

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

September 2025

"Everyone directly involved in the school is a part of the school community: teachers, directors, administrative and auxiliary staff. Parents are central figures, since they are the natural and irreplaceable agents in the education of their children. And the community also includes the students, since they must be active agents in their own education." (From 'The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School', 1998, n32)



Welcome to a new term and year at St. Mary's. It was so lovely to see the children come back safe, refreshed and happy this week. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer break. A very special welcome to all new families who are starting with us this term.



Our school received an overall effectiveness of outstanding for Religious Education and outstanding for the Catholic Life of the school (OFSTED Section 48) in September 2019. As you know our school's standards over time were also assessed by Ofsted in November 2023 (OFSTED Section 5) and found to be good.

Thank you parents for your valuable support for the school always which definitely assisted us in receiving these very pleasing judgements.



Where can I find out more about St. Mary's School?

If you visit www.ofsted.gov.uk and click on 'Inspection Reports' you can access the full inspection report for our school.

Also if you visit the website for the Diocese of Westminster at www.rcdow.org.uk and click on 'Find a School' you can read the full Section 48 inspection report for our school (I know many of you are aware that our school is also inspected by inspectors from the Diocese of Westminster).

Classes for this new school year

Nursery: Mrs Whytock and Mrs Forgione

Reception (Hope): Mrs Rowley

Reception (Grace): Mrs Linnane

Year 1 (Wisdom): Mrs Keevil

Year 1 (Rosary): Miss Beckles

Year 2 (Fatima): Miss Soto

Year 2 (Faith): Miss Sheehan

Year 3 (St. Cecilia): Miss Tanak

Year 3 (St. Bernadette): Mrs Falzone

Year 4 (St. Paul): Ms Joseph

Year 4 (St. Peter): Miss Crooy

Year 5 (St. Joseph): Miss Chafra

Year 6 (St. Catherine): Mrs Egboh

Year 6 (St. Christopher): Mrs Brennan



If you have any questions about the work, the organisation of the classroom, need any support or just want to say hello please contact the teacher via the year group e-mail address or via the school address or call us at school. I know the teachers would love to hear from you.

Staff will also be in the playground at the end of the school day if you need to check anything.

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

New Staff

A warm welcome to the new staff who have joined us (a couple this year).

We hope they will enjoy their time with us. I know the children have already made them feel very welcome.



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://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/schoolstreets/widgets/38314/videos/3024>

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>



School Organisation

It is wonderful to have all of our children back in school. We are looking forward to enjoying another new year in school.

Reception (once their induction is completed), Years 1 and 2: 8.40am-3pm (Registers are at 9am).

Years 3-6: 8.40am-3.15pm (Registers are at 9am).

It is really helpful to your child to be in the classroom before 9am so they are settled and ready to begin their day. Teachers use the time early in the morning to read with children, follow up on work from previous lessons, practise phonics etc. We have found over the years that the children enjoy the early morning settling in time in their classrooms.

Each year group (Y1-6) also has a supervised homework club after school each week (1 hour) to support their learning further.

Children enter the school site via the gate next to the bicycle shed.

For safety reasons children are asked to walk, rather than to cycle or scoot, once they are inside the school gates.

Parents will collect from the playground at the end of the school day. Please do your best to move right into the playground as once you turn the corner at the end of the building the area is narrow and if you stand or sit there you will block the way for others. Space is limited in our playground as you know so try your best to continue to be patient with one another and with the school staff.

Children are encouraged as before to bring a bottle of water to school and are allowed to fill up their water bottles during the day.

If you are visiting the school office at the end of the day please access the office from the front of the building via the main entrance.

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>



Re-establishing the Friday Penance

As you are aware a key resolution of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, released after their May 2011 plenary meeting, was "to re-establish the practice of Friday penance in the lives of the faithful as a clear and distinctive mark of their own Catholic identity".

This act of common witness formally came into effect on Friday 16th September 2011 (the anniversary of the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the UK).

As you know we formally began our practice of not serving meat to the children / staff on a Friday right from the start of September in 2011.

Thank you parents for not including meat as part of your child's packed lunch on a Friday.

Although our children are young we know that you agree that it is good to establish the practices of our faith right from the start. This good habit formed when young will hopefully be part of your child's way of life as he / she grows up. He / she will see abstaining from meat on a Friday as a distinctive mark of his / her Catholic identity.

