

# St Mary's Newsletter – Autumn 22



## *Parent's Evening*

Parent's Evening is being held in school next week. Classes 1 and 2 have more pupils, so slots are available on both Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

Class 3 is a much smaller class and only has slots on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

We have had a great response from parents already, so please call the office to arrange an appointment.

**Tel: 01429838294**

If you feel that you will need longer than 10 minutes to discuss your child with their class teacher, we recommend that you make an appointment for a different day. Teachers may reach out to you too, if they feel that they need longer with you.

NB You **will not** be able to make a last minute appointment on the day. Staff gather information prior to Parent's Evening, ready to share with parents, and last minute appointments will not allow enough time for teachers to prepare.

### **What should you expect from Parent's Evening?**

- Teachers will inform you where your child is working in reading, writing, maths and where relevant, in phonics too. You will be told if your child is working at the expected level in relation to your child's age.
- Attendance: you will be told your child's current attendance, and if relevant, given your child's full attendance for the year so far.
- You will be able to view your child's books and ask any questions about your child in school.
- You will be informed about your child's wellbeing, attitudes to learning and general behaviour.
- If needed, your child's teacher may ask you to arrange a further appointment, to avoid meetings running over time.

If you cannot attend the dates arranged for Parent's Evening, please contact school and ask for an alternative appointment.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the coming week.

# IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE update

## Please take the time to read this

Unfortunately, the school has had a **very** poor start with attendance. In spite of clear messages being shared with families, prior to the start of the year, and throughout the academic year last year, far too many children in our school are now classed as Persistent Absentees.

**A persistent absentee is a child whose attendance is below 90%.**

I am fully aware that we have many pupils who have good attendance, and many have good reasons for being absent, but I am sure it will surprise you to know that **one third** of our pupils are classed as a persistent absentee.

*Children cannot receive a good education unless they are in school to receive it.*

I am appealing to the many families whose children have low attendance to make sure that moving forward, they try their very best to make sure their child attends school daily.

Wherever possible, please:

- Seek appointments for your children outside school hours.
- If your child attends an appointment within the school day, bring your child to school in the hours around the appointment, so they can at least access some of the school day.
- DO NOT take children out of school, for holidays.
- If your child has been unwell at the start of the week, please send them into school as soon as they are well enough to do so. Please do not adopt the attitude of “I might as well keep him off for the rest of the week”. It truly makes a difference to your child’s education, if they miss only 3 days instead of 5 days.

As I have stated before school attendance is so important. The curriculum is progressive and builds upon prior learning, so building blocks may be missed when children are absent from school.

If your child has missed school, or has already been identified as a persistent absentee, please work alongside school, so that this can improve.

We would appreciate your support in this matter and it will make a difference to your child’s progress, attitude to school and their prospects.



Help your child to read parents sessions are being arranged for later in the month.  
Information will follow.

Children in Class 1 and 2 are given a carefully selected book from our Sounds Write collection to take home. This is the same book that staff use in class to practise their reading. Please can you support your child in their reading by making sure this book comes back to school each day in their book bag.

Thank you

**IMPORTANT DATES for your diary:**

Parent's Evening	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November
School photographs	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas dinner / jumper day	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
KS1 Nativity 1:30pm	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December @ 1:30pm
KS2 Carol service 2 pm	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December @ 2pm
Santa Run – details will follow	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Advent Mass	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm
KS2 Christmas Party	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December pm
KS1 Christmas Party & Last Day	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December pm
SCHOOL CLOSED PD Day	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December all day

