



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – November 2023



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

This week we commenced the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. At times we can often become so preoccupied in the run up to Christmas with thoughts of Father Christmas and what presents we will receive, that we forget the true meaning of the beautiful feast of Christmas and the need to actively prepare ourselves to allow the Loving Lord to enter our hearts and families.

Advent is a time of hope, but it a time when we become acutely aware of the needs of those around us and especially the poverty which exists not only in our world, but within our own locality and community. I ask every member of our school family to stop and pray for those less fortunate than ourselves and to follow the example of the Good Shepherd who came not to be served, but to serve.



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, deputy safeguarding officer Mrs. M Steeper and Miss D Souter. Level 3 safeguarding trained is Mrs R Walton and Miss B Cullum. Mrs K Tuff is our well-being, personal development and RE lead. You can email office

Dates for the Diary

Friday 8th December
Christmas Lunch and Christmas
Jumper Day
(Bring a bottle for bottle stall)

Wednesday 13th December
Year 1 Trip to Hull Museum

Thursday 14th December
Year 6 Trip to Lincoln Bomber Command

Friday 15th December
Christmas Fayre

Monday 18th December
Early Years Nativity

Tuesday 19th December
9.30am KS1 Nativity
2pm KS2 Nativity

Wednesday 20th December
School closes for Christmas

Wednesday 3rd January
Back to School



Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility





School Forms

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

BOOST THEIR HEALTH HYDRATION DEVELOPMENT

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

Register online today at www.coolmilk.com

- ✓ Delicious for strong bones and teeth
- ✓ Protein for muscle repair and growth
- ✓ Vitamin B12 to boost the immune system
- ✓ Vitamin D3 to encourage calcium
- ✓ Probiotics to support gut health and immunity
- ✓ Phosphorus to strengthen bones and growing height of the milk
- ✓ Healthy to support healthy skin and hydration

with free to **SCHOOL MILK** subsidized

Our milk is supplied with financial support from the Department of Health and DfE.

For more information, ask a member of staff.

Register your child online at www.coolmilk.com

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



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

Afterschool Clubs

After school clubs will not take place the last week of term week commencing 18th December. They will start back week commencing 8th January 2024. All clubs will be posted on ParentPay and updates on Dojo.



The Arbor App

Parent/School App

As you are aware Sholarpack has been upgraded to Arbour. Over the next few weeks. We will be inviting parents to download the app. We will be starting with Year 6 class and will be doing it weekly. If parents have any concerns, please ask the office staff. We will be sending parents and carers emails. Please update your email if needed. You can use this app to check in on your child's attendance and much more.



Cold Weather

With the cold weather and low temperatures please provide sensible shoes, hats, gloves and coats please always pop their names in them.





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Breakfast Club

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, a weekly reminder will be sent out.

Throughout December breakfast club runs as normal and finishes on Wednesday 20th December. Bailey and Tom will start back on Wednesday 3rd January.

Breakfast club

ST. MARY'S

Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

Every morning 7:45

Sports, fitness and games.

Only £1 a day!



Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas lunch is on 8th December children are allowed to wear their Christmas jumpers. We ask if parents and carers can kindly donate a bottle for our bottle stall on at a Christmas Fair.

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 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/>

Children travelling to or from school unsupervised.

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights, do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively, cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult.





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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.

ADVENT

Begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on December 24.

Advent is a time of expectation for the second coming of Christ at the end of time and preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. This is evident in the two phases of Advent. The first emphasises watchfulness as we wait for the time when Christ our Lord will come in glory. The second phase points us to the joy of Christmas by reminding us of the prophets' promises, the role of Mary and John the Baptist's mission. This is not the time to celebrate Christmas early but a time for preparations.

Liturgical Colour: Violet.

Symbolises joyful waiting, renewal and expectation.



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. 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 this November

Children in Need 2023



Some of our KS1 children took part in a Dance Festival to engage new audiences in this fun physical activity.



St Mary's children and their families making classroom Wreaths.



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



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Dear Parent/Carers

Parent Code of Conduct

All parents/carers were forwarded the Code of Conduct via the Trust, School and Home Agreement.

The overwhelming majority of parents adhere to these guidelines but sadly, and more recently, some staff have been subjected to unwarranted verbal comments made towards them.

As a Headteacher I would not expect my staff to speak to parents/carers in a derogatory manner, but neither do I expect parents/carers to speak to staff in a manner which is hurtful and at times, threatening.

There is also increasing pressure being directed towards our experienced and much respected Deputy Head, Mrs Steeper. The problems which are being experienced in SEND provision are not only within our own school community but in schools as a whole. This is the result of a huge backlog of cases for children to have their needs assessed, and the Local Authority of NE Lincolnshire is no different from any other authority in the country. If you as a parent are concerned about SEND, then I would ask that you make an appointment with the SENDCO through the school office. I should like to thank Mrs Steeper for her unequivocal dedication and commitment to the children here at St Mary's.

This school is adopting a zero tolerance approach for any parent who speaks to staff in a threatening manner. Police will be called and informed if necessary. Can I also request that parents/carers refrain from swearing, either in the playground or when they have been asked to attend a meeting in the school. This will not be accepted.

As I mentioned earlier I would like to thank the overwhelming majority of parents/carers who are both supportive and kind in their manner to the whole school staff.

Mr J O'Connor