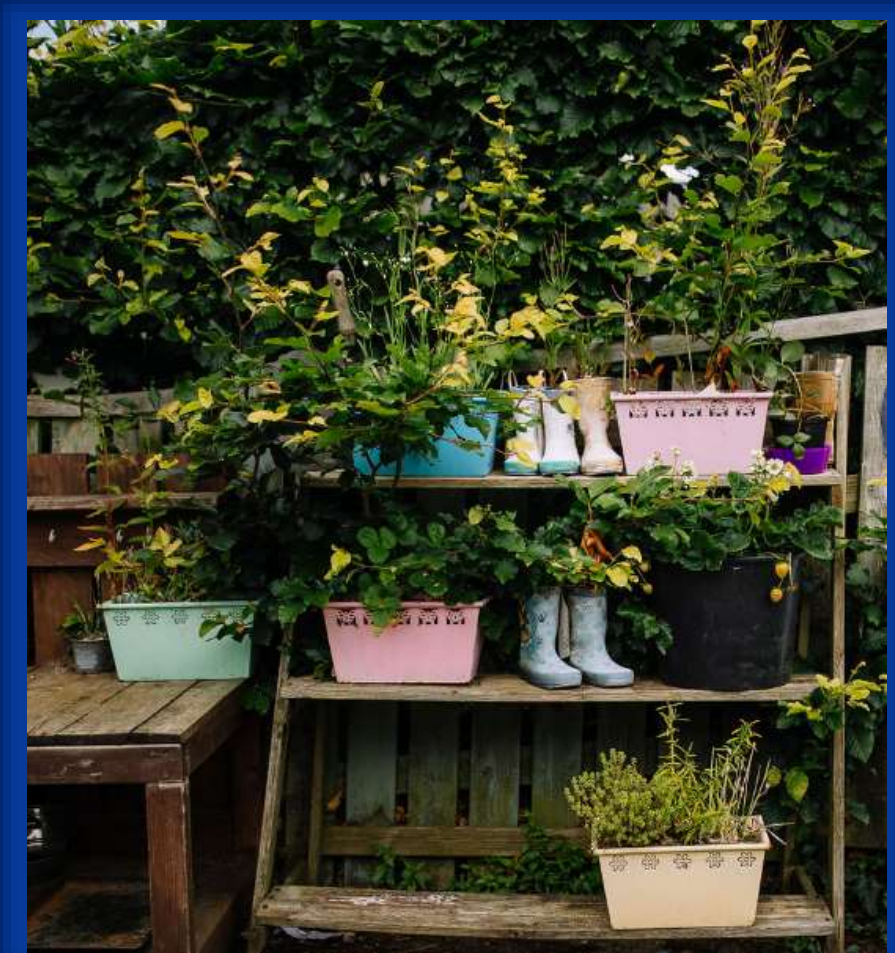


05.09.24

St. Mary's

Church of England Primary School
Kirkby Lonsdale



Newsletter

Honesty



Trust



Responsibility



Perseverance



Respect



Dear Parents, children and families in our school community,

As the crisp autumn air begins to fill the mornings and the days slowly shorten, we are thrilled to welcome you all back for the start of Michaelmas Term. This is always a special time of year, filled with anticipation, excitement, and, for some, a few butterflies in the stomach. Whether you are returning to familiar classrooms or stepping through our doors for the first time, we understand that the beginning of a new school year brings a mix of emotions for both children and parents alike.

For some, this time is filled with eagerness to reunite with friends, dive into new subjects, and take on fresh challenges. For others, there may be a sense of nervousness or uncertainty as they navigate new environments, make new friends, or start their journey in school. We want to acknowledge all these feelings—each one is valid and important. Our goal is to ensure that every child, whether returning or new, feels supported, valued, and excited about the learning adventures ahead.

To our new families and those joining us for the first time in Nursery and Reception classes, a particularly warm welcome to you! Starting at a new school is a significant milestone, and we are committed to making your transition as smooth and joyful as possible. We are here to offer support every step of the way, and we look forward to getting to know you and your children better as the term progresses.

