



# 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,

We have had a gorgeous week in the Infants; Kindness Week was a success! Every day we have thought about how we can help each other and grow to be more like Jesus.

## Odd socks

This week at the Infants we began the week wearing our odd socks and we held an assembly to empathise how great it is to be different.



## Pantomime

On Wednesday the children were treated to a very fitting panto of 'A Christmas Carol', the children had a fantastic time as they watched and understood the concept of the story, of how a character realises his mistakes and learns that it is much better to be kind.



## Children In Need



What a colourful and enjoyable day it has been today. Thank you to all the children and staff who have dressed up, put on some Pudsey ears and raised awareness and money for the amazing 'Children In Need' charity. Thank you all for your generous donations. We will add the total to next weeks newsletter.

## 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! Thank you to all the children who have volunteered to stay and show off our school.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday.

Best wishes,

Mrs Grange



# AWARD WINNERS

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
Nursery	Rebecca	Logan
RJ	Freya	Joseph
RT	Kaiden	Jayden
Y1M	Marley Shea	Leo
Y1B	Henry	Poppy-Robin
Y2M	Aoife	Robin
Y2G	Lily Ann	Evelyn



School  
Values  
Award





## NON UNIFORM DAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023

IN EXCHANGE FOR A COLOURFUL  
DONATION TOWARDS OUR COLOUR  
HAMPER RAFFLE:

NURSERY = RED  
RECEPTION = ORANGE  
YEAR 1 = YELLOW  
YEAR 2 = GREEN  
YEAR 3 = BLUE  
YEAR 4 = PINK/PURPLE  
YEAR 5 = BLACK/WHITE  
YEAR 6 = SILVER/GOLD

IDEAS INCLUDE - DRINKS, SWEETS, CHOCOLATES, HAIR  
ACCESSORIES, CANDLES, TOILETRIES, BOOKS, CRAFTS....  
OR WHY NOT BE REALLY CREATIVE & SURPRISE US?!  
ITEMS MUST BE CLEAN, UNOPENED & UNUSED



## NO MORE LOST ITEMS!

Our nametags are perfect to label  
all of your child's possessions.  
From clothing to shoes, stationery,  
toys - everything is identified!



STAYS ON CLOTHES  
& SHOES



QUEEN'S AWARD  
WINNER



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# 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>Excellent</u> <u>99%-100%</u>	<u>Good</u> <u>97%-98%</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>95%-96%</u>	<u>Cause for Con-</u> <u>cern</u> <u>94%-90%</u>	<u>Of Great Concern</u> <u>Below 90%</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.