



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 19th July

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we end another school year, we have been reflecting on what an exceptional school year we have had at St Mary's Primary School. There is so much to celebrate and we are incredibly proud of our St. Mary's Family. Below we have listed some of the highlights from this year:

- **We were graded 'OUTSTANDING' by OFSTED.** St Mary's was identified as a **beacon of aspiration in the community**. Where, **The school's ethos of love underpins everything it does**. We are delighted that Ofsted has recognised the exceptional work at St Mary's and particularly that **pupils are taught in a loving and caring atmosphere and show these values of love and consideration to others. Pupils have consistently positive attitudes to their learning. They are polite and respectful learners.**
- **Our Year 6 children went to Paris!** The Year 6 children fundraised tirelessly throughout the year for the trip. Whilst in Paris the children spent time immersed in French history and culture; sampled the world famous cuisine of the French Capital- *la nourriture était délicieuse*; and even visited the "happiest place on earth: Disneyland® Paris." What an amazing experience!!
- **Stories from the River Tees.** We are incredibly proud of our children's involvement in the "People Powered: Stories from the River Tees" exhibition in partnership with Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA) and the National Portrait Gallery. St Mary's was one of the first schools to be involved in the project outside of London and our efforts were acknowledged when the people of Middlesbrough were awarded the North East Culture Heritage Award!
- **Rights Respecting Silver Award.** This is granted to schools that make good progress towards embedding the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into their ethos and curriculum. Well done to our Rights Respecting Rangers!
- **Shine Festival.** Our school choir participated in the Shine Festival at Middlesbrough Town Hall. The children performed on a huge stage, in front of a large audience made up of lots of other schools and parents. A panel of professional musicians gave our singers fantastic feedback and encouraged the children to continue to showcase their singing in the community!
- **Chess in Schools.** Throughout the year our children in Key Stage 2 have had the opportunity to become 'chess masters' under the expert tuition of external chess experts, who have taught them the rules of the game and developed their critical thinking and problem solving. Their journey into learning to play chess culminated in a chess tournament, where they played against other schools from the local area.
- **Football Fever.** Even though we were all disappointed on Sunday, we have had a fantastic time celebrating the achievements of the England Team throughout the EUROs tournament. It has been an excellent opportunity for us to come together as a school community and talk about British Values and our school values and we have learnt some valuable life lessons - namely how to cope with disappointment!
- **Fun.** At St Mary's fun runs through everything we do! It is the beating heart of our school and we passionately want all of our children to have a memorable time with us and look back on

their days fondly. This year we have hosted: Muddy Madness, Inflatables, Movie Nights, Discos, Party Days, Football Tournaments, Non-uniform days, the list goes on

- **NPCAT Gold PE Mark** . St Mary's was awarded this because there is a clear vision, embedded throughout school, that recognises the value and impact of high quality PE, school sport and physical activity (PESSPA) which pupils understand and have contributed to.
- **Lead School for CUSP**. At St Mary's we have the best staff, who have a deep understanding of how the curriculum builds over time. This has been formally recognised by the CUSP who have asked us to be a Lead School, providing support and CPD to other schools: locally, nationally and internationally.
- **CLUBS**. An impressive 63% of children have accessed an after school club this year, which just goes to show what a popular and varied offer we have here! We highly value our clubs offer as we want to introduce our children to a wide breadth of opportunities, to enable them to make informed choices about their futures and uncover and nurture their God-given talents.
- **33 experiences**. As a school we have continued to go beyond the expected, so that our children have access to a wide, rich set of experiences to develop their talents and interests. We call these our 33 experiences of St Mary's and by participating in these we ensure all children experience what we believe every child should experience, before their 12th birthday, allowing every child to thrive.
- **Boro Cereal**. Our Year 5 children took part in this exciting initiative, designed to equip and empower our children to engage with and improve their local culture, making a big difference in Middlesbrough.
- **Building Our Futures Programme**. Our children in Year 4 worked with local employers to explore the world of work and gain vital skills to increase their employability.

