



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester



St Mary's C.E. Primary School

Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, Urmston, Manchester M41 5TJ

Phone: 0161 757 0222

Email: office@stmarysdavy.co.uk

Website: www.stmarysprimarydavyhulme.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Daniel, MusB, NPQH

Friday 4th September, 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to school for the new academic year, especially to those of you who are new to our school family. I hope you will find St Mary's to be a friendly, welcoming place. Staff are usually available at the end of the day but if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch via Class Dojo or email/telephone to the school office. Apologies for the length of this Newsletter, there is a great deal of information to share at this time of year!

Working in Partnership Agreement/School Travel Plan/Acceptable use of ICT

Soon, the children will be bringing home a copy of the Working in Partnership Agreement, Travel Plan and Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement. The partnership between school and home is crucial to securing good outcomes for all our pupils, as it says in our school vision, we are 'Building a positive future for all as part of God's loving family'. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could discuss both of these documents with your child and return them, signed, as soon as possible. The Values are at the heart of all we do here at St Mary's and are part of the everyday language that we use in school with the children.

PTA

Our PTA do a fantastic job of organising fund raising and social events for the school family. They have raised money to support our children's learning (Ipsads/Chrome Books) and to improve the environment – the latest purchases are the new benches on the playground. We will also soon be refurbishing the beds at the front of school. The PTA is a very open and welcoming group and everyone is welcome to come along and get involved. Look out for messages on Dojo about the AGM which will be held towards the end of September.

Collection

On occasions, someone other than the usual carer for your child may be collecting at the end of the day. If this is the case, for security purposes we operate a password system. Please contact the school office to let them know who will be collecting your child and provide a password already agreed with the person collecting. Please do not message class teachers about changes in pick-ups during the day as they do not have time to check messages when they are teaching the children.

Class Dojo

I'm not sure how we managed in school before we started using Class Dojo! It is a fantastic tool for communication and supporting children's behaviour and relationships. It's great that we have direct lines of communication between home and school, however we do ask that you understand that there are some limitations to it.

As mentioned previously, staff cannot routinely check their messages during teaching time. If you need to get an urgent message to school, please call the school office on 0161 7570222.

We do understand that you will need to message us when it is a convenient time for you, which can sometimes be late at night once children are in bed. Equally, the staff will respond when it is convenient for them, usually between the hours of 8am and 6pm. We will always get back to you, but it may not be straight away.

Voluntary Help

In school, we really appreciate the time that parents and grandparents are able to give in order to support our children's education. If anyone can spare an hour or two on a regular basis or even be available to help out occasionally, then please let us know by telephoning or calling in to the school office or speaking to your child's class teacher at the end of the day.

Equipment in School

Just a reminder – apart from Year 6, pupils should not bring pencil cases into school. All equipment is provided. Only pupils who have pre-arranged agreements with class staff should bring fidgets into school and most children who require a fidget have been supplied with one by the pastoral staff. Your child's class teacher will inform you of which day your child will be doing P.E. On those days, your child should come to school in P.E. kit i.e. black shorts/joggers (depending on the weather), plain white t-shirt, trainers and school jumper/cardigan.

Open House Meetings

The Open House meetings are a great opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's new teacher and find out what the key learning will be for this year. The meetings will be held in person straight after school in your child's classroom. The half-termly overview will be given out and discussed at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, we will send the information home with your child. The dates for the meetings are included below on the dates for your diary section.

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Parking on Cornhill Road

Parking is always challenging around schools and unfortunately, we are on a particularly busy road. St Mary's church very kindly allow us to use their carpark at pick up and drop off times and I would urge you, if you have to drive to school, to please park away from Cornhill Road. The road gets very congested, especially when we have buses going both ways. We work in partnership with our community and work to maintain good relationships with our neighbours. Please park considerately and do not block driveways, even for a short time. Many thanks for your support in keeping our children safe.

I would also like to add a request that you do not permit your children to enter the gardens of our neighbours. I receive regular complaints from members of the local community who have seen children from our school walking through or even playing on their premises. Please encourage your child to be respectful of other people's property.

Breakfast and After School Club

Mrs O'Leary and her team are ready to welcome the children back to Breakfast and After School club. If you would like to make use of our wraparound care, please pick up a booking form from the school office. Bookings must be made via the office and not via Class Dojo.

Attendance

If your child is unwell and cannot come to school, it is essential that you inform the school office via telephone or email. Please do not message via Dojo about absences, as class teachers are not always able to check their messages in the morning when they are teaching. It is the office who record attendance and they will be the ones following up if your child is not in school.

I would also like to remind you that absence during term time for holidays is not permitted, unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you are considering taking your child out of school, you need to collect an Application for Authorised Absence During Term Time form from the office then complete and return it to school for my attention. For your information, attendance is classified as follows:-

98% - 100% Excellent
95% - 97.9% Good
90% - 94.9% Unsatisfactory
Below 90% Persistent absentee

Our attendance figures are reported to the local authority and all cases of pupils whose attendance is giving cause for concern will be followed up by the school office and Trafford to see how we can best support families to ensure their child is attending school regularly.

School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free meal in school under the Universal Infant free School Meals scheme. Meals for KS2 pupils cost £3.20 per day. If your child wishes to change between school meals and bringing a packed lunch, we need a week's notice so that we can order food in advance.

