

Newsletter January 2024



Dear Families,

A very happy new year to those we haven't been able to wish this to personally. May it bring good health and happiness to you and your families.

This term, as you know, we have welcomed Miss Delaney into Y6 and are delighted to have been joined by Mrs Foy, known well to all our children. However, it is time to say goodbye to Mr Arrowsmith, everyone's favourite sportsman! For years, Mr A has wanted to work in residential childcare to support the needs of vulnerable young people; an opportunity has arisen for him to do this and we are happy for him to pursue his dream. He will, however, be a huge loss to our school community; pupils, families and staff, but we wish him well on his journey and have already invited him back for Sports Day! Mr A will be leaving us on Friday 9th February – he has absolutely insisted we do not do a leaving assembly for him, but I can't promise...

Academisation update

I hope the information shared with everyone around our forthcoming transition in the Mater Ecclesiae Multi-Academy Trust has been useful and informative for you.

You are all welcome to the consultation session being held here at school on February 6th at 3:40pm, unfortunately, we won't be able to put your children in Newhouse Afterschool club for the duration of that evening, but they are welcome to join us in the hall. The details shared with you have also been posted on our website and are here for your convenience:

<https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Mater+Ecclesiae+Multi%2DAcademy+Trust&pid=78>

Attendance

You will be fully aware of the national drive to increase school attendance and ensure all pupils receive their full entitlement to the education available to them. Please find this school year's attendance so far

Current academic year up to Friday 19 January 2024

Number of pupils 126	Overall attendance % 96.1%	Overall absence % 3.9%	Unauthorised absence % 0.6%
Persistently absent		Severely absent	
Number of persistently absent pupils 12	Percentage of persistently absent pupils 9.5%	Number of severely absent pupils 0	Percentage of severely absent pupils 0.0%

Last 5 days (18 January 2024 to 24 January 2024)

Overall attendance % 93.1%	Overall absence % 6.9%	Unauthorised absence % 3.5%
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Updates and events!

Friday 2nd of February – please encourage your child to come to school in something green (please do not go and buy new clothes for this!) to enjoy our TTRS meets the NSPCC annual fun maths and keeping safe event.



Online safety remains a critical issue for our children and we warmly invite you to attend, from the comfort of your own homes, a virtual online safety briefing for parents. I hope the newsletters we send home have been useful for you, the webinar here is created by the same team of people. Please find below the link to access the parent/carer session scheduled for **Wednesday 31st January 2024 – 9.30am 10.15am** https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZWQyZjMwMjQ0NGVhMy00NDYyLWU2ODItZDQ1OGNjMzFiMicw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22dccb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%225772fa8f-9814-4199-ae2f2-9195804f833e%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%22%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

You do not need to register, simply click on the link at the above time to access the session. The event will be streamed using Teams. Attendees can watch the live event in: Teams app—desktop (Windows or Mac) or mobile.- Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox.

Online safety week will be celebrated in school with your children, week commencing 5th Feb!

National Children's mental health week is week commencing February 5th

This year in school, we are not doing a particular focus on mental health that week as I am delighted to share with you that we have been funded to run a year-long programme on positive mental health and wellbeing for our children. It is called 'My Happy Mind' and we will be launching this as part of our curriculum in March. However, please do access the following materials if you feel you would like more information around children's mental health and how to help your child overcome any barriers or anxieties they may be experiencing.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Please continue to check the events calendar on the website for all the events coming at school. <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1,3,4&pid=10&viewid=2>

Family mass this Sunday

Everyone is welcome to our new year family mass on Sunday at St Mary's Newhouse at 10:30am. This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a parish community.

Diocesan Levy

If you feel you are able to make a final contribution to the diocesan levy we have to pay, we would be most grateful. The payment option is available via SCOPAY and any size donation would be welcome.

Hothersall Lodge

The next, and final payments for Hothersall lodge are due for Y5 and Y6 pupils on 1st Feb, 1st March and 1st April.

Unfortunately, we are unable to extend any payments beyond 1st April and the total payment needs to be settled in full by this time, thank you.

Reading at home with your child.

We love you to read with your child every day – no matter which year they are in, listening to your children read is so good for them. You can help them decode new words, develop fluency and accuracy and truly develop as life-long readers. Don't forget to sign their reading record when you have read together!



January 2024 Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we enter January 2024, we seek Your comfort and strength. In our challenges, we remember Your promise in Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Help us to trust You as Philippians 4:6-7 teaches, finding peace in prayer and thanksgiving. May we have the courage of Esther, trusting in Your plans for us as declared in Jeremiah 29:11.

In our struggles, we hold onto Psalm 34:18, knowing You are close to the brokenhearted. Guide us according to Proverbs 3:5-6, to trust in You and not lean on our own understanding.

Thank You for Your love and mercy every day. Help us to face each day with faith, knowing You are with us.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Parent Governor application

Today an invitation has gone out to recruit our next parent governor; this is a crucial role in school and we welcome applications from candidates who feel they have the time and energy to support our school in strategic decision making. The commitment of time is the greatest part of this role and involves a significant amount of reading, some training, some attendance at half termly meetings plus extraordinary meetings as required. Please do read the material shared with you from Mrs Matthews and if you would like a discussion about the role, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Huge congratulations to Isabel and Lexie who represented our school in the Northwest biathlon at the weekend – both were fantastically successful in their categories and hope to proceed to the national competition later this year! We are super proud of you both!