



St. Mary's Catholic Academy

January 2025

Messenger



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

I do hope that you all had a restful break over Christmas period. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and to see their enthusiasm for their work and kindness to their friends.

So many of our children have made new year's resolutions that are focused on making the world a better place, living out the mission of our Catholic school.

During the Autumn term, we recruited for a parent governor and we are delighted to welcome Mr Hickman to our local academy committee. Volunteering as a school governor is a huge commitment and extremely rewarding. We thank all of our governors for their continued support.

If you wish for a place in our Reception Class for September and your child is going to be 4 years old before 1st September 2025, please do this directly with the local authority. Applications for the reception class close on 15th January 2025. Applications for a place in our school Nursery are also to be made directly with the local authority and the closing date for this application is 31st January. The link for completing the applications online can be found below.

[School admissions | Stoke-on-Trent](#)

Once again, I would like to welcome you back and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support.



In this week's Gospel we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We will hear about the significance of Jesus' Baptism and what it means for us all in entering the Kingdom of God. This is a special time when we can all invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Luke 3:16

If your child is absence from school

Please telephone the school on
01782 234820,
or email office@stmarysnewman.co.uk
no later than 9.30am

Please ensure that medical and dental appointments are booked outside of school hours where possible.
If an appointment is unavoidable please ensure your child is absent for a minimal amount of time from school.

SPRING TERM

Half term Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
School Closes Friday 22nd March

SUMMER TERM

School opens to pupils Monday 8th April
MAY DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Half term Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
School closes Friday 19th July

2025/26 dates are available on our website,
please click on the link below

[Click here for term dates](#)

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

“Keeping up is easier than catching up!”



stoke.gov.uk



Trip Consent

A reminder to please ensure that consent for trips are completed by the deadline date, which is stated on the parent letters.

Thank you for your co-operation



We still have spaces on our family first aid session. (KS2 only)

Please log into scopay to confirm you and your child's place.

This is a fantastic opportunity for families and would be lovely to see you there.



school **food solutions** **MENU**

CHICAGO TOWN PIZZA

CHICAGO TOWN PIZZA

CURLY FRIES, BAKED BEANS, SWEET CORN.

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY



We have pre-loved uniform available . All items are priced at £1; please click on the link below;
[Uniformd](#)

If you would like to donate any pre-loved uniform we are only accepting School Logo items;
Sweatshirt, cardigan, jumper, tie.

We kindly ask that the items are clean and in good condition.



This half term Year 3 and 5 will take part in forest school.

Please ensure appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for wet/cold weather is brought into school every Wednesday starting 15th January.

This term's curriculum is uploaded to your child's class page under ½ termly curriculum.

Please click on the link below which will take you through to our website.

[St Mary's Catholic Academy - Class Pages \(stmarysstoke.co.uk\)](http://stmarysstoke.co.uk)



This term St Mary's family Mass is being held on Sunday 2nd February at 10am, it will be lovely to see you there.



We are offering free workshops this term with the Family Hub;

28th January - A squash & squeeze
11th February – I can animate
(more details will follow by letter)

SEND Coffee Afternoon



There is still time to book your place on our coffee afternoon, which takes place on Monday 13th at January at 2:00 p.m. This can be done by confirming your attendance on Scopay.

We will be joined by representatives from PEGiS (Parent Engagement Group in Schools). Their presence will help us further strengthen the school's partnership with parents in supporting our children.

This coffee morning is open to all parents of children with or without SEND needs.

We warmly encourage as many parents as possible to attend, as working together will enable us to better meet the needs of our children.



REMINDER

Year 4 swimming will take place every Tuesday from 14th January and run for 5 weeks. Please ensure the following swimwear is worn; Swimming cap, full Swimsuit or Trunks.



Our stay and play sessions will resume from
Tuesday 21st January 2-3pm

The session is FREE

Parents and children (under 4) are welcome to join us.



Awards



Year	Headteacher	Reading	Maths	Goldfinch
Nursery	Franco	Aubree	Brodie-Bear	Archie
Reception	Ivy	Chester	Elliott	Patrick
Year 1	Alexander	Maisie	Millie	Albie-Jack
Year 2	Olivia	Martha	Rosa	Dottie



Celebration Assemblies have moved to a **new time of 9.05am**, you can view these on our website/calendar:

[click here to view the calendar](#)



School Masses will take place on a weekly rota basis— led by Whole school, EYFS, KS1 or KS2.

All of these Masses take place on a Wednesday morning at 9.25am
(*unless otherwise stated*).

We encourage all parents, grandparents and members of the parish to support these Masses where possible.

All masses can be found on our website under the calendar tab;

[St Mary's Catholic Academy - Calendar \(stmarysstoke.co.uk\)](http://stmarysstoke.co.uk)



Save the date



Spring Term 2025

Date	Event
Monday 6th January	School opens for Spring Term
Thursday 9th January	Y6 SATS information meeting 5pm
Thursday 16th January	Young Voices
Monday 13th January	Deadline for reception applications
Tuesday 14th January	Y4 Swimming (x5 weeks)
Monday 20th January	Academy Photographers - Music/Sports and other groups
Tuesday 21st January	Academy Photographers - Class groups
Thursday 23rd January	Y1 Phonics parent meeting 3.30pm and 5.30pm
Thursday 23rd January	Y2 SATS information evening 5.30pm
Tuesday 4th February	Nurs to Y2 - phonics watch me learn - 9am
Tuesday 11th February	Safer internet day
Thursday 13th February	Nurs to Y1 - 1:1 Read with me reading sessions
Thursday 13th February	Valentines disco (times tbc)
Monday 17th February-Friday 21st February	Half term
Monday 24th February	School closed to pupils - Inset day
Tuesday 25th February	Y3 Swimming (x5 weeks)
Tuesday 4th March	Y2 inspire workshop - Easter garden
Tuesday 4th March	Parent Target meeting (in person) 3.30-6pm
Wednesday 5th March	Parent Target meeting (school cloud) 5.30-8pm
Thursday 6th March	World book day
Monday 10th march - Friday 14th March	Science Week
Thursday 13th March	English/reading morning and evening 9-10am & 5:30 - 6:30pm
Tuesday 18th March	Reading watch me learn - 9am
Friday 21st March	Y6 Inspire workshop - Lent
Thursday 27th March	Foundation stage - Mother day activities 1.30pm
Friday 28th March	Mother day breakfast
Friday 28th March	Y1 Mothers day Liturgy 9am
Monday 31st March	Academy Photography - FS graduation and leavers photos
Tuesday 8th April	Foundation stage Easter bonnet parade 2:30pm
Thursday 10th April	End of term assembly 1.45pm
Friday 11th April	Stations of the Cross Liturgy
Friday 11th April	School closes

This is the latest updated dates for this term. Please ignore previous versions as some dates may have changed.