



St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy Newsletter– December 2023

Email: office@smp.nelcmail.co.uk Website: saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carers

At this solemn time in which we celebrate the birth of our Loving Lord, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

Christmas is a time where society directs us to the figure of Santa and thoughts of reindeers and snow. Yet the true meaning is that Our Blessed Lady welcomed the Son of God into her life and gave birth to the Saviour of the world – the most precious acceptance to have permeated human history.

Our Lady remains at the heart of everything we say and do here at St Mary's and we entrust everything into her loving care. As a staff here at school, we would like to wish every family a peaceful time over the Christmas season as well as a happy and prosperous New Year.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 3rd January
Back to School

Wednesday 17th January
Kurling Competition

Friday 26th January
Year 5 & 6 Cheerleading Competition

Friday 19th January
School Closes - Teachers Training Day

Friday 9th February
School Closes for Half Term

Monday 19th February
School Open

Thursday 28th March
School Closes

Friday 12th April
School Opens



Christmas Fayre

A huge thank you to all our Parents and Carers for the amazing turn out for our School Christmas fayre. We managed to raise an amazing total of **£1205.91** through various stalls and the fabulous items the children made throughout enterprise week.

Well done to everyone who was involved, children and also our parents and carers for supporting St Mary's. The money will be spent on new books for our school library for all the children to enjoy.





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School Forms

A reminder to all parents and carers to keep forms up to date. Please update any new addresses, telephone numbers, emails and medical information. If you have not signed a form about pupil photography permissions, please pop into the office.

School Attendance

Attendance matters here at St Mary's, pupil's attendance is at national average but with your help we can keep improving.

A polite reminder to please provide proof of doctor's appointments. If your child/children are unwell please call the office on 01472 357982 before 9am or message on the Arbor App.



BOOST THEIR HEALTH HYDRATION DEVELOPMENT

Our school works with *Cool Milk* to provide fresh school milk!

Register online today at www.coolmilk.com

- Calorie for strong bones and teeth
- Protein for muscle, hair and growth
- Vitamin B12 to boost the immune system
- Vitamin D2 to strengthen bones
- Potassium to support heart health
- Phosphorus to strengthen bones and support brain development
- Lactose to support healthy milk consumption

with free & subsidised **SCHOOL MILK**

Register your child online at www.coolmilk.com For more information, ask a member of staff.



Breakfast club

ST. MARY'S
Catholic Primary Academy

Entry starting 7.45

Sports, films and games

Only £1 a day!



Benefit Free School Meals and School Milk

If you believe your child is entitled to benefit free school meals and free milk, please pop to the office for a form. Universal school meals are free for children from Reception to Year 2. When your child turns 5 years old and isn't on benefit school meals you will have to order the milk from our new milk provider – Cool Milk – please follow link below to order milk for your child.
www.coolmilk.com

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs every morning from 7.45am with Bailey and Tom. Each fun session is £1. Please pay by ParentPay.
We do ask that payments are kept up to date. If for some reasons they are not, reminders will be sent out.
Bailey and Tom will start back on Wednesday 3rd January.



Arbor

The Arbor App

Available on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

Afterschool Clubs

Afterschool Clubs will be back on week commencing Monday 8th January. Please keep checking Class Dojo for updates. We are hoping to run Dance, Mini Police, sports clubs and our pupil's favorite, hama bead and lego.

Parent/School App

We have now sent out information regarding logins for parents and carers to all classes. Please check your Junk Folder. This app allows you to keep an eye on attendance and also allows you to message the school if your child is absent. If you are having a problem logging in, please speak to Mrs Thompson or Mrs Bielby in the school office.



after school clubs



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Reception 2024

Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 need to fill out a form for Reception places. It is parents/carers responsibility to ensure this form reaches the school admission team by closing date - **15th January 2024**

You can complete via the online portal or please pop to the office for a paper copy.

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-families-and-schools/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place/>

Special Letter Home Award

As part of the new Behaviour Policy here at St Mary's, a Headteacher 'Special Letter Home' is awarded to a child in the school who has shown consistently high standards of Behaviour and work, as well as making an outstanding contribution to the life of the school. I am pleased to say that the first awarding of this letter is given to Penny-Rose. Throughout the year Penny-Rose has had consistently high standards of behaviour and work throughout this year. Well done Penny-Rose.



Well Done

Congratulations to one of our parents who has passed her exams for Hospitality at Grimsby College. We love to hear all about any achievements that our parents/carers accomplish. Well done Charlotte!



Safeguarding at St Mary's

If you have any concerns regarding safeguarding, please contact our designated safeguarding Team. At St Mary's our safeguarding lead is Mr. J O'Connor, safeguarding officer is Miss C Queen and deputy-safeguarding officers Mrs. M Steeper and Miss D Souter. Level 3 safeguarding trained are Mrs R Walton and Miss B Cullum. Mrs K Tuff is our well-being, personal development and RE lead.

School Lunches Reminders

Lunches for all children returning on Wednesday 3rd January should have been booked by Sunday 17th December. If you have missed this date a packed lunch will be required. **Lunches for Monday 8th January need to be booked by this Sunday 24th December.** Thank you



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Catholic Life at St Mary's

Every 2 weeks, we hold our Parent Prayer Drop-In where parents are invited to stay for the school assembly. The dates will be on Dojo.

Christingle

'Christingle' means 'Christ Child' and originates from the Moravian Church. A symbol of Christianity, Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets or dried fruit and a candle. Each of these different elements has a special meaning:

The orange symbolises the world.

The red ribbon shows God's love for the world and the blood of Jesus.

The sweets/dried fruit represent God's creations.

The four cocktail sticks can represent either the four seasons or the four corners of the world.

The candle represents Jesus being the light of the world, bringing hope to those in darkness.

The history of Christingles goes back to over 300 years ago, when in Germany, Bishop Johannes de Watteville gave all the children a candle with a red ribbon around it to explain the happiness that people feel through knowing Jesus.



Christmas

Begins on Christmas day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Christmas is a season, not a day. This is difficult to realise since the world wants to 'get back to normal' long before we have arrived at the last day of Christmas: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. It is a season of true joy when we celebrate that 'God-is-with-us' – Emmanuel! The colour and vibrancy of our Christmas celebrations should inform a very deep part of ourselves that something has happened, that Christ is born, and the world will never be the same again

Liturgical Colour: White or gold.

Symbolises true joy and triumph.



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What we have been up to this December

For class work please visit the website. saintmarysprimarygrimsby.co.uk

What a fantastic lead up to Christmas and a very busy December the children have had. From our Christmas Fayre, class nativities, joint carol services with St Joseph's, enterprise week and class trips for Year 1 and Year 6.



Here is a selection of photos from various trips, class nativities and treats made at enterprise week.



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Miss Magalhaes

We would like to say goodbye and good luck to Miss Magalhaes who is leaving us this Christmas.

We would like to thank her for all her hard work and devotion to the children and school since joining the staff in April 2021. She will be missed by her colleagues and all the children she has worked with.

Miss Magalhaes is going travelling, so we wish her safe journeys and hope she enjoys her new exciting adventure.