We are extremely proud of everything that we have been able to achieve at St Mary's, and with your help, as always, we look forward to the school continuing on its strong upward trajectory. We pledge to continue to help all our pupils fulfil their potential and continue to drive forward standards and ensure the best for our pupils every day.

Please take the time to complete the short [questionnaire](#) - we truly value your feedback.

Year 6, have been an amazing group and we are proud of their achievements and we know that we are sending them on to their new secondary schools having had some wonderful, memorable learning experiences, with strong basic skills. We value many things here at St Mary's but not all are measurable – sporting, music, friendship, humour, kindness, generosity to name but a few. We hope they will always remember they are unique, valued and determined to do their best – we know they will all go on to great things!

Fiat Mihi - Let it be with me

Executive Headteacher: Mrs A McClurey | Head of School: Mr N Bennett
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Tennyson Avenue, Grangetown, Middlesbrough, TS6 7AD
Tel: 01642 455309 | Email: enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk | Website: stmarys.npcat.org.uk

Part of the Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust



Below we have detailed some reminders for September:

Uniform:

We are very proud of the appearance of our children and feel this reflects our high standards and expectations. Therefore, we expect all children to be in full school uniform. The uniform requirements are listed below:

Nursery and Reception

- Navy Jogging bottoms
- Navy sweatshirt
- Navy or white t-shirt

Year 1 – Year 6

- Black school shoes
- Grey trousers or skirt or tartan pinafore/skirt – tartan is optional
- White blouse or shirt
- Blue tie
- Grey jumper or cardigan
- Blazer – optional

PE Kit

Year 1 – Year 6

- Indoor
- PE t-shirt in house colour
- Black shorts
- Black plimsolls
- Outdoor
- Navy sweatshirt
- Navy jogging bottoms

Uniforms can be purchased from 'Lollipops' see website link and address below

<https://lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk/shop/>

Lollipops
20 Norfolk Place
Berwick Hills
Middlesbrough
TS3 7PA

Jewellery:

Schools have a duty of care to ensure students are able to participate actively without unnecessarily endangering themselves or those working around them. On health and safety grounds we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. In line with guidance from The Association for Physical Education (afPE) children are required to remove watches during PE lessons to prevent

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them from causing injury. We will not have contact sports in PE until October 1st, at which point all earring must be removed.

We advise parents who wish their children to have their ears pierced to do so at the beginning of the school summer holidays. No earrings will be allowed in school from October 1st 2024. Any children who have earrings or any jewellery, will require a risk assessment in school.

Water bottles:

From September we would ask that all children come to school with a full water bottle each day - school will no longer be providing water bottles for the children. The water bottle will need to be taken home, cleaned and refilled each day and then returned to school the following day. Please note: juice or squash is not permitted.

Hair:

All hairstyles should be in keeping with our smart school uniform: parents should be aware that we do not permit extremes of fashion in hairstyles. Close shaved heads and patterns cut into hair or eyebrows are not acceptable. Hair that is longer than shoulder length should always be tied back; hair bands, ribbons/bows or ornaments should be simple; make up and nail varnish should not be worn to school.

Footwear:

- Suitable, plain and unbranded black footwear should be worn.
- Platform soles or high heels are not permitted.

Autumn Term:

The children return to school on Tuesday 3rd September. Mrs Jones and class teachers are available each day to have a quick chat. If you require a longer chat or would rather speak in private please contact the school office to make an appointment to see them. You can contact the office either in person, by email (enquiries@stmarys.npcat.org.uk) or telephone (01642 455309). Please do not contact the school via Facebook as we will not respond to queries raised this way.

All the staff join us in wishing you a magical summer filled with rest and laughter.

Best wishes

A McClurey & N Bennett

Mrs McClurey and Mr Bennett

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