Parents thank you for your wonderful support with the re-

establishment of the Friday penance.

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.



Online Safety

You might find the following link helpful:

[Parents & Carers - KIDSONLINEWORLD.COM](http://Parents&Carers-KIDSONLINEWORLD.COM)

This site has been created by ECP, the company which has provided our staff safeguarding training for many years (most recently on the first INSET day of the school term) 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 on this site.

Online Safety at Home

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/dark-web-explained/>

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/feeling-good-on-social-media/>

Digiduck Stories (Childnet)

The five stories in the Digiduck series were created to help parents and teachers educate children aged 3-7 about online safety. The collection includes a ebooks, PDFs, a poster and an interactive app.

As well as the books, there is a Digiduck Activity Menu, that can be found here:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/digiduck-stories/>



You might also find the following links helpful:

[Jessie Friends videos \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/jessie-friends/)

Parent guides | Parent Zone

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

Use the links below to find a range of information about keeping yourself or a child you know safer from online child sexual abuse:

[4-7s | CEOP Education](#)

[8-10s | CEOP Education](#)

[11-18s | CEOP Education](#)

Children and Back to School Social Media

This time of year parents all over the country will be focusing on their children. Whether they're going to school for the first time, or they're seasoned educational veterans, the same feeling will fill parents and guardians. A feeling of concern for the year ahead but also excitement and pride that they're embarking on the same journey, they themselves made years prior. In recent years it has become a tradition to post 'back to school' content, to Facebook and Instagram. However, this practice comes with unseen dangers. Over on his blog Wayne Denner has written about this issue extensively, in a short but worthwhile read he exposes some of the potential issues, lurking in the e-space. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/protect-your-child-the-hidden-dangers-of-posting-back-to-school-photos-on-social-media/>

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is essential 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.

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

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.

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/advice-for-parents-and-carers-talking-mental-health-with-young-people-at-primary-school/>

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.

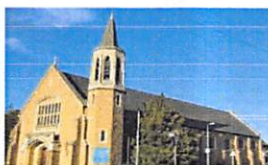
Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchild.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Or
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAlU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ?view_as=subscriber

Since Saturday 4th July 2020 there has been live streaming of our parish services, The link is:

<https://www.churchservices.tv/enfield>

Support for Prayer



Father John has again 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.

Uniform

Please read the attached list. Uniform can be purchased online by logging onto ParentPay and clicking on the school shop link. Items purchased will be available for collection from the school office.

Please ensure that your child's clothing is labelled. Labelled clothing when found can be returned to its owner while

unlabelled items generally remain in lost property. Please encourage your child to wear the correct uniform including the PE uniform, socks and hair colours and to leave jewellery at home.

If it is very warm your child is more than welcome to wear their summer dress if they prefer to do so.

Uniform is part of our identity at St. Mary's. Thank you to all of the children (and their parents) who have come back to school wearing neat correct uniform.

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. Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails

False nails or nail polish are not permitted in school.

Own Clothes' Day - July 2025

£233.15 was donated. Thank you children and parents.

Development of School Building and Site - School Fund

We have had a continuous programme of updating and

improving our school site over the last 20 years.

Thank you to all who made contributions last school year.

During the summer break this year we had all of the internal glass and doors in the oldest part of the school replaced. We were fortunate to secure a fire safety grant to support the cost of this work. There was a lot of dust and mess but the new doors especially look very nice.

Your support for the School Fund will make a real difference to what we are able to do for the children.

School Fund costs £2.00 per week / £25.50 per term / £76.00 per year for one child. For two children School Fund costs £2.50 per week / £32.00 per term / £95.00 per year.

If you have three children in the school School Fund costs £3.00 per week / £38.00 per term / £114.00 per year.

If each family in our school paid its School Fund for one year we would have at least £20,000 in donations! This money would make a real difference to our school and to our provision for the children.

Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by **not** allowing your children (including toddlers) to

play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school. As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher. Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Holidays and Absences

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.

100% Attendance for 2024-2025 School Year

36 (35 in the previous year) pupils had 100% attendance! Well done to those children and their parents! This is an excellent achievement! We are hoping to see the number achieving 100% attendance increase even more this school year.



