ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER November 2026

Welcome back to a new month and half term in school. I hope you have all had a restful break.

Thank you to all who made our first half term in school such a success. It has been wonderful to see our school community working together for the good of our children and it has been a joy to welcome the children back for their second half of the autumn term.





St Mary's Catholic Primary School Street

As I know you are aware Enfield Council have set up a School Street for St Mary's between Alexandra Road and Bursland Road.

A 'School Street' is an area transformed into a pedestrian and cycling zone operating Monday to Friday during the school term, during set times at drop-off and pick-up times.

School Streets aim to:

- ensure the safety of school students as they arrive to and leave school,
- improve the air quality near the school, and
- encourage more young people to walk and cycle to school.

When the School Street zone is in operation during the designated hours, motor vehicles cannot pass through the zone, except for those who have applied for and received a permit or exemption.

The times of operation for the St Mary's Primary School Street are 8.15am to 9.15am, and 2.30pm to 3.30pm from Monday to Friday during school term time only and operates using a camera enforced system.

Further information on School Streets and how they operate can be found at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1_NB42i-Gg

Dr Bike repair service - Journeys & Places

Any minor adjustments that can make to your bike will be done there and then. If there's anything our mechanics can't fix on-site, they will offer suggestions for you to get your bike in safe, working order. All our mechanics are friendly and approachable and have a wealth of cycling knowledge so feel free to pick their brains about cycle training, safety on the roads or other cycling activities.

Dr Bike repair sessions are run across the borough at the following locations and times (see further below for this timetable by day):

1. Enfield Town Library on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 10am – 4pm

2. Edmonton Green Train Station Cycle Hub on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 10am – 4pm

3. Palmers Green Library on the 1st Thursday of every month from 4pm – 7pm

4. Albany Leisure Centre on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month from 10am – 3pm

5. Bowes area at the end of Maidstone and Warwick Roads on the 1st Sunday of every month from 10am – 3pm

6. Oakwood Underground Station on the first Wednesday of every month from 4pm – 7pm

7. North Middlesex University Hospital (by the staff cycle hub) on the second Monday of every second month from 9am – 1.30pm (April, June, August, October, December, February)

8. Chase Farm Hospital (by the main entrance) on the second Monday of every second month from 9am – 1.30pm (May, July, September, November, January, March)

9. Enfield Civic Centre on the third Tuesday of every month from 11am – 3pm



Parking

Parking difficulties in the vicinity of the school tend to occur (and have happened already this term) when children are being collected from / dropped off to school each day. I do understand how busy some of the roads around our school can be especially now that Durants Road is a school street but please make every effort to park responsibly as you drop off / collect your child each day.

I hope that during the rest of this school term all parents and carers will act in a responsible manner both for the safety of our children and a positive association with our neighbours. Thankfully so many already do.

Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support. More and more children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. Lots of parents too are cycling and walking with their children.

For the minority of adults who are still blocking driveways and parking illegally in the roads around the school (we continue still to hear about some concerns) please park legally and walk with your child!

Please try hard to:

- **Park legally and walk with your child.** Walking is better for your general health. If you can, leave the car at home and try to build the walking time into your child's day. If a child minder or another family member brings your child to school please encourage them to park legally and walk.
- **Please do not sit in the car with the engine running**. This is not good for the health of others.
- **Never park in / across driveways even for a minute.** This is disrespectful and causes a lot of problems for the school with local residents.
- **Never park on the zig-zag lines** during

the designated no parking times (please check the signs) or in the disabled bays which are reserved for blue badge holders.

Our Faith

The "door of faith" (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (cf. Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life
(From Homily for the beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome (24 April 2005): AAS 97 (2005), 710).
On 11th October 2012, all around the world, Church communities marked the opening of the Year of Faith.



The Year of Faith was an invitation initially from Pope Benedict XVI and subsequently from Pope Francis to all Catholics throughout the world, both as individuals and as members of a Church community, to focus on their faith so as to deepen their understanding of what it means to have the Gift of Faith and live it each day. It was a time to nourish our understanding of Church teaching and to endeavour to develop our own spirituality.

Although the Year of Faith is now over we still need to continue to work on nourishing our own faith and helping our children to grow in their faith. What could we as adults do?

- Take our children to Mass and participate through joining in and responding. Children learn through our example.
- Encourage our older children through our example to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).
- Read the Bible / Bible stories with our children.
- Explore the lives of the saints with our children.
- Help our children to pray.
- Volunteer in school or in the Parish.
- Encourage our children to contribute to Parish and School charity events.

Remember it's never too late to start.

Lord let me see your face,
Know your heart
And experience your love in my life.
Strengthen in me the precious gift of faith.
I believe Lord;
Help my unbelief. Amen



Tips to help keep children safe on the internet and social networks

The internet does pose certain risks and dangers to children - but it offers lots of opportunities too. There are things you can do to keep your child safe.

