



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,

As we enter the Advent season, we will be focusing on our school values of respect, compassion and resilience. Our morning prayer and liturgy opportunities will encourage our whole school to live out our values throughout the day.

Christmas

This week Christmas has arrived in the Infants and excitement is stirring! Each class have designed their own 'Christmassy doors' and in some classes, elves are on surveillance! There is a competition for the most imaginative door so watch this space!



Curriculum

We have completed the science focus of the Arches curriculum. Next week we move onto Spanish and there are some surprises in store for the children!

Nativity

Letters have been emailed out today for the arrangements of the EYFS and the KS1 nativity. If you have any nativity costumes at home that you no longer want or use, please donate them to school. We would greatly appreciate them.

Events in School next week

Just a reminder that Year 2 parents are invited to into school on Wednesday and Thursday at 2.45pm On Wednesday it is Come in and Count which is an opportunity for you to learn strategies to help your child with maths at home as you will be taking part in a live lesson. On Thursday, year 2 will be showcasing the dance skills that they have developed in PE by performing dances.

On Friday at 9.05am, Y1B are leading the collective worship about Waiting. This will be held in the hall and everyone is welcome.

Mrs Johnson

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Johnson as she leaves the Federation for a promotion. Mrs Johnson has worked across the Federation and has supported countless children and staff, always with a smile and kindness. We will miss her enormously and wish her all the best as she starts her new adventure.

GOOD LUCK!

Thank you

Thank you for your support and generous donations for today's non-uniform day. Each of your donations will be made into a colour hamper by the PTFA with all the proceeds benefitting the children in school.

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

AWARD WINNERS

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
Nursery	Dexter	Arlo
RJ	Elizabeth	Phoebe
RT	Theo	Beau
YIM	Patrick	Odin
YIB	Harper	Michael
Y2M	Matteo	Joe
Y2G	Max	Carter



School
Values
Award

Izzy

Congratulations!



St Mary's PTFA presents our

Candy Cane Trail

Find the letters to spell the Christmassy word.
This Earlestown based trail is free to complete & activity sheets
will be sent home from school.

Return your completed entry form to the school office with 50p
to receive a gift & entry to our special prize draw to win a
range of great prizes, including a £50 Smyths Toys Voucher!

A huge thank you to the businesses of Earlestown who have
kindly donated prizes & displayed letters!

Runs from 24th November 2023 - 18th December 2023



Christmas at St Mary's

Monday 11th December	<p>Infant Movie Night</p> <p>Junior Bingo</p> <p>£3 per child</p>	<p>Infants – 3.15-4.45</p> <p>Juniors – 3.30-5.00</p>
Tuesday 12th December	EYFS Christmas Nativity	Parents and carers invited
Wednesday 13th December	KS1 Christmas Nativity	Parents and carers invited
Thursday 14th December	Y3 Christmas assembly	<p>Parents and carers invited</p> <p>9.30am and 2.30pm</p>
Monday 18th December	<p>Y3/4 Christmas Party</p> <p>Children are invited to wear party clothes</p>	
Tuesday 19th December	<p>Infant Christmas Dinner Day – wear a Christmas jumper</p> <p>Y5/6 Christmas Party</p> <p>Children are invited to wear party clothes</p> <p>Carols round the tree</p>	Parents and carers invited
Wednesday 20th December	<p>EYFS Christmas party</p> <p>Children are invited to wear party clothes</p> <p>KS1 Service in church</p> <p>Junior Christmas Dinner Day</p> <p>wear a Christmas jumper</p>	Parents and carers invited
Thursday 21st December	<p>KS1 Christmas party</p> <p>Children are invited to wear party clothes</p> <p>Upper KS2 Mass – 9.15</p> <p>Lower KS2 Mass – 10.00</p>	Parents and carers invited



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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>
<p>Well Done! This is amaz- ing keep it up!</p> <p>Your child is in school learning and getting their entitlement to an education.</p>	<p>Your child's attendance is good and they will be accessing school to the levels they need to make progress with their learning.</p>	<p>Let's Get this percent-age higher!</p> <p>Your child may well start to fall behind with their learning and ability to build on previous learning.</p>	<p>Your attendance real-ly needs to improve. There will be a sig-nificant impact on your child's acqui-sition of skills and knowledge. Over time this will result in your child undera-chieving.</p>	<p>Your child will not be working at their full potential, and this will have a significant neg-ative impact on their future in school and beyond.</p>

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 contact-ed 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.