St. Mary's Catholic Academy

November 2026

Messenger

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new half term. The children have all come back to school with great enthusiasm and a great attitude to learning which is, as always, great to see.

The month of November is a month of remembering all those we love who have died. On Sunday 1st November the Church celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints, and All Souls Day, when we remember the men and women of faith who have gone before us. Throughout the month of November, we have made available our annual 'Remembrance Tree' for the children to offer their own prayers and thoughts to remember and pray for loved ones they have lost. If you would like to offer your own prayers during this month, please add your prayer to a luggage label for your child to bring in. Luggage labels are also available for children to collect from school.

W/C Monday 16th November we will begin our anti-bullying week. The national theme for the week this year is 'Break the Silence'. On Monday 16th November, we will take part in 'Odd Socks Day.' You will be receiving further communication about how we are marking this week as a school.

On Tuesday 24th November, at 2pm and 5:30pm, we will be holding our prospective parents' session for the foundation stage. If your child will be 3 years old on the 1st September 2027, the applications can be made online via this link: School admissions | Stoke-on-Trent (opens Tuesday 1st December). Similarly, the application process for the reception class is now open – this is for children who will be 4 on the 1st September 2027. Applications for the reception class need to be made directly through the authority and this closes on 15th January 2027.

On Sunday 29th November, we will be celebrating a special whole-school Mass and would love to see as many of our St Mary's families there as possible. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community, celebrate our faith and prepare for the season of Advent. All children and families are warmly invited, and we would really encourage you to join us for this special occasion.

Following Mass, the church and parish will be hosting their Christmas Fair in school, with lots of festive cheer to enjoy. We warmly invite you all to stay, support our parish community and help us begin the Christmas season together. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Kind Regards

Mrs Statham
Head of School



In this week's Gospel we will hear the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. This parable reminds us how we can wait wisely by following God each day and make choices that help us grow closer to Him. Let us remember to take every opportunity to know Jesus, to love like Him and live as His followers.
Matthew 25:1-13

If your child is absent from school

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

Term Dates

School closes for Christmas on Friday 18th December and re-opens on Wednesday 6th January 2027.

St Mary's Catholic Academy - Term Dates (stmarysstoke.co.uk)

Parent reminder

Important notices and formal communications are sent to your registered email address. For ease of access, a copy of these letters are also uploaded to the school website under Parents>Letters.



Attendance Matters

It's wonderful to see **Year 2** achieve 99% weekly class attendance since returning this academic year.

Well done to all our pupils, keep up the amazing effort!

Trip reminder

Please ensure your provide consent for upcoming trips via Arbor by the deadline date which appears in 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	Aubrey	Noah	Oluwapamilerin	Helaina
Year 1	Franco	Ava-Grace	Summer	Layla
Year 2	Anabila	Ivy	Amelia	George
Year 3	Alexander	Emmanuela	Nicolas	Layla
Year 4	Henry B	William	Casey	Eirene-Joy

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



#OddSocksDay

Get your odd socks on and support #AntiBullyingWeek

Monday 16th November



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

Assemblies and Masses will appear on the calendar of your selected device.

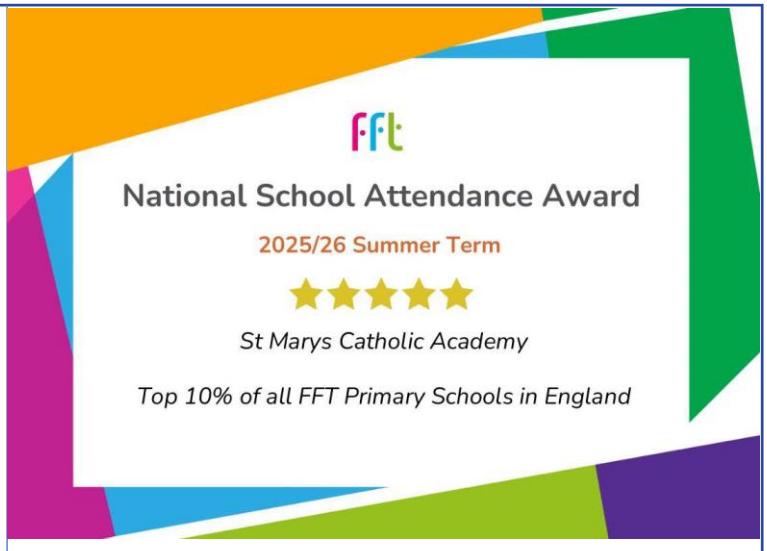
In addition, we have added Christmas performance dates to the calendar.

A polite reminder that we require all filled shoeboxes in no later than Wednesday 11th November.

Our next St Mary's family Mass is being held on Sunday 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent, at 10am.
It will be lovely to see you there!

Our school menu is available to view on our website.
St Mary's Catholic Academy - School Meals





We are so proud that St Mary's has been recognised for its outstanding attendance, placing us in the top 10% of FFT primary schools across England. Well done everyone!

Save the date

Date	Event
Sunday 8th November	Remembrance Day service- Swan Bank Church
Tuesday 10th November	Y2 '5 Ways to Wellbeing'
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 11th November	Y4 Deva Roman Experience
Thursday 12th November	EYFS Nursery Rhyme 'Dress Up' Day & Rhyme Time Workshop
Thursday 12th November	Y3 Class Saint Day
w/c Monday 16th November	Anti-Bullying & Disability Awareness week
Tuesday 17th November	Musicshare- Lichfield Cathedral
Thursday 19th November	Y2 trip to Ancient High House
Thursday 19th November	Y6 Class Saint Day
Thursday 19th November	Maths Information Sessions
Friday 20th November	World Children's Day
Tuesday 24th November	Watch me Learn- Maths
Tuesday 24th November	Foundation Stage- Prospective Parents sessions
Friday 27th November	Reception Inspire Workshop- Advent Wreaths
Sunday 29th November	Family Mass, 10am & Christmas Fair, 11am
w/c Monday 30th November	Y4 Bikeability
Tuesday 1st December	Y6 '5 Ways to Wellbeing'
Wednesday 2nd December	KS2 'A Christmas Carol' production
Wednesday 2nd December	Songbirds Concert

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Sunday 29th November

Approx 11am after our school family Mass

Join us for a heartwarming community celebration at our annual Christmas Fayre, where festive fun and holiday cheer awaits!

£1 Admission for adults (inc a drink)
children are FREE

Come along for...

- Tombola stalls
- Reindeer food
- Toy stalls
- Facepainting
- Refreshments
- Hot food

If you are able to volunteer your time with the set up or running a stall please speak to Mrs Massey

All proceeds will be donated to the Church & Pink lady charity.



Guides

Girlguiding

Girls laugh, learn and expand their horizons for ages 10 to 14



At Guides, girls can have fun in a supportive space. From photography and vlogging to campfire cooking and codebreaking, she'll explore what she loves, make friends and build confidence along the way.

Location: Newford Primary Academy, Smallthorne

Day: Wednesdays, term time only

Time: 7.15pm until 8.45pm

Contact: Vicki - 07568 374054 or visit the website below

Join a local Guides group: girlguiding.org.uk/joinus