St Mary's School, Kells

October

Term Dates: Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term Holiday: Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October

Newsletter

Prayer to Our Lady in the Month of the Holy Rosary



Mother Most Gracious,
Pray for us as we go about our daily lives;
that we may work hard, be kind, and always do our best.
That we keep safe, as we grow in your love and care.
That we believe in ourselves, achieve our potential, and aspire to be the best we can be.
Help us to follow the example of your Son, Jesus, as we learn to understand more about the wonderful world which God has created for us. Amen.

The playground gate is open as follows:

Morning – from 8.10 a.m. to 8.40 a.m.

Afternoon - from 3.10 p.m.





Samaritan's Purse – Shoe Box Appeal

This year we will be supporting Operation Christmas Child which is a hands-on way for us to help children in need across the world by filling shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies, and fun gifts.
Instruction leaflets will be sent home soon and we would be grateful for either filled shoeboxes or donations of items, which we can use to fill additional boxes at school. Completed shoeboxes need to be ready for collection by Monday 9th November.

Sports Kit

Outdoor P.E. kit for all children except nursery is a plain grey (apart from school badge) sweatshirt without a hood, plain black jogging trousers without sports logos or stripes, and a pair of trainers. On PE days children should come to school dressed in grey/black outdoor kit. A small pair of stud earrings is allowed (not hoops) except on PE days when they will need to be removed before coming to school.

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

School Photographs

Parents should have received an e-mail from the photographers with a link to individual and family group photos, which were taken on Monday. If you would like to buy any photograph packs please follow the instructions on the H. Tempest website.

Flu Immunisation

On Monday 19th October the school nursing team will be at St Mary's to carry out flu immunisation (using nasal spray) for children in Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6.

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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 need to be made in advance using a ParentPay account.

Primary & Secondary School Applications

Parents with children in Nursery and Year 6 need to complete online application forms for school places in September 2027 at:
https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools
Closing dates for applications are as follows:
Reception class places – 15th January 2027 Year 7 places – 31st October 2026

Barnardo's will be delivering 'Decider Skills' sessions for Year 6 pupils, every Wednesday afternoon for 6 weeks. These are designed to teach:

- **12 Practical Skills - to help children and young people recognise and manage their own thoughts, feelings, and behaviour.**
- **Emotional Regulation - by teaching strategies to handle strong emotions like anxiety, anger, or stress and reduce impulsive reactions.**

On Friday 16th October, the School Council will be organising a Wear Red Day for 'Show Racism the Red Card' and there will also be a special assembly during the morning.

A team from the Foodbank will be visiting school on Thursday 1st October to hold an assembly. They would be very grateful for donations of tins, jars, pasta, rice, cereals, tea, coffee etc. Thank you for your support.

October is the month of the Rosary and Mrs Margaret Wright, Religious Education Advisor for the Diocese of Lancaster, will be in school on Wednesday 14th October. She will be visiting each of the classes to work with the children – teaching them all about praying the Rosary and the importance of prayer.

School Disco on Thursday 22nd October in the school hall

Years 1, 2 and 3 from 3.45 to 4.45 p.m. Years 4, 5 and 6 from 5.00 to 6.00 p.m.
Nursery & Reception disco will be on Friday 23rd October from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Fancy dress is optional – More information soon

Dates for Your Diary

(We will do our best not to make changes!)

EYFS Nativity –	Thursday 10th December at 10 a.m.
	Friday 11th December at 10 a.m.
KS 1 Nativity –	Monday 14th December at 10 a.m.
	Tuesday 15th December at 2 p.m.
KS 2 Carol Service -	Monday 14th December at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
	Tuesday 15th December at 10 a.m.
Christmas Lunch -	Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Party Day -	Thursday 17th December
Christmas Jumper Day -	Friday 18th December
END OF TERM –	**Friday 18th December at 1.10 p.m.**