

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

YEAR OF PEACE

HEADTEACHER

NEWSLETTER NO. 6

9th October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Autumn has certainly arrived this week, bringing chillier mornings and even some rain on Wednesday! As we move into colder, wetter days, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat and clothing suitable for the weather. Fresh air and time outdoors are good for us all, and the children spend time outside both at playtimes and as part of their learning. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school.

This week, I have been reflecting on what makes St Mary's Infant School such a special place and why it has been a privilege to work here for over 23 years. At the heart of it is our wonderful community: the respect and care that parents, staff and children show one another, our shared faith, and the richness of the many cultures that come together here.

During training with Sancta Familia last week, we explored what respect and care mean to each of us. It reminded me that, while these values are important to us all, we may understand and express them in different ways. I would love us to develop a shared understanding of what respect and care look like at St Mary's, with contributions from parents, staff and children.

We will be exploring this with our staff, School Council and Faith Leaders, and I warmly invite parents and carers to join us on **Tuesday 20th October at 2.45pm** to share your thoughts and ideas.

This is a lovely opportunity to bring our community together and shape a shared vision for how we care for and respect one another. I hope you will be able to join us.

Harvest Festival



We will be celebrating our **Harvest Festival Assembly on Friday 16th October at 9.15am in the school hall.**

Harvest is a special time of year when we give thanks for all the wonderful food we enjoy each day and remember the dedicated farmers and growers whose hard work helps to provide food for us all.

This year, our theme is **"A Harvest of Colour"**. We will be celebrating the beautiful colours found in the fruits, vegetables and other foods that are grown and produced for us.

As part of our Harvest celebration, we would be very grateful for any **donations of tins or dried goods**. These will be taken to our local church to support the **local food bank**, helping families and individuals in our community who may be experiencing difficult times.

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Through our generosity, we will be putting our faith into action and living out the values of **Catholic Social Teaching** by thinking of others, sharing what we have and supporting those in need.

Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity. Together, we can make our Harvest celebration a wonderful expression of gratitude, community and care for others.

St Francis Class Assembly

This week, St Francis Class planned and led our first whole-class assembly of the year. It was a truly special occasion, and it was wonderful to see so many parents and carers joining us for this meaningful act of collective worship.

The children shared a powerful message about the importance of caring for God's creation, inspired by Pope Francis' letter *Laudato Si'*, in which he reminds us of our shared responsibility to care for our common home.

Through their thoughtful reflections, the children encouraged us all to consider how we can play our part in protecting our beautiful planet. As parents and educators, we have an important role in helping our children understand that even the smallest actions can make a big difference. They are the future custodians of God's creation, and by nurturing their sense of responsibility, compassion and care for the world around them, we can inspire them to make a lasting difference.

A huge well done to St Francis Class for such a thoughtful and inspiring assembly, and a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us to share in this special occasion.

Friends of St Mary's

Would you like to help support our school?

The Friends of St Mary's is a welcoming team of parents who organise fundraising events, from our Christmas fair to our Christmas and summer discos.

We would love you to join us for our first meeting on **Thursday 15th October at 9.15am in the Family Learning Centre**. Whether you can lend a hand at an event, share fundraising ideas or offer a little of your time, every contribution is valued.

The money we raise helps enrich the children's learning. Last year, your support enabled us to refurbish our library and provide a new collection of books for the children to enjoy and read for pleasure.

This year, we would like to continue improving our outdoor learning spaces, giving the children more opportunities to take their learning outside.

Please come along, meet the team and share your ideas. We look forward to welcoming you!

I Rock

I Rock have informed me that they still have places available in the children's rock bands if you are interested in your child taking part in these lessons.

They are offering a free taster session for any child that maybe interested in this opportunity.

Currently they have: 6 vocal spaces available

5 drummer spaces available

9 guitar spaces available

This is an amazing opportunity for your child to work as part of a group and to learn an instrument within school hours. Over a very short time we have seen children's confidence and ability grow. We are looking forward to their concert at the end of November. If you would be interested in your child taking part in a taster session- they will be running on Thursday 22nd October, please contact me and I will inform I Rock.

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Year 2 Parents

You will now be beginning to think about the next stage of your child's education as they will be starting Key Stage 2 from September 2027.

The Junior school are having a Year 2 – 3 transition meeting on **Thursday 26th November at 9am.**

Please ensure you attend as you are required to complete application forms in order for your child to get a place in the junior school. You will also receive all relevant information you may need.

Month of the Holy Rosary



October is the month of the Holy Rosary. During this time, we come together as a school to say a decade of the Rosary.

We would like to invite parents to join us, so you are all very welcome to come to the school hall at **3pm every Wednesday.**

Asthma Inhalers

We are in the process of reviewing all the inhalers we have on site. Please can you speak to your child's class teacher to ensure that the inhaler we have in school for your child is in date and provide a new one if necessary.

Reception Welcome Liturgy

We would like to welcome all St Andrew and St George parents to join us in our Reception Welcome Liturgy . This is an opportunity for all our reception parents, children and staff to come together for this time of collective worship. The Reception Welcome Liturgy will be held on **Tuesday 20th October at** in both classrooms at 9.15am.

St Martin Class Liturgy

We would like to welcome all St Martin parents to join their children for their class liturgy. This is an opportunity for parents, children and staff to come together for collective worship.

The liturgy will be in the classroom on Wednesday 21st October and will begin at 9.15am.

Macmillan Coffee Morning.



Many of us have been touched by Cancer in some way, whether it be a close friend, a relative or ourselves.

Macmillan do a wonderful job in supporting families, patients and survivors in their Cancer journey.

Please join us for our Macmillan Coffee Morning on **Friday 23rd October** at 9.15am in the school hall.

If you are able to bake or donate a cake for this day it would be greatly appreciated.

This will also be the day that the children wear pink for **WEAR IT PINK DAY** to support the breast cancer charity.

Please help us to support these important charities as much as we can

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Celebrations this week



Our stars of the week are:

Diana in St Bernadette Class
Cloe in St Therese Class
All St Francis Class in St Francis Class
Madon in St Martin Class



Living and learning in the St Mary's Way are:

Ayden in St Bernadette Class
Elizabeth in St Therese Class
Hadassah- Ava in St Francis Class
Precious in St Martin Class



On the Golden Table this week for having impactable table manners are:

Sanaya in St Andrew Class
Caitlyn in St George Class
Evan in St Bernadette Class
Luke in St Therese Class
Maliha in St Francis Class
Ezinne in St Martin Class

Wednesday word

INVITATION

"The Gospel is an invitation to the fullness of life"

St John Paul II

Dear Lord Jesus

Please help us to remember that every moment of the day you are inviting us into your love, to share in your happiness and peace.

Amen

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation.

God Bless you all and have a wonderful weekend

Dates for your Diary

