



St. Mary's C.E. Primary School  
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5<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Families,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to you all. The children look so smart and represent St Mary's wonderfully. A huge thank you for the time and effort that you have clearly given to this, it is much appreciated. We extend an extra special welcome to our new Reception families and are delighted you are part of our St Mary's family.

This year we have secured sessions for all children in years 1-6 with 'City in the Community'. Founded in 1986, City in the Community is Manchester City's charity. They support people across Greater Manchester by empowering healthier lives. The youth-led programmes place physical and mental wellbeing at their core, whilst also creating healthy futures and healthy communities. This will also include targeted group work later in the year. Year 4 will not take part in this until the Spring term due to swimming.

As you all know we are a 'School Street'. Some of you may have received a letter via Mr Moores from our Chair of Governors, Yvonne Guariento detailing continued concerns about the volume of traffic in the school's local vicinity, especially at drop off and collection times. The impact on children's health due to pollution in a densely populated and built up area could result in long term health conditions and there is the more immediate concern of risk to life or injury due to a road traffic incident involving one of our children or a family member.

Following recent work with the council we are re-establishing the School Street restrictions. A number of drivers are using the road for reasons which do not comply with the Traffic Order. From Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September you will be unable to access to Broomfield Drive, (unless you are a Blue Badge holder). You are encouraged to either leave the car at home and walk, cycle or scoot to school or, if this is not possible, plan to park further way from the school gates and walk to school. Ample parking is available at both the Carousel pub and St Mary's Church. If you have received a letter and believe you meet this criterion please return this to school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

We are extremely fortunate at St Mary's to have musical support provided by Mr Derbyshire. The choir is now incorporated into the school day and we have been able to welcome more members, some from lower down the school. We are very much looking forward to them performing in the near future. He also offers piano lessons to a small number of children in the school day. This will be extended to other children as an after-school club and you will receive information about this shortly.

Our first parent - child session will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 9-10am and the focus will, on this occasion be reading and phonics. Parents are warmly welcomed into school to learn and complete fun activities alongside their child. During this time Denise Hunt our Family Support Worker will also be available should you have anything you would like to speak with her about.

We are organising these sessions each half term with the popular 'Christmas Craft' session taking place next half term on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup> 9-10am. As a school we greatly value and encourage our relationship with parents and hope you are able to join us for these. I am trying to give advance notice to allow time to juggle work and other commitments.

A parent drop in session will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 3.30 - 5. This will enable you to ask any questions and find out how your child has settled into their new class. This will be followed by a more formal parents evening in February. This is being held earlier this year in response to families stating they felt last years was too late. If you have any concerns or questions please do not wait for these dates and arrange to see your child's teacher or speak to them as they are available at classroom doors both before and after school.

As a Church of England school our Christian values of: Respect, Forgiveness, Perseverance, Love and Creativity underpin all that we do. The value this half term is, 'Thankfulness.' Christians believe that God loves and cares for them in many different ways in all aspects of their life. We will be using songs, hymns, bible stories etc to help the children realise the importance of saying and most importantly feeling thankful.

"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" (Psalm 95:2).

Finally, a huge thank you to all the families who attended our information session on Tuesday. This was in response to comments that information about the year ahead needs to be conveyed to families sooner. Whilst we appreciate not all families were able to attend, the PowerPoint shared is available on the class pages of our school website, as is essential information regarding PE days and detailed information of what your child will learn this term and the year ahead.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding anything in the letter or about anything in regard to school life please come and speak to me or your child's class teacher. Once again it has been so wonderful to see all of our families return to school and we are looking forward to a positive year ahead in which we will strive to achieve great things with the strength of God leading the way.

With the warmest wishes,

Mrs Faryniarz