



5th September 2025

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you.

Luke 14:13

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school! It has been wonderful to see everyone again and I have been really impressed at how well the children have settled into their new classes. I am sure that they have all had a great week - there have been lots of smiling faces in school!

May I once again offer a very special welcome to all of the new children in our school and their parents and carers. Welcome to the St Marie's school family!

School Uniform

It has been great to see all of the children looking smart in full school uniform. Thank you for this. Please do ensure that all uniform is labelled (especially jumpers which have a habit of getting lost!) and that children bring a coat to school, even if the weather is sunny - just in case. A polite reminder that school shoes must be worn for school and not black trainers (except in Nursery/Reception where black trainers are permitted).

Please make sure that your child has their full PE kit in school. PE consists of white T-shirt and black shorts. Pumps must be worn inside and trainers are allowed for outside only. Plain black jogging bottoms or plain black leggings can be worn for outside lessons.

Reading in School

Home Readers (Y1-Y6)

All of the children will have their new reading books sent home next week if not already. The children will read their home reading book at least once a week in school and if it is finished and the children are ready to move on, their reading book will be changed- once a week. It is important that the children can read the book with confidence and discuss the events well. If your child has completed their book once, read it again and again if necessary. It is more effective to read a few pages and have a good discussion about the book each night rather than reading straight through every night. Please do write in the reading record when you have read with your child each evening.

We actively encourage all of our children to read a range of books so of course, if your child has read their reading book a number of times, then encourage them to read other books. These can be recorded in the reading record too should you wish.

Guided Reading

As well as reading 'home readers' in school all of the children will be taking part in daily phonics and/or guided reading sessions whereby the teacher explicitly teaches the skills of reading to the children. Very soon, the children will be bringing home a school library book to enjoy as well.

Support and Help

It is really important to us at school to know that if any parents/families are struggling for whatever reason then we are here to help as much as we can. Whilst our family support worker is off work with long term

sickness, please do speak to the class teachers or directly to myself if you need any support in any way. Sometimes we can direct you to other professionals for support or we may be able to help ourselves. We are here to help.

After school Enrichment clubs (Y1-Y6)

Letters will go out next week for all after school clubs which will start the week beginning Monday 15th September. There will be a wide range of after school clubs available for children and we will ensure that as many children as possible get to attend a club.

Year 5 Swimming

The Year 5 children will be starting their swimming lessons soon. As with last year, swimming will take place every day for two weeks. A letter with more details has been sent to Year 5 parents on parent hub.

Year Group Curriculum Booklets

Each teacher will soon be sending home a curriculum information booklet /sheet which sets out the topics your child will be covering this term and other additional information relating to your child's class.

School Meals/Nursery Fees

Just a reminder that all dinner money & nursery fees are expected to be paid on a Monday morning and we have been advised that the cost of the dinner is now £13.50 per week – thank you.

Updated contact forms

Next week all children will be coming home with their student form which will show details held on our new computer system for your child and contacts. It is vitally important that you check these details carefully, make amendments where necessary, sign and return back by 17th September. As we move forward we will be changing from our ParentHub App to the Arbor app (details will be given out nearer the time) however we need to ensure all contact details and at least one parental email address is on the system – any questions please contact Mrs Barber in the office – thank you.

Welcome Mass

We are hoping to have our 'Welcome Mass' in school with Fr Foley at 2pm on Thursday 11th September in the school hall. Children from Year 2 upwards will join us but all parents are welcome. If this date changes then we will let you know.

Sacramental Programme

We are hoping to be able to send out information next week to Year 3 parents (and others who may be interested) whose children are of the Roman Catholic faith regarding the Sacramental Programme this year.

School Improvements over the holidays

Over the holidays we have had our Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms decorated and all of the other rooms upstairs. The After 3's space has had new carpets and blinds and new carpets in one of the corridors. We also have new Key Stage 2 (juniors) playground gym equipment which the children have been receiving instructions on how to use them in a safe way. There has also been various grounds work taking place.

Attendance Matters

As a school, we have always had really good attendance compared to other schools in the local authority. Good attendance is everyone's responsibility and we must maintain this and continue to improve. There is currently a renewed drive from the Department of Education and schools must be seen to promote excellent attendance. Whilst we appreciate there are times that children cannot come into school and individual children that we know about have medical conditions that impact on their health, we still need to do everything as a school to promote and celebrate excellent attendance.

Class attendances for this week.

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	98.3%
Year One	100%
Year Two	93.7%
Year Three	92.7%
Year Four	96.9%
Year Five	96.9%
Year Six	98.8%

Well done to Year 1 for having the best attendance this week!

The class with the best attendance will receive an extra playtime each week.

Celebration Assembly

Our weekly celebration assemblies will take place at **2.30pm** on a Friday afternoon starting next week. All parents are welcome to attend, especially if your child has been awarded a certificate. If your child has been awarded a certificate, you will be sent a message the day before to invite you to the assembly, should you wish/be able to attend.

A Final Note

It has been a wonderful first few days with everyone back together. All of the children look like they have really grown over the holidays! I do hope our new Nursery and Reception children have had a lovely couple of days in school - every time I've visited them, they've had big smiles upon their faces!

It's been a great start to the new school year.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mr McRae
Head Teacher



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England