St. Mary's C.E. Primary School
Broomfield Drive
South Reddish
Stockport SK5 7DR

Tel: 0161 480 4736
Headteacher: Mrs D. Faryniarz
email: admin@st-marys-reddish.stockport.sch.uk

5th November 2026

Dear Families,

I hope you are well as we progress through this half term. I am writing to share several key updates and reminders regarding school life, attendance regulations, and upcoming events.

Attendance Matters & DfE Guidance on Term-Time Holidays

At St Mary's, we firmly believe that regular school attendance is fundamental to every child's success. As highlighted in Department for Education (DfE) guidance, regular attendance goes far beyond academic achievement—it is vital for your child's emotional well-being, social development, and sense of belonging. Missing school creates gaps in learning that can make it difficult for children to feel secure and confident in the classroom.

Please take note of the following important regulations regarding attendance and leave of absence:

- Term-Time Leave & Holidays: Under statutory DfE rules, Headteachers are not permitted to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Leisure trips, family holidays, or cheaper travel rates do not qualify as exceptional.
- Advance Requests: Any request for leave must be submitted to the main office in writing well in advance of the absence for consideration.
- Unauthorised Absence & Fines: Absence taken without permission will be marked as unauthorised. Taking a child out of school without authorisation (totalling 5 or more school days) triggers the national penalty framework and may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice issued by the Local Authority to each parent.

To support you in tracking your child's progress, we will be sending out individual banded attendance letters later this half term.

School Dinner & Packed Lunch Arrangements

We kindly ask that meal arrangements (whether your child is having a school dinner or bringing a packed lunch) remain consistent for your child. If you need to make a change, please ensure that the main office is informed well in advance. If your child does not ordinarily have a school meal, Christmas Lunch on Thursday 10th December can be booked on SchoolMoney under the 'Dinners' tab. The final date for this will be Monday 30th November.

Upcoming School Events this Week

- Multi-Faith Celebration Assembly: You are warmly invited to join us for our Multi-Faith Celebration Assembly this Thursday at 9:00 AM. Some children in Years 1 through 6 will be sharing the wonderful work they have covered across their learning. We would love to see as many families there as possible to celebrate with us.
- Children in Need Non-Uniform Day: This Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need with a non-uniform day. Children are welcome to come to school in their own clothes for a donation of £1, which can be paid in cash or online via SchoolMoney.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Faryniarz