

St Mary's Church of England Primary and Nursery Academy Handsworth

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Headteacher: Mrs Booker



Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope that you have had a happy and safe holiday. Children, we have missed you all and are so excited to have welcomed you back into the classroom this week. We are looking forward to offering a very warm welcome to all our new nursery and reception children and their families. We hope that they will all settle quickly into school life and enjoy their time at St Mary's.

Uniform

Our children always look so smart in their St Mary's uniform. However, this year they look even smarter, with many children wearing the new style school uniform, **so let's keep it up!** Thank you for sending your children back to school in the correct uniform, wearing shoes and looking so smart and ready to learn. Reminder to parents that trainers are not permitted in school unless worn on P.E days. On P.E days please ensure your child comes to school in the correct P.E kit information regarding this and timetables can be found on the school website.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are committed to ensuring that every child is in school every-day and here on time. Towards the end of term, we started to promote our initiatives for attendance. If your child is in school every day and on time in the Autumn Term, they will be given a raffle ticket and entered into a competition to win fabulous prizes including a scooter. **So, please make every effort to be in school every-day for a chance to win!** Doors open at 8.45am for a soft start to the day and the bell rings at 8.55- after this time your child is late. Gates open at the end of the school day at 3.20pm. Reception and KS1 finish at 3.20pm and KS2 finish at 3.30pm. Please arrive on time to collect your child from school.

Holidays and Medical Appointments

A reminder, that the law gives no entitlement to parents/carers to take their children on holiday during term time. As the Headteacher, I do not have the authority to authorise absence for holidays or related activities unless there are exceptional circumstances. Therefore, please do not take holidays in term time to avoid any disappointment. We also ask that any medical appointments, where possible, should be made outside of school hours. However, if this cannot be avoided and is booked during school hours, then evidence needs to be provided. **If no evidence is agreed, an unauthorised absence will be given.**

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Behaviour at St Mary's

During the summer, the SLT have reviewed and updated the school's behaviour policy that you can find on the school's website. The policy sets out St Mary's expectations for your child's behaviour and focuses on our three school rules of being **ready, respectful and safe**. The policy explains what this means and how you can support your child in adhering to the school rules. In addition to our three school rules, we now have a behaviour curriculum and will be encouraging children to have **magnificent manners, wonderful walking, awesome appearance and legendary lines**. We aim is to use this shared language across the school for children to be clear on the expectations and supported in following the rules.

Contact Details

If any of your contact details have changed over the summer break, please update the school office at your earliest convenience. This includes emergency contact details. **It is of utmost importance that school have up to date contact details for your child on record.**

I am looking forward to a year full of positivity, focused learning and working in partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. The senior leadership team are always here to offer support and help too.

Welcome back

Mrs Booker