Talking to your child is one of the best ways to keep them safe. You can also use parental controls on social networks, online games and browsers or software that can filter or monitor what your child can see.



Preventing your children from using the internet or mobile phones won't necessarily keep them safe online, so it's important to have conversations that help your child understand how to stay

safe and what to do if they ever feel scared or uncomfortable.

Follow the TALK checklist to help keep your child safe online (Internet Watch Foundation)

The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has created a resource to help parents and carers understand the risks of 'self-generated child sexual abuse imagery' using the acronym 'TALK'.

To find out more, go to: https://talk.iwf.org.uk/

You might also find the following link helpful:

https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/parents--carers.html

This site has been created by ECP, the company which has provided our staff safeguarding training for many years and has provided numerous sessions of online safety for our children and parents. This company also provides training on behalf of the local authority and to many different business and community groups.

There is some really useful help to understand apps, games and parental controls.

Cyber Choices – Information for Parents from the National Cyber Security Centre

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family

https://www.kidsonlineworld.com/parental-controls.html

Back to School:

Description: This video (made by the same people who produce our monthly Online Safety newsletter) provides a quick overview on establishing family tech rules and tips on how to use AI.

You can access it by:

Clicking on **https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/09-2026-Back-to-school-and-AI-Sept-2026.mp4**

Online Grooming:

Description: This video (also made by the same people who produce our monthly Online Safety newsletter) provides a short overview explaining what Online Grooming is, spotting the warning signs and what actions you should take if this is happening to your child.

You can access it by:

Clicking on **https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Online-Grooming-November-2026.mp4**

Get involved in Talk Money Week this November

Financial education is vital to provide children and young people with an understanding of financial concepts and practices, and the financial literacy to avoid increasingly complex financial harms including gambling, scams, fraud, in-game purchases and exploitative online influences.

Talk Learn Do

Teaching children about money when they're young helps them develop the skills they'll need as adults. 'Talk Learn Do' is a free resource to support parents and carers:

- **talk** to three to 11-year-olds about money – what it is, where it comes from and the difference between wants and needs
- to help children **learn** about money through conversations and getting involved with decisions about spending and saving
- ideas to **do** fun games and activities with children – encouraging practising with money helps them learn how to

make good decisions when they're older.

https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/talk-money/talk-learn-do

https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/talk-money/talk-learn-do/learning-about-money-by-age

https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/family-and-care/talk-money/talk-learn-do/teaching-your-child-about-online-scams-and-in-app-purchases

School Fund

You will know that part of your commitment to the School is to contribute to the School Fund. Over the years the school has undergone major works to benefit the children and the School Fund helps towards payments for these works.

Each family is asked to make the following contributions towards the cost of repairs and general maintenance and improvements, which are the Governors' responsibility. All contributions are voluntary:

1 child £2.00 per week or £25.50 per term or £76.00 per year

2 children £2.50 per week or £32.00 per term or £95.00 per year

3 or more children £3.00 per week or £38.00 per term or £114.00 per year

These payments can be made on line using the 'Parentpay' system. Thank you for your support.



Year Group Addresses:

nursery@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

reception@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year1@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

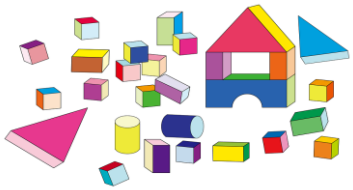
year2@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year3@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year4@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year5@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk

year6@stmarys.enfield.sch.uk



Try out the past papers

Designed to make pupils **think outside the box**, PMC questions can create a great starting point and lead to discussions later in the year. The PMC try to make sure the questions are not heavily reliant on formal mathematical knowledge but can be solved by logical reasoning.

Primary Maths Challenge - PMC Past Papers

(Mathematical Association)

Music Lessons with Enfield Music Service

Parents are now able to renew and book music lessons and activities for Spring 2027 from the Music Store: **https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore**

Please book by Monday 30th November 2026.

Thinking Skills

The current classroom displays include the use of the thinking hats.

As you know our thinking is usually affected by emotional responses, prior knowledge and experience and at times confusion. The de Bono '6 Thinking Hats' method provides a framework for thinking. We think in one direction at the time.

In the '6 Hats' method thinking is divided into six different modes, each of which is represented by a coloured hat.



White Hat – Information (facts. information, questions. What you have. What you need. Where to get it.).

Red Hat – Feelings (emotions, hunches, intuition, instincts, feelings).
Black Hat – Caution (caution, judgement, assessment, weaknesses, difficulties, dangers and potential problems).

Yellow Hat – Benefits (benefits, values, good points, likelihood).

Green Hat – Creativity (alternatives, possibilities, new ideas, options, new concepts).