All children in Reception and KS1 are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable for their morning snack and will not therefore need to bring an additional snack with them. In KS2, children are able to bring a healthy snack to school with them to eat at morning playtime. Please refer to our Whole School Healthy Eating Policy (available on the school website) for further information. All children should bring a named water bottle to school with them and they will be encouraged to drink throughout the day. Only water is permitted in water bottles.

Homework/Reading

Our homework policy is changing this year and we are in the process of finalising it. Your child's class teacher will inform you of the requirements for homework and reading at the Open House meeting, however I just want to impress upon you the importance of reading with your child. Reading is the single most important thing you can do at home to support your child's education. Being a fluent reader supports children in all areas of the curriculum and gives them the skills they need to develop their education at high school and beyond. Even when your child has mastered phonics and can decode, it is crucial that reading at home continues so that children develop understanding and analytical skills. Please make sure that your child, whatever their age, reads every day.

Dates for Your Diary

Please find below some important dates for your diary. As new events are added or if things change, we will get the information out to you as soon as possible. For Open House meetings, please collect your child from the playground then enter school via the main office to give staff time to set up the classrooms. More dates will be added as the term progresses. We will aim to get information out to you with as much notice as possible.

Class/Group	Event	Date	Time
Whole School	Golden Assemblies begin – if your child has a medal, trophy or certificate, they are welcome to bring it in so that we can celebrate their success.	7.9.26	9am
Year 3	Recorder lessons begin.	8.9.26	9:30am
Whole School	Workout Wednesday – All children should wear P.E. kit.	9.9.26	All day
Year 6	Church Service	9.9.26	10am
Year 6	Secondary School Entrance Exams – please let us know if your child is sitting the exams.	14.9.26	All day
Year 4 Year 5	Open House Meetings	14.9.26	3:30pm
Year 6	Open House Meeting	15.9.26	3:30pm
Year 1 Year 2	Open House Meeting	17.9.26	3:30pm
Year 3	Open House Meeting	22.9.26	3:30pm

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Nursery/Reception	Open House Meeting	23.9.26	3:30pm
Year 5	Family Worship	23.9.26	9am
Year 4	Family Worship	30.9.26	9am
Nursery/Reception/ Year 1	Phonics Meeting	30.9.26	2:30pm
Whole School	Black History Month	October	
Whole School	Harvest Festival in church – donations of food will be taken to the food bank (no fresh food please)	1.10.26	9:15am
Church	Church Harvest Festival	4.10.26	10am
Year 6	Bikeability	5-8.10.26	All day
Whole School	Flu Vaccination	12.10.26	Morning
Year 3	Family Worship	14.10.26	9am
Year 4	Church Service	21.10.26	10am
Whole School	Close for half term	23.10.26	3:30pm
Half Term			
Whole School	Open for second half of Autumn Term	2.11.26	8:45am
Catch up	Flu vaccination	2.11.26	Morning
Whole School	Workout Wednesday	4.11.26	All day
Whole School	Urmston Remembrance Parade	8.11.26	TBC
Whole School	Pupil Learning Meetings – booking links will be sent out via email closer to the time.	10/11.11.26	3:35-6:35pm
Year 6	Family Worship – Remembrance Service	11.11.26	10:45am
Whole School	The Book Bus – further information to come	12.11.26	Afternoon
Nursery/Reception	Fabulous Finish	17.11.26	9am
Year 5	Church Service	18.11.26	10am
Year 1	Family Worship	25.11.26	9am
Year 3	Fabulous Finish	25.11.26	2:45pm
Whole School	Individual and sibling photos – uniform please. Bring trainers to change into if it is your P.E. day.	27.11.26	All day
Choir	Church Christmas Fair – please wear Christmas jumpers!	28.11.26	11am-2pm Choir singing at 12 o'clock
Year 3	Recorder concert	1.12.26	Time tbc
Half Term			
Year 4	Fabulous Finish	3.12.26	9am
Year 1	Fabulous Finish	3.12.26	2:45pm
EYFS/KS1	Nativity	8.12.26 9.12.26	2:30pm 9:30am
Year 3	Church Service	9.12.26	10am
Year 6	Fabulous Finish	9.12.26	2:45pm
EYFS/2/4/6	Experience Christmas	10.12.26	Morning
Year 5	Fabulous Finish	10.12.26	2:45pm
Whole School	Pantomime	11.12.26	Afternoon
Year 6	Trip to Stockport Air Raid Shelters	15.12.26	All day
Nursery/Reception/ Year 1/Year 2	Christmas Party	15.12.26	Morning
Year 3/4	Christmas Party	15.12.26	Morning
Whole School	Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day Children can wear a Christmas jumper or top with their school uniform.	16.12.26	All day
KS2	Rehearsal in church for Christmas Service	17.12.26	Morning
Year 5/6	Christmas Party	17.12.26	Afternoon
Whole School	Christmas Service in church	18.12.26	9:15am
Whole School	School Closes for Christmas Carols on the playground from 3:25pm	18.12.26	3:30pm

We are looking forward to an exciting term of living and learning without limits, working together for the benefit of our children. If there is ever anything worrying you, please get in touch and we will do our best to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Daniel', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mrs Alison Daniel

Headteacher

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