



26th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school, I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas break and were able to spend some quality time with your loved ones. On behalf of all staff, I would like to say a huge 'Thank You' to the children and parents who brought in Christmas cards and gifts at the end of last term. We all really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, especially at such a busy and costly time of year.

Wellbeing Newsletter

At St Mary's, we are committed to supporting children, staff and parents in their wellbeing and mental health. We know that wellbeing, physical and mental health are all vital to successful learning. Attached to this newsletter is a wellbeing newsletter with some useful advice, activities and support for families. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's emotional behaviour or well-being, then please let school know by contacting your child's class teacher or Mrs Perkins our Family Support Worker.

Parents' Evening

Parents' evening this term will take place during the week beginning 4th March. We will send appointment slips closer to the time. Targets to work on with your child have been sent home today. We hope that you find these useful. These will be reviewed with your child's class teacher at Parents' evening.

School Uniform

Please can you ensure your children wear the correct school uniform each day. If you are struggling to provide uniform for your child, please contact school and we will be happy to help you out. Please also ensure your child wears correct PE kit on PE days. Again, if you have any problems let us know and we can help.

Attendance

As mentioned in the Christmas newsletter overall whole school attendance for November was averaging at 92%. **This is below our target.** Please help us to raise this percentage further by ensuring your child's attendance is good or better. The playground gates open at **8.40am** when children line up. We expect the children to be in their lines by **8.45am**. From Monday 29th January, the school gates will be locked just after **8.45am** so please encourage your child to be on time. Anyone arriving after this time will need to enter school via the main reception area.

To encourage the children, we will be running two 'Spring Into School Attendance Incentives'. All children who are punctual for a week will be entered into a weekly prize drawer which will be drawn twice this term. Once on the 16th February and a second time on 22nd March. The winners will visit Argos to choose a prize.

Headteacher: Mrs R Ayres

St. Mary's C of E Primary School, Station Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 1AW

Tel: (01455) 637477 office@stmarys.leics.sch.uk





Snowy Weather

As we approach the cold season, it becomes necessary for us to plan for potential disruptions caused by bad weather. In light of this, I wanted to share our procedures for notifying you about school closures due to snow.

I will monitor weather conditions closely, and aim to make a decision regarding school closure by 7:00am on the day in question. We understand the importance of providing you with ample time to make alternative arrangements for your child's care and to ensure everyone's safety.

Once the decision is made, we will promptly inform all staff and parents. Our goal is to reach each of you no later than 7:15am on the day of the potential closure.

In the event of snowy conditions that impact travel to school, but allow us to open the school site safely, our registers will remain open until 10:00am, providing additional time and flexibility for drop-off.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we prioritise the safety and well-being of our children, staff and families. Decisions around school closure due to snow are made in conjunction with governors. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact school. Thank you for your continued support.

Contact Details

If you have changed your mobile number over the Christmas break, please let the school office know, so that we are able to contact you should there be an emergency. Any other details such as change of address; email or other emergency contact or collection information should be given to the office too. Many thanks.

Nut Allergies

As we are a no nut school can we remind you that your child should not have any nut-based products in their lunch boxes. We have noticed an increase in children bringing chocolate and Nutella spread sandwiches at lunch time. This could result in a serious reaction for a child with a nut allergy. Thank you for supporting the welfare of all of our children.

Pupil Premium Funding

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them, school will receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school. Even if your children are in EYFS or Key Stage 1- you can still apply!

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils achieve their best regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals

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- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At St Mary's, we get an extra £1,345 funding from the government for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money makes a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we have previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions
- Support towards costs of trips and residential
- Support towards costs of school uniform

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Please pop into the school office if you think you might be eligible to apply. Miss Tanser, Mrs Bell or Mrs Sutton will be happy to help and support you.

Health and Safety on School Grounds- Bikes and Scooters

Can I remind parents that children should not cycle or scoot on the school grounds, this is to ensure everyone's safety at what are really busy times of day. Thank you.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming you into school this term. Please see the date letter sent out last week.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Ayres
Headteacher

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