109 (115 in the previous year) children had 100% attendance in the summer term! Well done everyone!

Attendance

Thank you for your support in trying to build our attendance up to our excellent pre-pandemic levels. Our target is 98% attendance (last school year our absence was 4.45% - although a little bit higher than the previous year (4.37%) we have

definitely continued to improve from 2022-2023. Our overall absence in 2022-2023 was 5.9%.

Well done everyone!

The classes with the highest attendance for the 2024-2025 school year were:

1. 96.90%-Y2, Faith
2. 96.87%-Y6, St. Christopher
3. 96.83%-Y4, St. Peter
4. 96.79, - Y6, St. Catherine
5. 96.62% - Y3, St. Cecilia
6. 96.11%- Y1, Rosary

The national absence rates across all state-funded primary schools were 5.2% in 2024-2025.



Social Tariffs: Cheaper Broadband and Phone Packages - Ofcom (this might be of interest to you)

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phone-s-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Some Dates for this term

Monday 1st September: Staff Training (No school).

Tuesday 2nd September: Staff Mass and Staff Training (No school).

Wednesday 10th September: Open Afternoon - Years 5 and 6, 3.30pm

Thursday 11th September: Open Afternoon - Years 2 and 4, 3.30pm.

Friday 12th September: Most holy Name of Mary - School Mass at 9.30am for Years 2-6. Open Afternoon - Years 1 and 3, 3.30pm.

Thursday 18th September: PGL Meeting for Year 6 parents (via Teams) at 5pm

Thursday 25th September: Year 4 classes to Mass at 9.30am

Wednesday 1st October:

Month of the Rosary begins - children are encouraged to bring their rosary beads to school for prayer.

Tuesday 2nd October: Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels - Year 3 to Parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 3rd October: Harvest Fast Day.

Tuesday 7th October: Our Lady of the Rosary and Harvest Fast Day - School Mass in church for Years 2-6. Rosary beads are blessed. Father John to sign priest reference forms for any secondary schools which require references (in parish house).

Monday 13th October: Year 6 trip to PGL (return on Friday 17th October).

Wednesday 15th October: Year 2 to parish Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 17th October: Nasal flu Immunisations.

Wednesday 22nd October: Years 5 and 6 to Parish Mass at 9.30am

Friday 24th October: Own Clothes Day

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October: **HALF-TERM (No School)** Sunday 2nd November **Solemnity of All Saints.**

Monday 3rd November: All Souls Day. School Mass for Years 2-6.

Thursday 6th November: Parents Reading Meeting (Reception), 2.15pm

Sunday 9th November:

Remembrance Sunday

Tuesday 11th November: Bring Your Grandparent to School AM

Wednesday 12th November: Years 3 and 4 to Mass at 9.30am.

Sunday 16th November: World Day of the Poor.

Wednesday 19th November: Year 6 classes to Mass at 9.30am.

Friday 21st November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass for Years 2-6

Friday 28th November: Own Clothes' Day - items for Christmas Bazaar. Nursery Christmas Performance AM.

Saturday 29th November: Parish Bazaar.

Monday 1st December: School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am for Blessing of Advent Wreath.

Tuesday 2nd December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Wednesday 3rd December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Thursday 4th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Friday 5th December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Monday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass
in church for Years 3-6.

Tuesday 9th December:

Junior Carol Service in church,
5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice)

Wednesday 10th December: Nasal
flu Immunisations.

Thursday 11th December:

Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am
followed by Confessions.

Friday 12th December:

Year 2 Carol Service for parents /
relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale
Hospice).

Monday 15th December: Christmas
Lunch.

Wednesday 17th December:

Christmas Class Parties PM.

Friday 19th December: Last day of
autumn term - School Mass (Mrs.
Derwin's 21st anniversary Mass) in
church for Years 2-6.

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and
1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Monday 5th January 2026: 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!

I would like to thank you for
your wonderful support to date
(we continue to be truly

blessed with the support we
receive from our families) and
wish you well for the term
ahead and this new year in
school. I look forward to
seeing you as the term
progresses.

Stay safe and well please.

Ms R. Martin
Interim Headteacher.



Reduced Speed Limits in Enfield!

