



# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

*Philippians 4: 13*

Respect

Compassion

Resilience

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Curriculum

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. The children returned to school with a DT focus week, where they have been evaluating existing products with wheels and axles and planning their designs for their moving car or ferris wheel. Next week they will be making their product and evaluating it. If you have any small yogurt pots, toilet roll tubes or small cardboard boxes eg tissue, cereal boxes etc, please could you bring them into school from Monday.



Last half term we focused on the 'A' in our Arches curriculum which stands for Ambitious. This half term, we will be focusing on the 'R' which stands for Resilience.

## Remembrance Day

Today we held a whole-school Remembrance Day assembly, and observed the 2 minute silence. The children showed how they live out our school values of compassion, resilience and respect. I was extremely proud of them.



## RSHE

Thank you to the parents who attended the RSHE talk on Wednesday evening. The information shared will be added to the school website shortly.

## Open day

The Federation of St Mary's will be opening our doors to all prospective parents on 21st November between 4pm and 6pm. Please spread the word!

## Christmas Cards

The deadline for the children's Christmas card designs is Monday 13th November. Please design these at home.

## Kindness week

Next week is Anti-bullying week which we are re-naming Kindness Week. On Monday we ask that everyone wears odd socks either with their full uniform or PE kit (Reception and Y1) To end the week on Friday we ask that the children wear bright and /or spotty clothes for a cash donation for Children in Need.

## Uniform Policy

Thank you to all families who have supported our uniform and jewellery policy. Staff have been reminding all children of the rules throughout the week. Please note, we have a **no earring** policy and this includes plastic earrings.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday. Best wishes, Mrs Grange

# AWARD WINNERS

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
Nursery	Theo	Jack
RJ	Niamh	Elias
RT	Lilly	Arthur
YIM	Shar	Sebastian
YIB	Luke	Willow
Y2M	Payton	Sophia
Y2G	Alex	Enzo

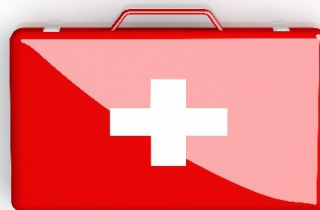


School  
Values  
Award

Odin



**Would you know what to do in  
a First Aid Emergency?**

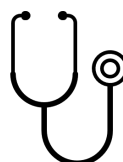


**FREE 1 day Emergency First  
Aid training for volunteers and  
members of community groups and charities**

**Places available:**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Contact us on the details below to book your place!**



**Free places available for people aged 19+ living in the St Helens/Liverpool city region area**

**Contact us to find out more:**

Call: 01744 676671 / 01744 677328 or text 07702 959814

Visit: [www.sthelens.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/adultlearning)

Email: [adultlearning@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:adultlearning@sthelens.gov.uk)

Facebook: **StHelensACL**

Twitter: **STHLearning**





# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools



## Attendance Information for Parents/Carers

**We aim for all pupils to have attendance of at least 96%**

<u><b>Excellent</b></u> <u><b>99%-100%</b></u>	<u><b>Good</b></u> <u><b>97%-98%</b></u>	<u><b>Average</b></u> <u><b>95%-96%</b></u>	<u><b>Cause for Con-</b></u> <u><b>cern</b></u> <u><b>94%-90%</b></u>	<u><b>Of Great Concern</b></u> <u><b>Below 90%</b></u>
<b>Well Done!</b> <b>This is amaz-</b> <b>ing keep it</b> <b>up!</b>  Your child is in school learning and getting their entitlement to an education.	Your child's attendance is good and they will be accessing school to the levels they need to make progress with their learning.	Let's Get this percentage higher!  Your child may well start to fall behind with their learning and ability to build on previous learning.	Your attendance really needs to improve. There will be a significant impact on your child's acquisition of skills and knowledge. Over time this will result in your child underachieving.	Your child will not be working at their full potential, and this will have a significant negative impact on their future in school and beyond.

