



St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School
September 2026

'In the light of Jesus, we learn to shine'.



REFLECTION for the NEW SCHOOL YEAR



Dear Lord,

*Thank You for bringing us together at the start of a new school year.
Bless our children, families and staff, and help us to grow together in faith, kindness and love.
Guide us in all that we learn and do, and may our school always be a place of joy, friendship and welcome.*

Amen

Welcome Back Everyone!

Dear families,

A warm welcome back to you all to a new school year. A big welcome to our new school families, our Reception pupils start their journey in school this week. We know they will soon get settled in and make lots of new friendships. The children have all come to school today with excitement, big smiles and the urge to be their best. They have been welcomed by our amazing staff team to allow them to settle into their new classroom routines as quickly as possible.

School Day

Please make sure your child arrives promptly for the start of the school day. Children are not allowed on the main car-park area. Pupils need to line up with parents/carers either within the coned area towards the junior playground or along the infant path. Pupils must not access the area around the office area during the beginning and end of the day, enabling clear access for visitors to the office.

Start of the school day

The school gates open from 8.40am and the school day starts at 8.45am.

The three entry points are:

- Infants onto the infant playground
- Siblings through the front entrance of school
- Juniors through the junior entry gate
- The junior gates are open from 8.40am for **all** juniors (The gates are closed at 8.50am)

The school day starts at 8.45am for all pupils. Registration will close at 8.50am.

End of the school day

All classes finish the day at 3.15pm and the three exit points are as follows:

- Infants from the infant playground
- Juniors from the junior playground
- Sibling parents, with children in both Key Stages, are to collect infant pupils first then walk round to the junior playground.



Please note the school day starts at 8.45am and your child is expected to be ready in class to start learning by 8.50am. All classes take part in SODA (Start Of Day Activity) so it is vital that your child is in school for this time. Any pupils that arrive after 8.50am will be marked as late.

Information will continue to be communicated via Class Dojo, Arbor and via the website such as monthly Newsletters. Please make sure you continue to access the links and notifications, supporting paperless communication. If you have any tech problems please don't hesitate to contact the school office for support.

Class Welcome meetings

Class welcome meetings will take place on Thursday 3rd September at 2.30pm for year 1 to year 6.

This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and to find out about routines, homework etc or to ask any questions.

Please also remember we have an 'open door' policy—this means you can call in any time to speak to an available member of staff!

Attendance Expectations

As you are aware, the government has now put in place new national attendance expectations including new penalty notices and stringent school systems to make sure pupils receive the best possible access to their education. Please support schools high attendance standards by making sure you follow our attendance policy and national expectations by always making sure you contact school, giving full details, when your child is absent from school. Our school target remains at 96% and we will work in partnership with our families to ensure all children benefit from the best attendance possible.

Policies

The Safeguarding, Child Protection and Early Help Policy has been updated and can be accessed on the school website.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Mr Atherton, Mrs Hitchen and Mrs Mitchell.

The Safeguarding Governor is Mrs Kearsley.

The Attendance Officer is Mr Atherton.

The SENDCO is Mrs Mitchell.

Uniform Policy and reminders.

School Uniform:

Grey school trousers or grey shorts (uniform not fashion trousers)

Sky blue polo shirt, school logo optional

Blue/grey check pinafore or skirt

Navy blue cardigan or sweatshirt with school logo

A blue and white checked/striped cotton dress can be worn in the summer months.

White/grey/black socks or grey/navy tights

Sensible black school shoes

PE Kit:

Appropriate indoor P.E. kit comprising school PE T-shirt (navy and school logo), shorts (navy) and regular trainers are required for all pupils. Pupils come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days (specified by the class teacher). Pupils may wear their school jumper or school hoodie (logo recommended), tracksuit bottoms and/or leggings in black, grey or navy on these days.

Health and Safety

We are sure that you will support us in fostering best practice with regard to health and safety and so it is essential that no jewellery, with the exception of watches (no smart watches) to be worn in school. Earrings, rings and necklaces can cause injury when worn on the playground or during sporting activities.

Your child must not wear earrings for school (including non-uniform days). If your child does wear them to school then they will be, in the first instance, advised not wear them in school and parents will be informed.

If parents wish for their children to have their ears pierced this must be organised for the beginning of the long summer break so that the earrings can be removed at the beginning of the new academic year.

Long hair must be tied back and hair accessories should complement the school uniform, e.g. school colours – blue, grey, black, white Nail polish must not be worn for school.

Please label all your child's uniform and check the labels regularly.

Pupils should bring their own water bottle everyday (excluding reception).

Please make sure school dinners are pre-ordered for pupils on the Evolve System. A good routine is to order the Friday before for the following week.

Reading records have been provided for all pupils and will continue to be used for home-school correspondence alongside Class Dojo. If you have any specific questions or require more detailed conversation please contact school directly to speak to the class teacher or the office for general queries.

Allergies—please remember some of our pupils have peanut allergies. Please avoid this product (e.g. peanut butter) if your child brings a packed-lunch or snacks to school. A reminder that only healthy snacks are allowed in school during breaktimes.

The staff and I have loved welcoming the children today. As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further details of events and pictures can be found on our school website :

[Home](#)