Enfield Council is proposing to
introduce 20mph speed limits
on residential streets and
roads in town centres — part
of a wider plan to make the
borough safer, cleaner and
greener for everyone.

Speed was a contributing
factor to 61% of recorded
injury-related collisions in
Enfield over the past 5 years.

Evidence shows that lower
speed limits reduces the
number of accidents and makes
everyone feel safer in their
local areas.

Enfield Council want your views
on the 20mph proposals. Your
feedback will help shape how
the council will roll out these

changes to benefit the whole community.

Find out more and take the survey at <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/20mph> by Sunday 21 September 2025.

Harvest

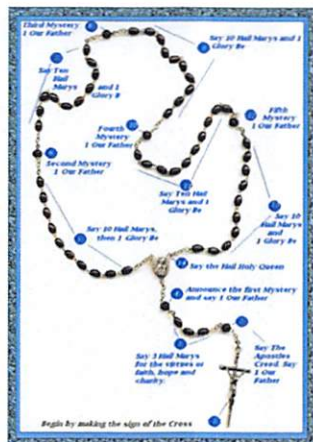
This year we are again supporting the Manna Centre, a centre for the homeless in London. Thank you for your generous contributions to date.

Again last year the representative from the Manna Centre again said that our collection was the most food received from a school. We celebrated our Harvest Mass on Tuesday 7th October.



Please see separate Manna Centre list.

The 7th October is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. **Don't forget your child will need to have their Rosary beads in school on Tuesday 7th October to be blessed!**



Dates for 2025-2026 School Year

Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term

Monday 1st September -
Friday 19th December 2025

Half - Term Monday 27th
October - Friday 31st
October 2025

Spring Term

Monday 5th January - Friday
27th March 2026

Half -Term Monday 16th -
Friday 20th February 2026

Summer Term

Monday 13th April - Friday
17th July 2026

Half - Term Monday 25th
May - Friday 29th May 2026

May Bank Holiday: Monday
4th May 2026

INSET Days

Monday 1st September 2025
Tuesday 2nd September
2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 5th May 2026
Monday 15th June 2026

**Governors' Day: Monday 20th
July 2026 (school closed)**

ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

Due to the fact that there are fewer pupils in London (continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable places to live we currently have places in some of our 2025/2026 class groups.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this. We need your help!

Dear God,
We thank you for giving us your peace.
Help us to spread peace at home and at school by loving and caring for one another.
Help us to spread peace by listening to one another, even when we don't agree.
Help us to spread peace by sharing our time with those who are lonely and who need a friend.
Help us to spread peace by thinking and praying for children who have no food or who are frightened and live in fear.
Let us pray every day for peace for our families, for our friends and for ourselves. Amen.



MANNA DAY CENTRE



Harvest Festival list 2025

Needs in order of priority

(Most important items in bold type)

FOOD

Sugar
Tomatoes (Tinned)
Vegetables (Tinned)
Pasta
Rice
Pasta Sauces
Baked Beans
Meat (Tinned)
Corned beef
Chopped ham
Luncheon meats
Fish

Tinned Food

Soup
Stewed steak
Hot Dogs
Fruit
Rice pudding

Non-Tinned Food

Curry Sauces
Porridge oats
Breakfast cereals
Tomato sauce
Jelly
Cooking oil
Biscuits

DRINKS

Coffee
Dilutable drinks
Tea

TOILETRIES

Bodywash
Soap
Deodorants
Shaving Foam
Shampoo
Disposable razors
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

MEN'S CLOTHING

Jeans (Waist 30-38)
Socks
Jogging bottoms
Trainers
Fleeces / Hoodies
T-shirts
Shoes
Underwear
Trousers (Waist 30-38)
Coats

MISCELLANEOUS

Toilet Rolls
Tea Mugs
Novels
Oyster cards
(Unregistered preferably)



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2025

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are "the safe TikTok alternative." They state, "there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent." Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

Online Safety Act

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July

2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help to protect my child?

