



ST MARY'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and want to wish you all the very best for 2023. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and they have settled back in very well. This letter is just to welcome you back for this half term and to inform you of some important dates for your diaries, provide importantly updates and gentle reminders of the procedures/systems in school, so that together we keep your child safe and happy with the start of a new year!

#### Dates for your Diary:

#### Book and Breakfast:

- Thursday 12th January- **Year 2** Book and Breakfast 8:30-8:45 am
- Thursday 19th January- **Reception** Book and Breakfast/Focus Table on dental hygiene 8:30-8:45 am
- Thursday 26th January- **Year 1** Book and Breakfast 8:30-8:45 am
- Thursday 2nd February- **Year 2** Book and Breakfast 8:30-8:45 am
- Thursday 9th February- **Reception** Book and Breakfast/ Stay and Pray 8:30-8:45 am
- Thursday 16th February- **Year 2** Book and Breakfast 8:30-8:45 am

#### Nursery Stay and Play:

- Thursday 12th January- Nursery 'Stay and Play' 8:30-9:00 am
- Thursday 19th January- Nursery 'Stay and Play' /Focus Table on dental hygiene 8:30-9:00 am
- Thursday 26th January- Nursery 'Stay and Play' 8:30-9:00 am
- Thursday 2nd February- Nursery 'Stay and Play' 8:30-9:00 am
- Thursday 9th February- Nursery 'Stay and Play' / Stay and Pray 8:30-9:00 am
- Thursday 16th February- Nursery 'Stay and Play' 8:30-9:00 am

#### Events Happening in School:

- **Monday 23rd January- Attendance Focus Period Week- All week.** A child in each class will be rewarded for 100% attendance. An overall prize will be awarded to a lucky draw winner.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> February – National Number Day. Children can come to school dressed as something mathematical for a small donation (suggested donation of £1)
- 6th February- 10th February- Children's Mental Health Week
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 'Safer Internet Day'
- 10th February- Children are invited to 'Dress to Express' for Children's Mental Health Week. You can wear your favourite colour or a unique outfit to express how you're feeling. Donate to Place2Be.



- 27th January – 9:00am Year 3 Class Liturgy for parents.
- 17th February – 9:00am Year 5 Class Liturgy for parents.
- 17<sup>th</sup> February – children break up for the half term holiday at 3:15pm.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ANNUAL HOLIDAY - The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006**

Amendments to the 2006 Regulations make clear that head teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school if the leave is granted. Please do not book your holiday during term time.

NPCAT is monitoring the children's attendance alongside our school staff. Please ensure that your child is in school every day and punctual. Please note: School gates close at 9:00am to enable a swift start to learning. If for any reason your child is not in school, please telephone the school office each morning of absence to inform them of the reason why.

### **Keeping safe online:**

Please be aware of the APPs your children are accessing on iPads or mobile phones. In school, during lessons and in particular on Safer Internet Day, which will be held on February 7th, the children are constantly made aware of the importance of online safety. Together we can make sure your child is aware of all the dangers regarding online activity in this ever-changing world of technology.

### **Communication matters to us.**

We want to keep in touch with you as much as possible so please make sure that we have up to date data on our systems. This includes: phone numbers, addresses, email addresses & emergency contacts. We use two main APPs in school, these are ARBOR and ParentPay. These are our main methods of communication— we use these for all aspects of school life: from newsletters to trip permissions. It is therefore vital that you are signed up to these APPs and regularly check them. If you are unsure of how to use these APPs or are having any difficulties setting them up, please do not hesitate to contact school and we will support you.

Classes will post events and activities of school life on Facebook and Twitter so look out for these. If you would like a hard copy of a letter, please just inform the school office and it can be sent home with your child. Please check our school website <https://stmarys.npcat.org.uk/> for information and events that are happening in school.

### **School Lunches:**

Our delicious school lunches, which are freshly prepared on site each day, are available for the children. The menus run on a 3-weekly cycle. The children can see the menus on display around school and for your information, they are shared by Miss Davies on our social media channels.

School meals are a great choice, but if you do make a packed lunch for your child then please could you ensure that there are no:

- Nuts (to safeguard those with allergies)
- Fizzy drinks
- Sweets and/or chocolate bars

Please note that: Cakes and biscuits are allowed, but only 1 of these per day.





As always, please keep in your prayers those in our school community and parish who are facing sadness, illness and/or difficulties at this time.

May your 2023 be healthy, happy and all that you wish for.

Best wishes,  
Executive Headteacher,  
Mrs McClurey

*A. McClurey*