Blue Hat – Organising the Thinking (thinking about thinking, next steps, summarising, clarifying).

Children are enjoying making use of the hats in class again this year. Ask your child to see if he / she can tell you anything about the hats. Perhaps you might like to try it at home when coming to a decision about / discussing something with your child.

<u>Habits of Mind</u>

'Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes but never quit' – something Conrad Hilton said.



Staff have also been trained in the use of the 'Habits of Mind' – these are a set of habits or dispositions which focus on developing a mature, independent and successful learner / citizen in the long term. You will recognise many habits of mind immediately as you will have tried or are currently trying to develop these dispositions in your own children. There are sixteen in total. They are:
Persisting,
Managing impulsivity,
Listening with understanding and empathy,
Thinking flexibly,
Metacognition,
Striving for accuracy,
Questioning and posing problems,
Applying past knowledge to new situations,
Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision,
Gathering data through all senses,
Creating, imagining, innovating,
Responding with wonderment and awe,
Taking responsible risks,
Finding humour,
Thinking independently,
Remaining open to continuous learning.

We are introducing these again gradually to the children. Ask your child if he / she has focused on any of the habits of mind in school. Don't hesitate to ask the teacher about the current habit of mind focus in your child's class.

Sickness

We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours.



Uniform

Our uniform is part of St. Mary's identity. I would be grateful if you could encourage your child to wear full neat uniform each day including the correct socks, shoes, hair accessories and PE uniform. Children are encouraged to always try to have shirts tucked in and all buttons closed. They are asked not to tie sweatshirts around their waists.

Boots and brightly coloured coats are not encouraged.

For health and safety reasons only small stud earrings are permitted. These must be removed for PE.

So many children wear the correct uniform – thank you parents for your support with this.

Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). No highlights, designs, lines or dyes to be put in hair please. Remember nits love long free flowing hair too!
Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails
False nails or nail polish are *not* permitted in school.

Please encourage your child to respect the uniform policy by leaving all jewellery at home.

Holidays, Absences and Attendance

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress. **I regret that we are unable to authorise time off during the term which is requested for holidays.**

Any requests for time off (special circumstances will only be considered) must be put in writing in advance to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for absence during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school.

Our overall attendance up to the end of the first half-term was 95.4% (95.64% at the same time last school year).

This is below our target of 98% but the vast majority of parents and children are working hard to ensure children are in school each day.

The class with the highest attendance in the first half-term was Year 1, Wisdom (98.7%) followed by Year 3,St.Bernadette and Year 4, St. Peter (97.3%).

Then:

Year 5, St. Joseph – 96.6%

Year 4, St. Paul – 96.1%

Thank you to all parents for all you do to ensure that your child is in school each day.

You might find this short film helpful:

Illness absence and staying healthy

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is important that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/

Wednesday Word

Have you started to read 'The Wednesday Word' yet?
The Wednesday Word is a gift to you and your family because of your connection with our Catholic school.

Every Wednesday, a 'word' (inspired by the Sunday Gospel) will be suggested for you and your family to talk about in your home.

This weekly Family Time is structured around the Sunday Gospel because evidence shows that Gospel values really do help family relationships to thrive.

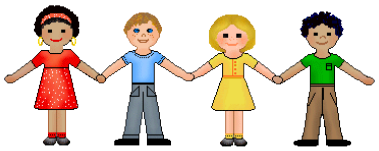
Regularly spending quality time with children is without doubt one of the most important aspects of parenting. *The Wednesday Word* seeks to support you in this important task: to help you and your children maintain a special closeness throughout the school years.

The Wednesday Word 'Family Time' leaflet is designed to ensure that all family members feel included. It presents an effective way for even the busiest of parents to enrich relationships with their children through spending a very special 5 or 10 minutes together each week.

We suggest Wednesdays for *Family Time* because it is the day that the Catholic Church dedicates to St Joseph – the Patron Saint of Families. But rather than miss out, any other night would do just as well.

The Wednesday Word is currently available online:

http://www.wednesdayword.org/index.html



The Angelus

In the autumn term we try to learn / say The Angelus each day at 12 noon in all of our junior classes from Year 3 – Year 6. This is a wonderful prayer which reminds us that God the Son became man in order to save us.
You might like to say this prayer with your child at home. It can be said in the morning, at noon or in the evening.

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary…

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary…

And the Word was made Flesh:
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary…
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray.
Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may be brought by his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.
May the divine assistance remain always with us and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent helpline:
https://youngminds.org.uk/

Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Being a parent has never been easy. There are no manuals for it, and previous generations may not be able to provide the insight you're looking for.

The family unit is more dispersed than ever, with some families existing hundreds of miles from what may be called a 'core unit'.

The rapid pace of societal change in the UK rapidly outstrips the knowledge of the immediate past. The result is that many parents may find themselves lost in a world of contradictory advice.

