St Mary's School, Kells

January



Term Dates **Wednesday 7th January – Friday 27th March 2026**
Half Term Holiday Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2026

Newsletter

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!



We hope that everyone had a lovely Christmas holiday and that Father Christmas was good to you all! If you have a new mobile phone we would be grateful if you could let us know if the number has changed so that we can update your child's emergency contact information.

The school text number, which parents can use to message the office if their child is absent from school, is **0742 791 7331**. If you would like to report an absence by text please send a message before 9.00 a.m. with your child's full name and the reason for their absence. The normal school telephone number, **01946 66356**, can be used to speak to a member of staff or leave a message if the school is closed.

Also, don't forget to let us know if you move house. Thank you.

Shoebox and Mission Christmas Appeals



A really big thank you to everyone who donated presents and/or money to our Shoebox and Mission Christmas appeals.
Your generosity helped us donate 25 shoeboxes and provided lots of extra help for many of our own school children and families this year.

Reception Class Applications

The closing date for applications for a place in the Reception class this September is January 15th. Nursery parents who have not sent their application form (either online or by post) to Cumberland Council School Admissions will need to do this urgently.

Social Media & Apps

Please talk to children about the use of apps such as Instagram, Snap Chat and other social media, in order that they are keeping safe online. It would also be useful if parents would check that apps being used on phones and iPads are age appropriate, as most social media apps of this type are recommended for over 13s only. The monthly Online Newsletter has lots of useful information and tips and is e-mailed separately to parents.

After School Clubs

Information about after school clubs for this term will be sent home soon.
All children need to be collected from clubs at 4p.m. Please don't be late!

Dinner Money

Caterlink lunch prices have increased slightly and are as follows: Nursery meals cost £2.00 each/ £10.00 per week and KS 2 meals cost £2.65 each/ £13.25 per week.
School meals need to be paid through a ParentPay account, which will enable orders and payment to be completed at home. If you do not have an account, please contact the school office for a username and password.

Newsletter

Welcome to our new nursery children who started school this week

Uniform & P.E. Kits

Children should wear a royal blue school sweatshirt or cardigan, dark grey trousers/skirt and a white polo or shirt. If the weather is hot, blue checked summer dresses are acceptable or grey smart shorts **(not sports shorts or leggings).**



Sportswear, jogging bottoms and tracksuit trousers are not uniform and should only be worn on specified P.E. days.

The school outdoor P.E. uniform for Reception to 6 is a grey sweatshirt with school logo (without a hood) and black jogging trousers (sweatshirts & joggers should not have brand logos or designs on them and please don't buy leggings, as it's very cold during outdoor PE lessons).

Uniform is available from www.oneidentity.co.uk or www.myclothing.com

Wrap Around Care

Before and after school care is available as follows:

Before school from 7.30 a.m. to 8.40 a.m.	Cost £3.50 per day
After school (except Fridays) from 3.10 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Cost £5.00 per day

Sessions need to be booked using the online form on the school website or using the QR code and then paid for in advance using ParentPay. Please complete one form for each child. Bookings will only be confirmed once payment has been received.

The playground gate is open as follows:

Morning – from 8.15 a.m. to 8.40 a.m.

Afternoon - at 3.10 p.m.





Smart Watches

If your child has a 'smart' watch, which can be used to send/receive calls and messages or take photographs, we would be very grateful if they could please be kept at home. Children should not bring these devices or mobile phones to school for safeguarding reasons. Thank you.

Visits & Visitors

On Friday 9th January children in Years 1 to 6 will be taking part in Wheelchair Basketball in the school hall.

On Wednesday 21st January the Year 1 class will be visiting The Beacon for a 'Toys' workshop.

Dental survey for 5 year olds will take place on Friday 16th January.

School closes for half term at 3.10 p.m. on Friday 13th February