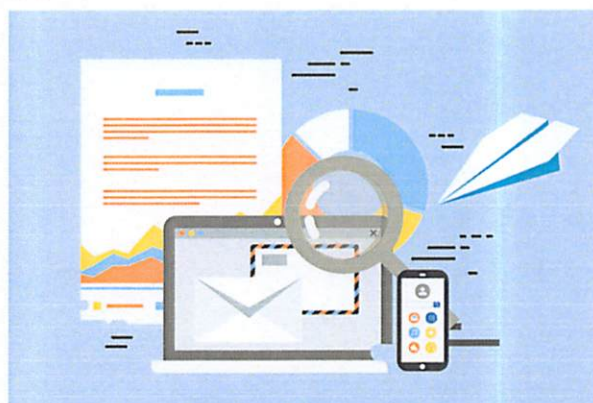
One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>



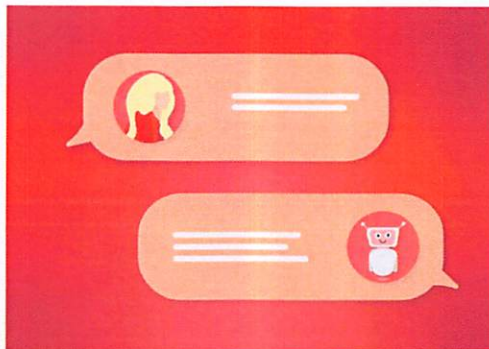
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** - a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend?
<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to go for further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people have the best opportunities in adult life.

How parents/carers can help their child have good attendance?

- From starting at nursery, make sure your child arrives at school on time, every day.
- Encourage your child to take part in school activities and ensure that they understand the importance of being there every day.
- Don't let your child take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not stop you from going to work.
- Where possible, make appointments after school, at weekends or during school holidays.
- Remember, a morning appointment does not mean a whole day of absence. Bring your child back to school in the afternoon.
- Take family holidays during school holiday time only. Schools publish term time dates well in advance – use these to plan your family holiday.
- Encourage your child to tell you about any problems they may have at school. If you know or think that your child is having difficulties attending school you should contact the school straight away.
- Find out regularly your child's attendance and absence record and check that this matches with your own records.
- Acknowledge, praise and reward good or improved attendance, even small successes.



There are 365 days in a calendar year and 175 of them are non-school days! That's plenty of time to book appointments, holidays and lots of quality family time together!

Below 90%

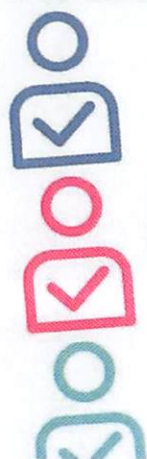
Serious impact on education and reduces life chances

90-95%

Less chance of success

96% & above

Best chance of success



But it's only a day

- ▶ **90% attendance = half day missed every week!**
- ▶ **One school year at 90% attendance = four weeks of learning missed!**
- ▶ **Over 5 years of school = half school year missed!**

All children and young people whose school attendance is 90% or below are considered to be persistent absentees.



THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL ABSENCE

- The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.
- At Key Stage 4 the overall absence rate of pupils not achieving grades 9-4 was over twice as high as those achieving grade 9-5 (8.8% absence compared to 3.7% absence).

Taken from 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance', September 2022



The Circle of Security Parenting

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child was really asking from you.

Circle of Security Parenting is an 8-week evidence-based, relationship-focused programme. It is a reflective programme that helps caregivers focus on the quality of the relationship with their child, not just their behaviours. Participants attend a 2-hour group session once per week for 8 weeks.

Aims of the Programme:

- Help parents/Caregivers understand & respond sensitively to their children's needs
- Increase parents/Caregivers' reflective & empathic responses
- Enhance parent-child relationship
- Improve young children's developing self-esteem
- Support parents/Caregivers to be confident

Who is it for? Parents/Caregivers of children ages 4 months to 5 years old

When? Fridays, 19 Sept - 14 Nov 2025
Tuesdays, 30 Sept - 25 Nov 2025
Mondays, 13 Oct - 8 Dec 2025

Where? Fridays, Ponders End Family Hub, EN3 4PX
Tuesdays, Capel Manor Primary, EN1 4RL
Mondays, Craig Park Hub, N18 2HN

Time? Fridays @ 10am-12 noon
Tuesdays @ 9:30am - 11:30am
Mondays @ 12:30 - 2:30pm

How to book? [Circle of Security Referral](#)

Or Scan QR Code



Contact Information: parentingprogrammes@enfield.gov.uk

www.enfieldparentingdirectory.co.uk

Programme for Parents/Carers

Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities (SFSC)

is a 13-week inclusive evidence-based parenting programme for all parents and carers of children aged 0-18.

