



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.

Preparation for First Holy Communion

Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above) are due to begin - please collect your application form directly from Fr Pádraig at the end of whichever Mass you attend.

Parents and children beginning FHC preparation will meet for the first time at 3pm on Saturday 30th September in the Stella Maris Hall.

Harvest Mass - Thursday 5th October

Our next Mass is to celebrate Harvest at 9am on Thursday 5th October. You are all welcome to come along and join us. The children have been learning some new hymns. Please can each child bring a donation for the food bank.

THE MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS ARE:

- RICE PUDDING
- CUSTARD
- UHT MILK
- PASTA
- TINNED FRUIT
- PASTA
- BAKED BEANS
- TINNED MEAT
- CHOCOLATE BARS
- BISCUITS





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Welcome to Year 6

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Mrs Allard to our teaching team to cover the maternity leave of Mrs Leigh. I was absolutely blown away by the Year 6 children who were part of the interview process. They led a pupil interview panel and participated in a writing session which focused on stretch and challenge. Their questioning and feedback was exploratory and mature - they are a real credit to the school. We will keep Year 6 parents informed about arrangements going forwards.

Reading Volunteers

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.

COVID

We have been receiving a number of phone calls regarding COVID and I would like to clarify our attendance procedures. The Suffolk attendance team have said that if a child tests positive for COVID they can still attend school as long as they feel well enough to do so.

Chicken Pox

It is the time of year again for chicken pox to do the rounds. If your child develops chicken pox, you should keep them off school or nursery until all their spots have crusted over. This will help stop chickenpox being spread. Chickenpox is infectious from 1 to 2 days before the rash starts.



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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.

Uniform Bank

Please see the information below about help with school uniform. Apparently, a lot of the uniform is brand new. Also please don't forget to ask at the school office as we have a lot of second hand uniform to share.



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.



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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.

New to You Car Boot

This Saturday 23rd September we are holding a car boot sale at St Marys. We currently have some craft stalls booked in along with a bakery. If anyone would like a pitch at the cost of £10, please contact the school office. Event times are 10am until 1pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Lucky 100 and the London Marathon

We are thrilled to announce that 2 of our staff team will be running the London Marathon in April 2024 to raise money for CAFOD. In order to support them in their endeavours, we are holding a monthly Lucky 100 game. The numbers 1-100 can be bought for £1 a number. Any numbers purchased will then be entered into the raffle which is drawn at the end of each month. 50% of the funds raised will go towards CAFOD with the remaining 50% being split as prize money between the first 2 numbers drawn out. Please pop into the office to purchase your number if you would like to take part. First draw on Friday 29th September.

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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Upcoming Events:

New to You Car Boot - Saturday 23rd September 10am - 2pm

SEND Parents Evening - 25th September

European Languages Day - 26th September

Harvest Mass - 5th October at 9am - all welcome

Curriculum Parents Evening - 9th and 10th October

Wednesday 18th October - Autumn Disco

- KS1 3:15pm - 4:15pm
- KS2 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Judaism Day - Thursday 19th October

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
September		
25th	SEN Parents Evening	Bookings via Wisepay to invited parents
23rd	New To You Sale	Car boot stalls and craft stalls 10am - 2pm Contact school to book a table
27th	1 of 2 days Flu vaccinations YR-Y6	More information to come



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October		
3rd	Individual and siblings photos	All children to come to school dressed in formal uniform (even if PE day)
5th	Harvest Mass	Starts at 9am - All welcome Children to bring in food for the school based food bank for our St Mary's Community
9th +10th	Parents Evening (booking online for face to face appointments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share targets with parents and expectations - learning - behaviour - independence - Thrive
10th	World Mental Health Day	Activities for children on how to look after our mental health
18th	Autumn Discos	KS1 - 3:30pm - 4:30pm KS2 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm
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
18th	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



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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
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
TBC	Y3/Y4 Nativity	Date and Time to be confirmed
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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