



Headteacher's Newsletter

Summer Term Update – St. Mary's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we continue through a very exciting Summer Term, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement. The children have been working incredibly hard and we are looking forward to a term full of celebration, community events, creativity, sport, and special memories together. Below are some highlights of the exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. I hope you have a peaceful and relaxing half term.

Best wishes,
Mr. Smith



Well Done Year 6!

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 6 pupils for the determination, resilience, and positive attitude they showed during SATs Week. We are extremely proud of the hard work they have demonstrated throughout the year and especially during their assessments.

The children approached each day with maturity, confidence, and perseverance, supporting one another brilliantly along the way. Regardless of outcomes, they should all feel very proud of themselves for giving their very best effort.

Thank you also to our staff and families for the encouragement and support you have given the children during this important time.

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Phonics Screening Check

Children in Year 1 will soon complete their Phonics Screening Check during the week beginning 8th June. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made with their reading and phonics learning this year.

Please continue reading regularly at home, practising sounds, and encouraging confidence with blending words. A calm and positive approach makes all the difference, and we know the children will do their very best.

Sports Week & Colour Run

Sports Week begins during the week commencing 29th June and promises to be one of the most energetic and exciting weeks of the term! Children will take part in a variety of activities promoting teamwork, determination, resilience, and healthy lifestyles.

We will finish the week with our much-loved Colour Run on Friday 3rd July. This is always a fantastic event filled with laughter, colour, and school spirit. More information regarding clothing and sponsorship will be shared closer to the event.

Rocksteady Concert

We are very much looking forward to our Rocksteady Concert on Tuesday 7th July. Our talented young musicians have been practising hard and cannot wait to perform for families and friends.

Children may come to school in non-uniform, and dressing as a rockstar is completely optional – but always encouraged for extra fun! We would also be grateful for any tombola donations to support upcoming school fundraising events.



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Family Reading Day



Family Reading Day takes place on 9th July and is always a lovely opportunity to celebrate reading together as a school community.

Families are invited to join us outdoors for shared stories and reading activities. Please bring a blanket and enjoy some relaxed reading time with your child. We hope for beautiful weather and a wonderful afternoon together.

KS2 Performance

After half term, our KS2 children will begin working hard on this year's performance. Productions at St. Mary's are always a highlight of the school calendar and we cannot wait to see the children grow in confidence as rehearsals begin.

The performance on 14th July promises to be a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork, and talent, and we look forward to seeing the children shine on stage.

Further details regarding tickets and timings will be sent home shortly.

Whole School Beach Trip

Excitement is already building for our Whole School Beach Trip on 15th July. This annual tradition provides children with the chance to enjoy time together, celebrate the end of the school year, and make lasting memories with friends and staff.

Further information about timings, packed lunches, and clothing requirements will follow nearer the date.



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Attendance & Medical Appointment Reminders

At St. Mary's, we are committed to ensuring every child receives the very best learning experience. Good attendance plays a vital role in this, and even short absences can quickly add up to significant learning time lost.

If your child requires a medical appointment during the school day, please complete our online Leave of Absence Form:

Leave of Absence Form:

<https://stmaryscephprimary.co.uk/leave-of-absence/>

If you are unable to upload appointment evidence to the form, please email it to:

office@stmaryscephprimary.co.uk

Whenever possible, we encourage families to arrange appointments outside of school hours, as even a quick appointment can result in substantial time away from learning. Over time, these missed minutes can impact children's progress and confidence in class.

A reminder that all medication must be handed in through the school office along with the necessary consent forms.

For safety reasons, children must not carry medication in their bags, including lozenges, pain relief, or prescribed medicines.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all children safe and well in school.

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After School Clubs Summer 2

All clubs can be booked via ParentPay

Day	Activity	Year Groups
Monday	Sports Club	Reception, Year 1 and 2
Monday	Gardening Club	Year 1,2 ,3,4,5 and 6
Monday	Language Club	Year 1 and 2
Monday	TT Rockstars	Year 3 and 4
Tuesday	Choir	Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
Wednesday	Boys Football Science club	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Year 3, 4,5, 6.
Thursday	Energize	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Thursday	Girls Football*	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Friday	Sports	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

***Please note that Girls Football is now on Thursday not Tuesday.**

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Friends of St. Mary's Group

Friends of St. Mary's Ice Cream Fridays

We are delighted to share that our wonderful Friends of St. Mary's group will be selling ice creams after school every Friday, starting from the first week after half term.

This is a lovely opportunity for families to come together at the end of the week, enjoy a treat, and support the fantastic work of the Friends group, who continue to enhance opportunities and experiences for all of our children.

We hope many of you will join us on Fridays – whether for a quick ice cream or a chance to catch up with other parents and carers. All proceeds will go directly back into supporting our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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Important Reminders:

Uniform: Please ensure all items are clearly named.

Doves Class: Contact the school office if you are running late for collection.

ParentPay: All trip payments must be made in advance.

Arbor: Inform the office of any changes to contact, address or medical details.

Traffic: Please park considerately and drive safely around school.

Farewell to Ms. Saunderson-Darkes

At the end of this academic year, we will sadly be saying goodbye to our Assistant Headteacher, Ms. Saunderson-Darkes, after an incredible 22 years of dedicated service to the children and families of Long Newton.

Throughout her time at St. Mary's, Ms. Saunderson-Darkes has made a lasting impact on countless children, supporting them with kindness, care, wisdom, and unwavering commitment. She has played an important role in shaping the life of our school community and will be greatly missed by pupils, staff, and parents alike.

We will be celebrating her remarkable contribution in style next term and look forward to sharing these special moments together as a school family.

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SAVE = the = DATES!

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Summer Term Events 2026

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PARENTS TO KNOW

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
 1st–12th June	MTC (Year 4)	Assessment window
 4th June	Godzone	Whole school
 w/b 8th June	Phonics Screening Check	Year 1
 17th June	Class Photos	Whole school
 23rd June	Transition Day	
 24th–26th June	Hurworth Transition	Selected pupils
 24th June (Wed)	EYFS Stay & Pray	Parents welcome
 w/b 29th June	Sports Week	Whole school
 3rd July (Fri)	Colour Run	End of Sports Week
 7th July (Tues)	Rocksteady Concert	Non-uniform; dress as a rockstar optional; bring tombola donations
 8th July	Year 3/4 Stay & Pray	Parents welcome
 9th July	Family Reading Day	Outdoor – bring a blanket
 10th July (Fri)	Reports to Parents	
 11th July	Long Newton Fun Day	Community event
 13th July	Year 1/2 Stay & Pray	Parents welcome
 14th July	KS2 Performance	
 15th July	Whole School Beach Trip	
 16th July	Leavers Service @ St. Mary's Church	
 Last Day of Term	Leavers Worship	With parents

Let's make this a term to remember!

