



**St. Mary's Catholic Academy**

**January 2026**

**Messenger**



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

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

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 2026, please do this directly with the local authority. Applications for the reception class will close on 15th January 2026. 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 1<sup>st</sup> March. 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.

Mrs Statham  
Head of School



In this week's Gospel we will 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. We learn that Jesus' Baptism was a bold statement about who He is – God's Son – and that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit were all present at this significant event. This gospel gives us the opportunity to reflect on how the sacrament of Baptism welcomes us into God's family and invites us to make a bold statement for God in our own lives, knowing that we too are God's beloved child.

Matthew 3: 13 - 17



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

It is important that we hold up to date information on our pupils.

Changes can be made by yourselves.

All you need to do is log into the account and make the changes, we will receive notification of those changes and approve.

### If your child is absent from school

Please telephone the school on 01782 234820, or email [office@stmarysnewman.co.uk](mailto:office@stmarysnewman.co.uk) no later than 9.30am

### Trip reminder

Please ensure if you are required to give consent for an upcoming trip that you log into Arbor by the deadline date which appears on the letter. Thank you for your co-operation.



# Awards/Celebrations



We would like to congratulate all the children who have received awards

Year	Headteacher	Reading	Maths	Goldfinch
Reception	Mujid	William	Noah	Asenat
Year 1	Amelia	Patrick	Trixie	Che-Che
Year 2	Chester	Millie	Reeve	Scarlett
Year 3	Dottie	Olivia O	Damien	Conor
Year 4	Jack H	Elliot	Silas	Frank
Year 5	Harvey	Jan	Dylan	Lucy
Year 6	Darcy B	Luca	Jacob	Miles



Celebration assembly dates can be found on our website, on the calendar tab.



Our next St Mary's family Mass is being held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 10am. It will be lovely to see you there.



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

Please ensure appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for wet/cold weather, is brought into school every Wednesday.



## Attendance Matters

It's wonderful to see that Year 3 have achieved four weeks at 100% class attendance for the Autumn term.

**A special congratulations to our overall winning class: Year 6!**

Well done to all our pupils, keep up the amazing effort!  
Let us all aim for 100% attendance this half term.

This term's curriculum has been 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.

[Class page link](#)



This term's new menu is available to view on our website.

[St Mary's Catholic Academy - School Meals](#)



## Time change

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January whole school celebration assembly has moved from 9am to 2.30pm.

All parents are welcome to attend.



We are offering a free family first aid workshop on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February in partnership with the Family Hub for KS2 families.

Please keep an eye out for the letter in the next few weeks.



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

All 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)



We are offering free KS1 and KS2 workshops this term with the Family Hub.

A letter will be emailed to parents with confirmed dates.



# Save the date



<b>Tues/Wed 13/14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y6 – Bikeability level 3 (consented pupils only)
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y3/Y6 Sacramental Meeting @5pm
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Young Voices
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y4 – Railway 200 (STEM)
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y6 SATS Information evening @5pm ( date and time change)
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Photos – Music/Sport groups
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Photos – Class
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Y5 – Jodrell Bank
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Reception – Ford Green Hall
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Y2 SATS Information evening @5pm (time change)
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	Y1 – Phonics parents meeting @3.30pm and 5.30pm
<b>Thurs/Fri 29/30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Y6 – Innovation Centre @NULC
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Family Mass @10am
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Y2 – Gladstone Potteries Museum
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Nursery-Y1 ‘Read with me 1:1 sessions’

Did you know that you can subscribe to our calendar?  
All you need to do is click on the subscribe button.



Celebration assemblies and masses will appear on the calendar of your selected device.

**In addition, we have added other key dates, sports day etc to the calendar.**