### Why is attendance important ?

- It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school on time every day.
- Poor attendance will have a negative effect on your child's learning, outcomes and overall mental health and wellbeing.
- We want our children to make the most of their experiences in school and reach their potential.

### What is an example of an authorised absence?

- Your child is too ill to attend school (*proof of illness may be requested*).
- An unavoidable medical appointment in school time (*proof of all appointments will be required*).
- A leave of absence agreed by the headteacher

### What do I do if my child is unwell?

- Please notify the school EACH DAY that your child is ill, by **ringing the school office on 01744 678357 for Infants and 01744 678603 for Juniors. Please leave a voicemail if no-one is available to answer your call.**
- If you have not contacted the school by 9.30am then the school office staff will telephone you. If we are unable to get in touch then the DSL or a member of the school pastoral team or the Education Welfare Officer may visit your home.

### What is an example of an unauthorised absence?

- A family holiday in term time
- Staying off school because a sibling or parent is unwell
- Taking the day off because it is your birthday or you have an event or other day out planned.

## Attendance Matters



### **When attendance becomes a concern**

If your child's attendance falls below 90%, school will send you a letter and monitor their attendance closely. You may also be contacted by school to attend an Attendance Awareness Meeting to discuss the reasons why your child has been absent. Following this, if your child's attendance does not improve then school may make a referral to the Education Welfare Service. You will be notified of this.





## Getting Your Child to School Really Matters



### Did You Know... ?

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...	Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...	or They Would Have Missed Approximately...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

**Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance**

## Let's talk about PUNCTUALITY



### When Punctuality becomes a concern

At St Mary's, we take punctuality seriously and we monitor lateness daily.

If your child is regularly late, you may be contacted to discuss the reasons why and a plan of support may be offered.

### Why is Punctuality important?

- It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school on time every day.
- When children are late for school they miss out on the valuable first part of a lesson which impacts on their understanding of the rest of the lesson.
- Many children feel anxious and embarrassed walking into class late.
- Arriving late also disrupts other children already in the class.
- Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from an early age.

### What to do when your child is late

- Children should arrive at school ready for the gates to open at **8:40 am**.
- Gates are closed at **8:55 am**.
- If your child arrives after this time, they will enter through the main office and you will need to sign them in as late on the data entry system. Your child will receive a late mark on the register.

### Unauthorised late marks

- If your child arrives into school after 9:30 am, they will receive an unauthorised late mark.
- If your child receives 10 or more unauthorised late marks within a 10 week period, school may request a Penalty Notice to be issued by the Local Authority.



@MarysPTFA

The Federation of  
St Mary's PTFA

## 6 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTFA

### FOR THE CHILDREN

BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO  
SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU  
VALUE THEIR EDUCATION.

THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL  
IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S  
SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.



### FOR YOU

**VOLUNTEERING IS A  
REWARDING EXPERIENCE**

**WE PLAN TO HOST MANY  
SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE  
MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY  
EACH OTHERS COMPANY.**



### FOR THE SCHOOL

**HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE  
FUNDS.**

**HAVE A VOICE IN THE  
PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE  
TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.**



### BE CONNECTED

**THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF  
KNOWING WHAT'S  
HAPPENING IN SCHOOL.**

**MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE  
THE SAME COMMON GOALS  
TO HELP IMPROVE THE  
SCHOOL.**



### IT IS FUN!

**WE AIM TO ENJOY  
OURSELVES IN ALL OUR  
ROLES.**

**FROM PLANNING EVENTS  
TO RUNNING A STALL IS  
EXCITING!**



### KEEP THE PTFA GOING!

**AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL  
WE NEED TO KEEP THE  
COMMITTEE GOING.**

**COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY  
TEAM AS MANY HANDS  
MAKE LIGHT WORK!**



*"I work full time and  
help when I am able"*

*"I really enjoy seeing my  
grown up help out at events"*

*"I didn't realise how rewarding  
it would be"*

*"I've made life long friends"*