The programme will help parents/carers think about how their experiences, culture, upbringing, and family background have influenced their parenting style.

It will also help parents/carers answer some important parenting questions, such as:

- How do I build a better relationship with my child?
- How can I motivate my child to try their best at school?
- How do I encourage my teenager to make better decisions?
- How do I put boundaries in place with my child?
- How do I connect with the wider communities and services in my area?

Who is it for? All parents/carers of any ethnic and faith background

How long? 13 weeks - each week you attend a 3-hour session in person

When? Wednesdays, 17 Sept - 17 Dec 2025
Fridays, 19 Sept- 19 Dec 2025

What time? 9:30am - 12:30pm @Keys Meadow
9:45am - 12:45pm @Ponders End

Where? Keys Meadow Primary School, 84 Tysoe Avenue, EN3 6FB (Wed)

Ponders End Youth & Family Hub (RPC), 141 South Street, EN3 4PX (Fri)

Certificate Award Ceremony at end

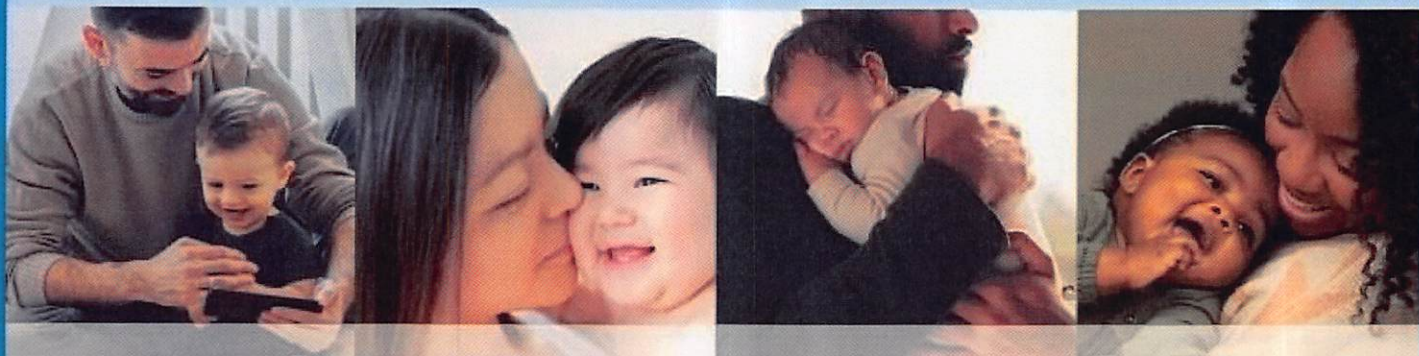
How to Book? [Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities Programme](#) or scan QR code



Accredited by



Small changes, big differences.



Triple P for Baby –

A positive start for babies and parents

Aims to prepare parents-to-be and parents with a baby up to 12 months old make a positive transition to parenthood. It promotes sensitive and responsive care before and after birth, up to baby's first birthday.

Delivered in groups, parents will learn ways to cope with frequent crying, set up good sleep habits, read baby's cues, look after themselves, adapt to changes in family life, and more.

Topics covered includes:

Session 1: Positive parenting

Session 2: Responding to your baby

Session 3: Survival skills

Session 4: Partner support

Sessions 5-7: Implementing parenting routines

Session 8: Ways to maintain changes

WHEN?

Mondays, 15 September - 17 November 2025 at 10am-12noon

Thursdays, 18 September – 13 November 2025 at 6pm-8pm;

Wednesdays, 8 October – 3 December 2025 at 12:30pm-2:30pm;

WHERE?

Mondays, Craig Park Youth & Family Hub, 2 Lawrence Road, N18 2HN

Thursdays, North Midx Hospital (Maternity Education Rm), Sterling Way, N18 1QX

Wednesdays, Ponders End Youth & Family Hub, 141 South Street, EN3 4PX

HOW TO BOOK ONLINE? [Triple P Baby Referral](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION: ParentingProgrammes@enfield.gov.uk



[Parenting Directory](#) | [Enfield Council](#)

