

Newsletter April 2024



Dear Families,

At last - the sunshine is daring to appear! I hope you are making the most of warmer, dry weekends. School is, as always, an incredibly busy place at the moment with



so many curriculum and wider opportunities taking place for all the classes. All the details of events coming up are on the school calendar, please

do keep up with the additions - they are happening by the day! <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1>,

You will remember that in the planning of this academic year's holidays, we tagged on extra days to each of the half terms to try and promote better holiday opportunities for all our families. As we come to the final half term holiday of the year, I hope you find that this has been helpful and you have been able to take full advantage of this opportunity. I would also like to remind you that we break up on Wednesday 22nd of May so there are a couple of bonus days for you to enjoy before the half term - see you all back on June 3rd at 8:40am

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. Please do help us by bringing your child to school every day, unless they are unwell, and by booking holidays outside of term time.

Current academic year up to Friday 26 April 2024

Number of pupils	Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
127	96.5%	3.5%	0.6%
Persistently absent		Severely absent	
Number of persistently absent pupils	Percentage of persistently absent pupils	Number of severely absent pupils	Percentage of severely absent pupils
6	4.7%	0	0.0%

Last 5 days (24 April 2024 to 30 April 2024)

Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
97.9%	2.1%	0.1%

Keeping safe online and good mental wealth!

One of the difficulties we all face, raising children in this modern world, is to keep abreast of all the technological advances our children are exposed to. This week, I have been talking to some of our older children about social media platforms they are using. Please can I urge you to regularly check your child's usage of these, alongside any WhatsApp and

iMessage platforms they may be accessing. Our children are very young to manage online relationships and it remains all of our strong responsibilities to teach them how to keep safe online and how to recognise appropriate and inappropriate interactions they may be part of <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Keeping+Safe+Online&pid=30>

Superhero day

What an amazing day we had at school last week - thank you for your contributions and helping RPH to raise money. We know that the £238.50 we raised will be going to buy a projector for Ward 8 - the main children's ward.



Updates

We have a family mass on Sunday 5th May at St Mary's Newhouse church. Everyone is invited to celebrate together and thank you for the families who have replied to

the invitation - your children have been assigned roles in the mass. There are still plenty of jobs left for those who might like to attend!

Sporting events have been plentiful - and very successful - this term. The awards cabinet is overflowing with trophies. I really would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our children representing our school at Curling, football, netball, cricket, swimming, gymnastics and more - we are constantly commended for their manners and sportsmanship, this is what we are proud of most of all! I would also like to take the time to thank the staff who commit so fully to the after-school activities they offer our children. After a full day's teaching - and a lot of planning and preparation ahead each evening - the staff work voluntarily to provide these clubs for your children. I am very proud of the team we have and thank them profusely for the support for our children.

Our Hothersall Lodge residential takes place this month, 20th, 21st and 22nd of May. We are really looking forward to this and remind families that the kit list has been sent with all the advice you need for packing. Don't forget a rather large packed lunch is needed on the first day of the trip!

May 17th and 19th is a special weekend for 14 of our children as they make their sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. We ask you to keep them in your prayers. Huge thanks to Mrs Clegg for co-ordinating the celebration afterwards and to the PTFA for their help with this.

We are really proud of the Owls' class who are taking part in their intense swimming fortnight - well done mums and dads keeping up with all the extra washing! Feedback from the team is that the children are doing brilliantly - no surprise there!

Week beginning May 13th, our Y6 children begin their statutory tests (SATs). They have prepared well for these and we wish them lots of luck. It is really important that the children get a good night's sleep before each exam so that they have every opportunity to succeed. Please see the letter sent by Miss Delaney which gives lots more information for parents of Y6 children.

Vacancies

From September, we will have a vacancy in our Newhouse Afterschool club - for a manager and/or playworker. If you would like to join our team and find out more about this opportunity, please get in touch with Mrs Matthews for information.

Mary the Mother of God

During the month of May we honour Our Lady, the Mother of God. We can do this by reciting the Rosary. The Rosary is the traditional devotion in honour of the Mother of God.

Combining vocal and mental prayer. It is made up of 20 decades which are divided into 4 parts of decades, each of which we recall our Lord's life, passion and Glory.

The Rosary is the prayer which is most pleasing to Our Lady. The word Rosary means a garland or wreath of roses and each prayer said in the Rosary is a spiritual rose offered to our blessed Mother.

