St Mary's School, Kells

September



Newsletter

Term Dates **Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December '26**
Half Term Holiday Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Welcome to the new school year at St Mary's

Hold my hand Lord, show me the way
Help me be grateful for every day.
Show me the difference between right and wrong
Keep me safe Lord, all night long.
Give me direction on what I should do,
Lead the way Lord, I trust you. Amen.

Information Sheets

We would be grateful if parents could return the new **emergency contact sheets** to the school office as soon as possible. Please complete both sides and sign, so that we have up to date information for all pupils. It is a safeguarding requirement that we ask for three different adults' telephone numbers for children, to ensure that we can keep in touch in case of an emergency.

Please remember to tell us straight away if your contact number or e-mail address changes. Most of our information for parents is sent out electronically, so please help us to stay in touch. Lots of information is on our school website: www.kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk



Uniform & Jewellery

Please ensure that children wear full school uniform at all times. Unbranded joggers and sweatpants are only allowed for outdoor P.E. and should not be worn at other times.
Outdoor P.E. kit (for all children except nursery) is a plain grey sweatshirt (without a hood), plain black jogging trousers and a pair of trainers.

Items of uniform can be bought from www.oneidentity.co.uk a local company who will deliver your order to school for free, or from the www.myclothing.com website.

A SMALL pair of stud earrings are allowed to be worn for school, but NOT on PE days.

Water Bottles & Drinks

Pupils are encouraged to bring water bottles to school and take them home each day to be washed. Only small bottles are needed and these can be refilled during the day. Large bottles are very heavy and cause problems when they leak or spill.
Children should only drink water during lesson times, but can bring squash in a different bottle to have with lunch if they prefer. No fizzy drinks. Thank you.

JUICE AT LUNCHTIME, WATER IN CLASS

School Photographs

On Monday 28th September the photographer will be in school. Pupils should be dressed in full school uniform for the photographs.
Children in Years 1 & 2 who would normally come to school in outdoor PE kit on Monday, need to wear a BLUE sweatshirt instead of their grey one with black joggers & trainers.

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Please click this link to see the term dates for this academic year:
https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-marys-cp/UploadedDocument/5f5476c8-aa8e-4172-aaaf-28d7d0fb53e4/term-dates-2026-2027.pdf

SeeSaw

Children should have received letters with their new access codes for SeeSaw accounts this week. Please login as soon as possible and check that your child's account is working.
Miss Hillon will do a quick demonstration of the SeeSaw application for Year 1 parents at the meeting on Friday 11th September.

Internet Security

If your child has a phone, please check it regularly to ensure they are keeping safe online and please read the monthly Online Safety Newsletters, which are sent to parents via email.
Local Authority guidelines advise against school employees accepting "Friendship" requests on Facebook and social media, so we would be very grateful if parents and pupils would not request members of staff.

School Meals

Caterlink provide school with a cash free service and ALL parents (including those who are entitled to free school meals) are asked to set up an account with ParentPay.
Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to a free school meal.

Nursery meal	= £2.30 per day	£11.50 per week
School meal (Key Stage 2)	= £2.85 per day	£14.25 per week

Please note that the classroom system only works if ParentPay accounts are in credit.
Children are not able to choose a lunch in class if the account doesn't have enough money to pay for the meal, so it is very important to top up regularly.
We would be grateful if parents of Nursery and Reception class could choose their meals at home, so that children are served something that they like to eat.

If you think your family might be entitled to free school meals, please apply online or call in to the school office:
https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers

'Meet the Teacher' sessions will be held for parents at 8.40 a.m. and at 2.40 p.m. on the following dates:

Nursery	Wednesday 7th October
Reception	Monday 14th September
Year 1	Friday 11th September
Year 2	Tuesday 8th September
Years 3 & 4	Thursday 10th September
Years 5 & 6	Tuesday 15th September



Please join us for lots of important information about your child's class this year.

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Wrap Around Care

Please use the QR code to book before or after school wrap around care places.

Breakfast Care provision is £3.50 per session
After School Care provision is £5.00 per session.
Charges include either breakfast or a teatime snack.

Bookings should be made by 3 p.m. on the Friday of the week prior to the sessions required and all payments must be made in advance using a ParentPay account.

Macmillan

On Friday 25th September we will be holding a non-uniform day and a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.
More information will be available nearer the date.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Parents are invited to join us for our weekly Celebration Assembly every Friday at 2.35 p.m.

Holidays in Term Time & Attendance

Parents must notify school in writing if children are going to be taken on holiday during the term and absence request forms need to be returned to school before your holiday. These can be downloaded from the school website or paper copies can be obtained from the office.

A number of our parents received warning letters and fines from the Local Authority during the last school year, due to their children being absent during term time last year.
Head teachers are not allowed to authorise holidays during school term time, other than in exceptional circumstances.

Staff need to know that children are safe if they are away from school for any reason. Please notify us of all reasons for absence, including illness and hospital appointments etc.
The school office can be contacted on 01946 66356 or 0742 791 7331 or
e-mail admin@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk

WE ARE AN ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL

There are a number of children in school with different types of allergies and in the past we have had children prescribed with Epi Pens because of the risk of anaphylaxis.
You can help us to reduce the risk of children having an allergic reaction in school by being careful with snacks and packed lunches sent from home.

Packets of nuts, cereal bars or chocolate bars like Snickers should not be brought from home and products such as peanut butter/ Nutella need to be avoided in packed lunches.
Please check labels on food which is being sent to school, to keep our children safe.

For the same reason we would ask that parents don't send cakes or chocolate treats to celebrate their child's birthday, as unfortunately, we are unable to share them in class.
Thank you for your help.

Please leave toys & squishies at home.

PE Timetable – Autumn Term 2026

Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Monday & Friday
Year 2	Monday & Wednesday
Year 3	Wednesday & Friday
Year 4	Wednesday & 1 x swim week
Year 5	Wednesday & Thursday
Year 6	Wednesday & 1 x swim week

On PE days children need to come to school dressed in grey/black outdoor kit and trainers.

We will be having a new school year Mass on Monday 14th September at 10 a.m. in St Mary's Church. Everyone welcome.

After School Clubs

Please return after school club letters as soon as possible to ensure a place. Clubs will start in the week beginning Monday 14th September, with the exception of Sports Club, which will start on Wednesday 9th September.

We would be grateful for donations of £2 per week for clubs - this can be paid in cash to the school office or using your ParentPay app.
Thank you.