To ensure a positive start, it is essential to remain positive as the children feed of adult emotion and anxiety. We hope that with a good understanding of the year, you will feel confident and good communication will assist with this too. Each class teacher will be sending out a class letter this week which will highlight key information about the routines and expectations in the class. If you received a pupil's report last year, you will have already received the year group expectations for reading, writing and maths. These are also available on our website.

Most importantly, like secondary schools and many primary schools, we have moved to having the **Arbor App** to support communications, photo permissions, meal bookings, club bookings and interschool communication. Thank you for working with us and moving to centralising our communication in the app. (Just to note – please check if your notifications work on your phone link to the Arbor App). We recommend any parents who are still not sure how to use the app, come to the school office as soon as possible to start the year off without missing any information and to ensure you can book clubs and lunches.

If you need a login or password or you are struggling to use the app just call the school office.

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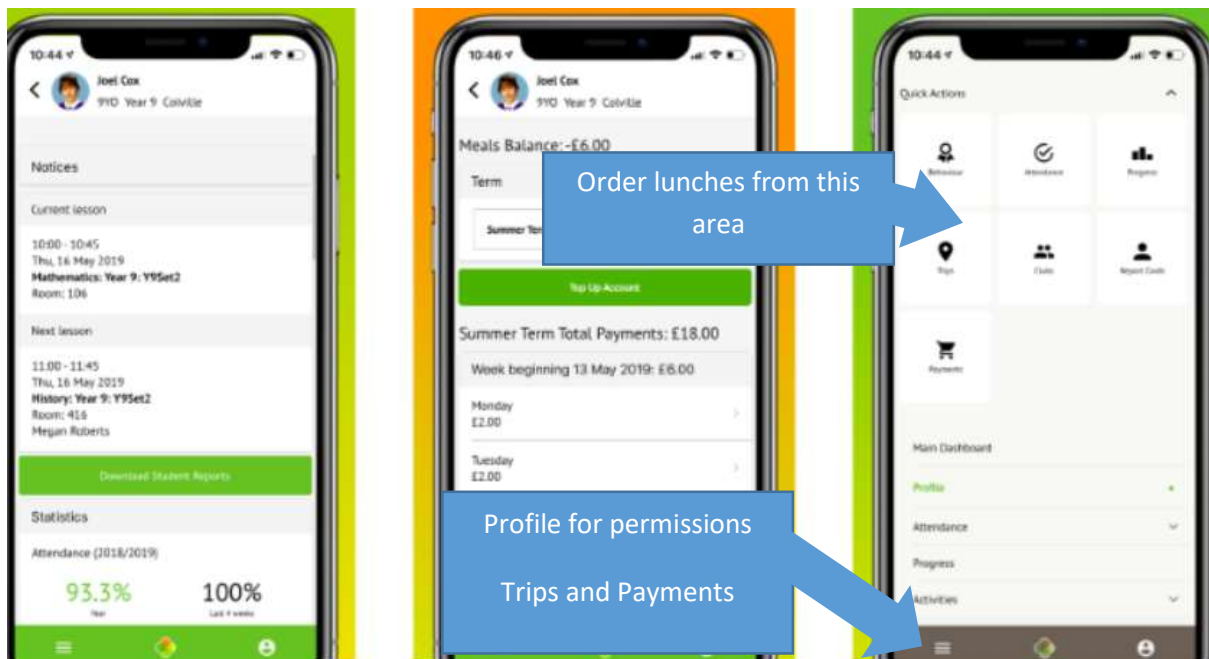


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What is new at St Mary's?

- We have welcomed Mrs Steel in Year 2 and various new families to different classes in school. We hope the year starts well for all our new families and please get in touch if you need help with communication and if you haven't explored school fully.
- During the summer we had a building investment from the Diocese of Carlisle to renovate the toilets for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and 2. This is not necessarily the most glamorous of building projects but it has made a huge difference already. These brand new toilets are now accessible and refitted and will hopefully last for a long time.
- We have changed the catering provider this year in an attempt to maintain high standards of food and reduce the costs for parents. Lancashire Catering Services are providing meals and we want to thank them for their hard work in getting ready for this new academic year.
- You will have seen throughout the summer, that the Government has been promoting the new absence rules on state schools. I have summarised the information at the end of this newsletter. Whilst a slightly gloomy start to a welcome letter, I hope this sets the Central and Local Government's stall out and makes the information clear.

