriculum is creative, engaging and relevant to our school community.

Our aim is to inspire a love of learning and support every child to become a **curious, confident, resilient and independent learner**, equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to thrive.

REMINDER

Curriculum Information meeting



Curriculum information meetings will be held after school next week at 3.45pm

These meetings will give you information on what your child will be learning this year and ideas of how you can help them at home. They will be held in year groups on the following dates.

Year 2 – Tuesday 22nd September

Year 1-Wednesday 23rd September

The meeting will only be for half an hour after school and staff will look after the pupils who attend the Infant school whilst you are at the meeting.

If you have junior children you will need to make additional arrangements for them, please.

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Our school Priorities for 2026-2027

Each year, our Senior Leadership Team and Governors carefully review a range of information about our school, including pupil outcomes, to celebrate what is working well and identify where we can continue to develop and improve.

At the heart of this process is one important question:

"How can we make our school even better for our children?"

This year, we want to make sure that our whole school community, including our children and families, understands the priorities we will be working towards together. By sharing these with you, we hope you will have a clearer picture of the areas we are focusing on and the ambitions we have for every child at our school.

We will talk more about our school priorities at the upcoming **Curriculum Information Meetings**, where you will also receive a copy. In the meantime, you can see an overview of our priorities for 2026–2027 below.

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ST MARY'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL **OUR SCHOOL PRIORITIES**

Children at the centre of all we do

What we are working on this year and how you can help at home



1. Talk, listen and build vocabulary

At school: Teach children to speak in full sentences, take turns and learn new words in every lesson.

At home: Talk about your child's day. Ask open questions (what, why and how) and use new words together.



2. Daily phonics and reading practice

At school: Use a systematic phonics programme and reading books matched to your child.

At home: Read together for 5–15 minutes each day. Praise progress and practise the sounds sent home.



3. Understanding books and developing writing

At school: Teach strategies such as predicting, summarising and editing writing.

At home: Ask your child to retell a story. Encourage short writing, such as postcards or shopping lists.



4. Cursive handwriting and spelling

At school: Provide short daily practice so handwriting and spelling become automatic.

At home: Try 2–3 minutes of neat letter practice. Praise effort and celebrate small improvements.



5. Consistent lesson routines

At school: Use a shared lesson structure so children always know what to expect.

At home: Reinforce helpful routines at home: listening, finishing tasks and taking turns.



6. Extra help when needed

At school: Use assessment to identify pupils who need small-group or one-to-one support.

At home: If extra sessions are offered, please support attendance and tell the teacher what works well at home.

QUICK WEEKLY CHECKLIST

✓ Read together for 5–15 minutes. ✓ Ask one question about the story. ✓ Praise one thing your child tried hard at.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

If English is not your first language, you need a home visit, or your child needs extra support, please tell us. We can arrange translated materials, a phone call or practical help. We work with parents as partners.

WHY THIS MATTERS: Simple, regular routines at home make a big difference to children's progress.

God Bless you all and have a wonderful weekend

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