



St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0DG

Tel: 01502 565384 Email: office@stmarysrcps.org www.facebook.com/stmarysrcps

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Helen Armstrong

Acting Head of School: Mrs Abi Goddard

Chair of Liaison for Governors: Beryl Edwards

Our Mission Statement

As God's family we are STARS within a loving and thriving community, celebrating our diversity. We ignite lifelong learning where everyone becomes a positive influence on our world.

Our Gospel Values

Every person is a valued member of our community, invited to follow Christ's call to a life of **love**, **hope** and **forgiveness**. We **respect** and support each other to live in **peace**. We embrace challenges and develop the **courage** to create a better world for us all.

Harvest Donations

We received a letter of thanks from the Lowestoft foodbank which they asked for us to share with all of you. Many thanks for your generous donations.

To everyone at St Mary's

Just want to say a massive thank you for your harvest donations

A total of 136.3 KG

That weight of food will feed 3 meals for 3 days for either 4-5 families experiencing crisis or around 20 single people.

That will make a big difference to those people.

Please pass on our thanks to all involved.

Many thanks
Sam Porter

Mass Dates for Autumn 2

02/11/23

All Souls Day Mass – Key Stage 2 – with Fr Padraig in school at 9am

22/11/23

Liturgy or Mass (TBC) with Fr Padraig - Key Stage 1 – in school at 9am

14/12/23

Advent Mass – whole school – with Fr Padraig – in school at 9am



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Judaism Day

We were delighted to welcome in Marcia and Tom Parker as part of Judaism Day in RE where the children were engaged in learning activities around Shabbat and how it is celebrated.



Cafod Fundraising

Miss Crowe and Mr Cross had an article in the Diocesan newspaper this month in support of their fundraising efforts for the marathon that they are running in aid of Cafod. They have reached their first milestone of £1,000 which is superb but they need your help to get to the next milestone.

You can read the article here

<https://www.rcdea.org.uk/east-anglia-school-staff-to-run-marathon-for-cafod/>

You can support them [Chelsea Crowe is fundraising for The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development \(CAFOD\) \(justgiving.com\)](#) or scan the QR code below.



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Basketball Festival

A huge well done to the representatives from Year 4 who attended the Basketball festival at EPA. The children represented St Mary's amazingly, having fabulous manners and behaviour. Well done.



Reading Challenge



Congratulations to all those children who successfully completed the reading challenge and to the parents and families who supported this at home.



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Parents Evenings

Thank you to all the parents who came along to the parent consultations. If you could not make it then please call the office or see the class teacher to make an appointment after school.

Volunteers

We are really pleased to welcome a growing team of volunteers into the school to support with reading and small groups. Reading is crucial to children's vocabulary and language development and aids communication and understanding of the world. It opens children's imagination to new possibilities and immersive experiences. If you have any free time and would like to help support the school by listening to readers, please contact the school office. We will support you in how to listen and engage with readers and organise DBS checks.

Staffing

We wish Mrs Leigh a fond farewell as she begins her maternity leave after half term. We look forward to hearing about the new baby when they arrive in December. Mrs Allard has a different half term to us so will be moving back to Suffolk during her half term and joining us on Monday 6th November. Mrs Hayward will be teaching the children in the first week after half term.

Remembrance Day

To mark Remembrance Day, we will be holding our annual poppy sales. After half term, children will be able to purchase a range of remembrance items including poppies, bands and wrist bands. These will be on sale throughout break time and parents may purchase items via the Main Office.



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Outdoor Shoes

Over the Autumn and Winter months, play is often restricted to the hard outdoor surfaces around the school. However, we want the children to get as much fresh air and exercise as possible in as big a space as is usable. Therefore, when the field area isn't wet and muddy, children may bring in a pair of shoes to change into for playtimes. These should be brought in a bag and hung on their coat peg. Children with no change of shoes will only be allowed on the hard surface areas outside (playground).

PTA Disbanded

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the PTA for all their hard work and effort over the years in supporting the school and providing exciting and engaging opportunities for the children. We recognise the huge commitment this has taken and dearly hope the members will continue to play an active part in the life of the school.

Art Exhibit

On Wednesday 1st November, we are opening the classrooms from 3:30pm to 4pm to share and celebrate the artwork produced by the children as part of their Arts day which took place this week. Any parent wishing to purchase their child's art can make a voluntary donation.

Children In Need

Children in Need takes place on 17th November 2023 and the school will be having a non-uniform day to show our support.

Uniform Reminder

A reminder that children should come to school wearing the correct uniform. Uniform requirements can be found on the school website. Thank you for your support with this.



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Uniform Bank

Please see the information below about help with school uniform. Apparently, a lot of the uniform is brand new.



Attendance and gate times

Now that we are all back in the routine of term, I would like to remind everyone that the school gates are open from 8:35-8:45am. Children should be in class and ready to learn by 8:45am and the gates will be locked at 8:50am. Any entry or exit to the school site after this time is via the front office.

Reception Open Mornings For Prospective New Pupils September 2024

Every Thursday at 11am Reception Open Morning for prospective new pupils. We invite families to drop in if you would like to visit the school before making applications for September 2024.

Christmas Jumper Collection

If anyone has any Christmas jumpers loitering in the cupboards that they no longer need and would be happy to donate to the school, we will be collecting these throughout the term. On the 30th November we will then hold a sale in school where these can be purchased for between £1 - £2.



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CALENDAR DATES for 2023 - 2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

The following dates and events are subject to change if necessary. Please refer to the most up to date newsletters for termly dates.

Month	Activity	Information
Monday 23rd	OCTOBER HALF TERM	Pupils return 30th October
November		
1st	Art Exhibition	Starts at 3:30- 4:00 pm - Parents/Carers welcome to view the children's artwork and purchase their child's artwork. Refreshments will be available in the school hall.
2nd	Whole School Mass (Hall)	Starts at 9am - All welcome
11th	Remembrance Day	Before 11th children will create class wreaths to be displayed at school.
13th - 17th	National Anti Bullying	Daily activities in class. Odd socks day 13th November.
14th	Open evening for new YR pupils	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm
17th	Children in Need	Fun activities happening in school. Non-uniform for a donation to Children in Need charity.
23rd	2nd round Flu Vaccination	Any children that missed the first round and wanted to have the vaccine



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30th	Christmas Jumper Sale Shop	Pre loved Christmas jumpers available to buy after school in the school hall.
December		
6th	Whole School Panto	At school
7th	Christmas Movie Night	More information to follow
8th	Christmas Jumper Day	Whole school Non-Uniform Day £1 donation
11th and 12th	Y1/Y2 Nativity	More into to come out to parents nearer the time
12th	EYFS Panto	At Seagull Theatre
13th	Christmas Dinner	Will be available to order on Select in Autumn Term 2
13th and 14th	Reception Class Christmas Performance	Parents may choose either slot. More info to come.
14th	Whole School Advent Mass	Starts at 9am- All welcome
18th and 19th	Y3/Y4 Nativity	More info to come out to parents nearer the time.
20th	Merit Assembly for parents and children	By invitation only
20th	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	INSET Day 3rd January Pupils return 4th January



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