Clubs

Football Club (Monday) is available for boys and girls along with Basketball Club (Tuesday) starting next week. Football Club is a paid club and Basketball Club is free and has a maximum of 20 pupils. Please book via the Arbor App. There will be various clubs offered at lunch time as well as after school and we will keep you and the children informed about these very soon. If you can't book it may be full for this half term.

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Westmorland Show- Thursday 12th September

We typically take **Year 3, 4, 5 and 6** to the Westmorland County Show on **Thursday 12th September** and the bus cost is approx. £6 per child. This is an annual event for local schools and the community. Please note that if parents are taking their children themselves on Thursday to let us know asap to help us plan staffing and so we can authorise this. Any absence on Wed 11th will be classed as unauthorised absence.

If you need to book a school packed lunch for the day, cancel any booked meal first and then order sandwiches as normal.

Westmorland Show Letter: Thursday 12th September Returning to school at 3:00pm

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 12th September we will be taking Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 to the Westmorland Show. This is a wonderful opportunity which most schools attend, to celebrate our local traditions. We will also be exhibiting in the Learning for Life Tent on the day, sharing the art we created over the last year. We have once again acquired free tickets for the children and if you wish to take your child to the show yourself

The cost of the trip will be **£6** which covers our transport to and from this event. Pupils should not bring money to spend.

Parents can pay their voluntary contribution for this via the Arbor App which is live now.

Children will need to be prepared for all weathers and have **appropriate footwear** for muddy conditions. We wear school uniform on top to help identify the children. A packed lunch will need to be provided on the day. If you would like school to provide this, please remember to book in advance. It is advisable that pupils take a back pack and **not a hand-held bag** to carry their lunch and any items they receive at the show. Children may bring a snack and all children should take a water bottle.

PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW ASAP IF YOU ARE TAKING THE CHILDREN YOURSELF.

Kind regards

Brian Jones



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Photo Days 16/17th Sept



Individual and Sibling photos will be taken on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th September.

European Languages Day 26th September (Mufti Day)

Each year, we celebrate this day by exploring and country and language in each class. Your child's class teacher and our next newsletter will keep you informed about any dressing up or activity details.

Young Voices



Mrs Hackett has booked 85 places which consists of our mini bus and a large coach to take the children to Manchester Young Voices. You recently received an email to sign up and there are about 65 taken so far. If you want your child to attend this year and join choir to start practising, please sign up quickly. This is exceptionally popular as the concert is a such a memorable experience. Make sure you book over the weekend to express interest.

Bags to School – PTA



Please start collecting clothing items if you are having a clear out, or sorting clothes, the PTA will be sending bags next week with collection dates information etc.

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Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

**A school day has 2 sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day**

A **school week** means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A penalty notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3 year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences will result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school **must** consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the **same parent** for the **same child** the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the **same parent** for the **same child** (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for **Prosecution** which may result in fines of upto **£2,500** per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued **Per Parent, Per child**. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.

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School Responsibilities

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Head Teacher DSL

R.E./Worship Subject Leader

Maths/French Subject Leader

Nursery Teacher

SENDCo

Nursery Teacher

PSHE/Outdoor Lead

Year 3/5/6 Class Teacher

Geography Subject Lead

Year R Class Teacher

Deputy Head Teacher

English Lead DDSL

Year 1 Class Teacher

Science Lead

Year 5 Class Teacher

Music Subject Lead

Year 3 Class Teacher

Deputy Head Teacher

Computing Subject Lead DDSL

YR Class Teacher

Art and DT Subject Lead

Year 4 Class Teacher

History/Writing Lead

Year 3 Class Teacher

P.E. Subject Lead

Year 2 Class Teacher

Year 2 Class Teacher



Mr Bob Sutcliffe OBE

Art Teacher



Mrs Jan Sutcliffe

PE/Class Teacher



Jane Lawrence
Tuesday
Piano



Marco Giudici
Friday
Woodwind



Rob Mason
Friday
Guitar



Adele Kilip
Thursday
Violin and Piano

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