For adults, time has never been more compacted. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.

(Free from landlines and most mobiles)*

Anti-Bullying Week

With Anti-Bullying week coming up on 16-20 November, we will all be reminded again of the importance of educating our children on this important topic.

Young Minds has resources for pupils, parents and schools that might be of some help to parents and families.

Bullying | Get help and advice YoungMinds

Christian Meditation

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/

Remember, Remember the Dangers on 5th November!

On 5th November, we remember Guy Fawkes and his associates' plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament, usually by lighting a bonfire and setting off fireworks.
Whilst this is a fun and enjoyable time for children, we must ensure that we keep them safe around bonfires and fireworks. Click the link to find resources that will help you stay accident-free on Bonfire Night.

Firework safety - RoSPA

https://www.rospa.com/home-safety/fireworks-safety

Harvest

This year we again, in partnership with our parish, supported the Manna Centre, a centre for the homeless in London. Thank you for your very generous contributions.

Many thanks to St Mary's Catholic Primary School for your Harvest Festival gifts once again this year. The food that we have received will be used throughout the next twelve months to provide meals to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society.

The work we do here is a practical and compassionate response to poverty and homelessness. Without the continuing generosity of our supporters, we would be unable to continue our work. Please find attached a poster thanking all who donated Harvest Festival gifts.

We ensure that all of our service-users receive a hot nutritious meal and have access to washing facilities, health care, clothing, housing & welfare advice and to the internet. On an average day we see about 120 people. All of our services are free to our service users.

We offer a place of warmth and security where all of our service-users can access all of the services mentioned above. For some it will be the only hot meal they will have in the day. The showers & washing facilities perk people up after a night on the street, hopefully encouraging them to persevere. A change of clothing (especially clean underwear & socks) also helps people feel better about themselves. The medical personnel (Nurse Practitioners, Mental Health Workers & Podiatrist) help address any medical issues our service-users are facing.

We are only able to continue to provide these services thanks to your support. On behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity please accept my thanks.

Best wishes,
Paddy

Paddy Boyle
Manna Society Administrator

https://www.mannasociety.org.uk/

Participating in Mass online

Since Saturday 4th July 2020 there has been live streaming of our parish services, The link is: https://camstreamer.com/redirect/KvPDGYSu8s5eSkk8BZ542JLeEl3c8XKIuuRcWzgH





Support for Prayer

Father John has asked me to remind you that the church is now open each morning from 8.15am to enable families / parents to call in to pray.

Some Dates for this term

Sunday 1st November Solemnity of All Saints.
Monday 2nd November: All Souls Day. School Mass for Years 1-6.
Thursday 5th November : Parents Reading Meeting, 2.15pm
Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Sunday
Tuesday 10th November: Bring Your Dad to School AM
Wednesday 11th November: Years 3 and 4 to parish Mass at 9.30am.
Friday 13th November: BBC Children in Need 'Pyjama Day'
Sunday 15th November: World Day of the Poor.
Wednesday 18th November: Years 5 and 6 classes to parish Mass at 9.30am.
Wednesday 25th November: Year 3 classes to parish Mass at 9.30am.
Friday 27th November: Own Clothes' Day – items for Christmas Bazaar.
Nursery Christmas Performance AM.
Saturday 28th November: Parish Bazaar.
Tuesday 1st December: School Mass in church for Years 1-6 at 9.30am for Blessing of Advent Wreath.
Wednesday 2nd December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).
Thursday 3rd December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).
Friday 4th December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).
Nasal flu Immunisations (additional day).
Monday 7th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults)
Junior Carol Service in church, 5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)
Tuesday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in the church for Years 3-6.
Wednesday 9th December: MyMe Coffee Morning for parents, 9.30am
Thursday 10th December: Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am followed by Confessions.

Friday 11th December:
Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).
Monday 14th December: Christmas Lunch.
Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Class Parties PM.
Friday 18th December: Last day of autumn term – School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 22nd anniversary Mass) in church for Years 2-6.
Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.
Monday 4th January 2027: Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

These are some of the prayers we say with the children each day in school. You might like to say these in the morning with your child, at meal times or before he / she goes to bed.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the things you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night.
And in the morning send your light. Amen.



Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord
As we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.

Grace After Meals

Thank you God
For the food we have eaten.
Thank you God
For all our friends.
Thank you God
For everything.



Thank you and Best Wishes!

Thank you for your continued support. We are truly blessed with the support we receive from our families always.

You and your children continue to be remembered in our staff prayers at school every morning before school.

Mrs R. Martin
Interim Headteacher

Talk PANTS resources for parents

'We want all parents to talk PANTS. That's why we've created guides and resources to help them find the right words to talk to their children about staying safe' NSPCC

› Find Talk PANTS resources for parents on the NSPCC website

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have places in our Nursery and in some of our other classes.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this.

