

St Mary's Newsletter – November 22



Parent's Evening - Thank you for your support

Thank you to the many who have attended Parent's Evening already. It has been a very positive experience for everyone, so thank you for your time in attending. Class 1 parents and carers will know that their meetings were re-arranged for this coming week. We look forward to seeing you all there.

If any of you have missed Parent's Evening and would like to meet with your child's teacher, please reach out to school and call the office to arrange an appointment.

Tel: 01429838294



Children in Need

In school, we are very aware that many households are under additional financial pressures, but in response to requests from parents and pupils, children are welcome to come to school wearing something colourful and/or spotty and families are welcome to make a donation to Children in Need on Parent Pay.

Please note, in spite of the email sent on Friday, **we will mark Children in Ned Day on Thursday**, because we have school photographs on Friday morning.

ATOM learning Class 3 families

Miss O'Connor spoke to many of you in Parent's Evening about a new online platform - ATOM learning. This is now live and homework has been set as a baseline assessment. Please avoid supporting your child to answer questions in this initial piece of work, as this assessment will set work for your child that is appropriate to their level of attainment.

Thank you for your support.



ATTENDANCE update

As you will already know from previous communications, the school has had a **very** poor start to the year with attendance. In response to the high number of persistent absentees, all staff will be promoting good attendance and punctuality within each class. All teachers are encouraging their pupils to attend every day and arrive at school on time. Each class has a prize box, and for each child who attends school every day and arrives on time, they will get a "dip" in the box on Friday before they leave school. This initiative will be starting on **Monday**.

On occasions where children are attending a medical appointment, that cannot be attended out of school hours, if the child attends school around their appointment, they will still get a dip in the box.

As you will know from previous communications, attendance is very poor for many of our pupils;

This has fallen slightly, with **32%** of our pupils currently classed as **persistent absentees**.

(A child is classed as a persistent absentee when their attendance is under 90%).

We have a long way to go to fall in line with National average.

Please know that pupils **are not** regarded as late when siblings are on either side of the school, and they need to be escorted around the building. Pupils are regarded as late, when they enter school after registration.

This is a positive reward system to improve attendance for all and fits in well with the way in which promote good attitudes to learning and good behaviour. As we celebrate and reward kindness, neat handwriting or good work, we are going to be celebrating good attendance.

Monday	91.8%
Tuesday	93%
Wednesday	92.4%
Thursday	91.2%
Friday	90.6%

As you can see here, attendance is lower on a Friday than any other day. Hopefully, as we introduce a range of strategies to positively impact on attendance, we will see a rise in attendance across each week.

School photographs

School photographs will be taking place on Friday 18th November. If you have any children who are pre-school age, and you would like them to have a photograph taken with their siblings, please come into school on Friday morning. Family photographs will be taken first.



IMPORTANT DATES for your diary:

NB new date added Christmas Fayre

Children in Need celebration	Thursday 17th November
School photographs	Friday 18 th November
Christmas Fayre	Thursday 8 th December 2pm
Christmas dinner / jumper day	Tuesday 13 th December
KS1 Nativity 1:30pm	Wednesday 14 th December @ 1:30pm
KS2 Carol service 2 pm	Thursday 15 th December @ 2pm
Santa Run – details will follow. NB this is an event for Children NOT parents	Monday 19 th December
Advent Mass	Tuesday 20 th December 2pm
KS2 Christmas Party	Wednesday 21 st December pm
KS1 Christmas Party & Last Day	Thursday 22 nd December pm
SCHOOL CLOSED PD Day	Friday 23 rd December all day