



## St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School

Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR33 0DG

Tel: 01502 565384 Email: [office@stmarysrcps.org](mailto:office@stmarysrcps.org) [www.facebook.com/stmarysrcps](http://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

Welcome back to all of our St Mary's community; we hope you have all had an amazing and restful summer. The start of the Autumn term has certainly brought with it sunshine and very warm temperatures. It is wonderful to have the children back and to see them settled and engaged in their learning and we look forward to the year ahead.

### Mass at the start of the School Year

You are all welcome to join our Mass on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the school hall at 9am.



### Heritage Open Day – St Nicholas Church



St Nicholas RC Church is open from 9am to 3pm on Saturday 9th September as part of the Heritage open days. Come and explore this beautiful Church and learn about Claud Castleton VC and the Art Nouveau stained glass windows.

The church is 125 years old this year and was built as a Congregational Church, then in 1972 joined with the Presbyterians and became a United Reformed Church. In 1995 it was bought with donations from the Catholic parishioners of Our Lady Star of the Sea.

There will be a small exhibition about the courageous Claud Castleton who received the VC medal in World War 1. There will also be an exhibition about the beautiful Art Nouveau Stained Glass Windows and how stained glass is made.





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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.

### 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.

### 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

On 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.



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### **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.

### **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.

### **Reminders**

We ask that children do not bring toys from home into school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Whole School Mass 13th September at 9am - all welcome

New to You Car Boot - Saturday 23rd September 10am - 1pm

European Languages Day - 26th September

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

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



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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
<b>September</b>		
13th	Whole School Mass (Hall)	Starts at 9am - All welcome
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
<b>October</b>		
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"><li>- Share targets with parents and expectations</li><li>- learning</li><li>- behaviour</li><li>- independence</li><li>- Thrive</li></ul>
10th	World Mental Health Day	Activities for children on how to look after our mental health
18th	Autumn Discos	<b>KS1</b> - 3:30pm - 4:30pm <b>KS2</b> 4:45 pm - 6:00 pm
<b>Monday 23rd</b>	<b>OCTOBER HALF TERM</b>	<b>Pupils return 30th October</b>



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<b>November</b>		
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
30th	Christmas Jumper Sale Shop	Pre loved Christmas jumpers available to buy after school in the school hall.
<b>December</b>		
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



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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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