



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 27

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's been another busy week here at school but this time we've had the sunshine with us!

Silver Birch had a brilliant visit to Wolverhampton Golf Adventure. According to the staff who went we might have some future golf stars in our midst. It is wonderful being able to see the children enjoying the wider curriculum both on and off site.

Oak Class made us all proud today leading the whole school in a special worship for Pentecost. Pentecost marks the Christian teaching of when the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples for the first time. Today, Christians often celebrate Pentecost as a time of renewal and refreshment.

After half term all parents and guardians are invited to support the children in creative activities for Spiritual Arts week. Please see below for dates and times:

Monday 5th June Silver Birch 2pm-3pm

Tuesday 6th June Oak 2pm-3pm

Wednesday 7th June Cherry 11am - 11:45am

Wednesday 7th June Willow 2pm - 3pm

Thursday 8th June Sycamore 2pm - 3pm

If you have a child starting in Willow Class (Reception) in September, please look out for the information packs which are being sent out to you. These include dates and times for induction meetings and sessions.

Attached in this week's newsletter is the annual report from the PTA. We truly value the support of all of our PTA and St Mary's community. The activities arranged bring so much fun and joy to the children and the funds make a huge difference to the children's experience at school. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Have a wonderful half term and see you all on Monday 5th June.

Many thanks
Mrs. N R Brennan



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
SIAMS Good



SUN SAFETY TIPS



SEEK SHADE
OR STAY INDOORS
FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.



WEAR
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



WEAR SUNGLASSES
WITH 100% UV
PROTECTION



WEAR
A WIDE-BRIMMED HAT



USE SUNSCREEN
THAT IS SPF30 OR HIGHER,
REAPPLY REGULARLY

Values Champions

Our Value champions are nominated pupils in school who uphold our Christian values and empower their peers to do the same. They are the ones that are demonstrating one or more of our Christian Values, and for this we would like to award them with a Certificate and a special badge which children will wear for the whole term.

Our Value champions will be chosen each term by their class teachers.



Our **Christian Values** Champions
this term are:



Belief ~ Respect ~ Friendship



Spiritual Arts Week Workshops

Monday 5th June Silver Birch 2pm-3pm

Tuesday 6th June Oak 2pm-3pm

Wednesday 7th June Cherry 11am - 11:45am

Wednesday 7th June Willow 2pm - 3pm

Thursday 8th June Sycamore 2pm - 3pm

Parents and Guardians welcome to Join their child.





Wanted - You



The Brewwood and Wheaton Aston Federated Local Academy Committee are looking for a new parent member at St Mary's CE First Academy

Can you help the children at Brewwood CE Middle and St Mary's CE First Academies achieve their full potential?

We are a friendly team of likeminded people from a wide variety of backgrounds who work together to support and monitor the strategic direction of the school, educational performance, the well-being of our pupils and staff and ensure our finances are well spent.

If you would like to find out more please see the full advert on our noticeboard and attached to this newsletter.

For further information to have an informal chat about the role please contact our Clerk Mrs Sallie Cornes on 01902 850266

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

At Brewwood Community Hub

51 Deansfield Road, Brewwood, Staffs ST19 9HT



30th, 31st
May, 1st
June &
2nd June

8:30 am - 4:30 pm Full Day

£20

8:30 - 12:30 Half Day

£10

LOTS
OF
FUN!

AGES
5-13

07816 540275

sarah.t@sportscool.org

ARTS AND CRAFTS

INFLATABLES

DANCE

AND MUCH MORE!

FOOTBALL

ARCHERY

GLOW IN THE DARK DODGEBALL

To book on to one of our courses, follow the simple steps below!

1. Please visit www.sportscoolwolves.schoolipal.co.uk
2. Log in to your account (first time users will need to register and provide the required details).
3. Select the School, followed by the club you wish to book for.
4. Select which child/ren you wish to attend.
5. Follow the payment process.
6. Once paid you will be fully booked onto the course.

We look forward to seeing you!



Holiday Penalty Notice Request (PNR) Guidance 2022

A penalty notice can be issued for as little as 1 days unauthorised absence but must be coded as a "G" on the attendance register.

The child must return to school and have an attendance mark before we can process the penalty notice request. If this occurs at the end of a term or academic year then it will need to be submitted the following term when the child returns.

There are no specific exceptional circumstances that the LA go by to authorise a holiday. It is at the headteachers discretion, examples of exceptional circumstances may include; terminal illness of child or parent, a parent who has just completed a tour in the armed forces or a funeral of a close relative.

Parent requests leave of absence.

Issue letter to inform parent absence will be marked as unauthorised and they may receive a penalty notice.

Mark the period of absence as unauthorised using the "G" code.

Once the child has returned to school submit the penalty notice request form to educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Parent does not request leave of absence.

Once the child has returned, issue a letter that you suspect the child was on unauthorised leave for the purpose of a holiday. Allow 7 days for the parent to provide evidence they were not on holiday.

If no evidence is provided. Mark the period of absence as unauthorised using the "G" code.

Please submit the penalty notice request form to educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Best Practice Advice

- Keep a log of correspondence with parents regarding unauthorised leaves of absence. This includes phone calls, voicemails, emails etc.
- Respond to the request for leave within 7 days or in the case of a suspected holiday as soon as possible after the child returns.
- Name and address correspondence to both parents. *E.g. Mr John Smith and Mrs Rebecca Smith.* (Even if emailed).
- Only name parents on the PNR you wish us to issue the PNR to (for separated families, this may be only the parent who went on the holiday).
- You must give parents full names on the PNR form.
- PNR's need to be submitted separately even in the case of siblings to maintain GDPR during our administrative procedures.
- All paperwork needs to be sent to:

educationcoreoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk

Checklist for submission:

- Completed PNR form.
- Signed attendance certificate showing G codes for period of holiday and return to school mark. (If your school share attendance data with us this is not required initially).
- Parental holiday request (If submitted).
- Schools letter notifying parent that leave will be marked as unauthorised and a penalty notice may be issued.

DINE

WITH MIQUILL

WEEK TWO

DINE
Main Meal

DINE
Vegetarian

Dessert
STOP
Sweet Options

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Italian Margherita Pizza with carrot & sultana salad	Comfort Beef Burger in a Bun with wedges & Seasonal Vegetables	Roasts Roast Gammon with roasties Gravy & Seasonal Vegetables	AROUND THE World Chicken Curry, Served whole grain rice and Seasonal Vegetables	Fish & Chips Golden fish fingers with chips & beans
Mac n Cheese with carrot & sultana salad	Veggie Burger in a Bun with wedges & Seasonal Vegetables	Summer Vegetable Tart with roasties, gravy & Seasonal Vegetables	Sweet Vegetable Curry Served with rice and Seasonal Vegetables	Cheesy Bean Wrap with chips
Fresh Pasta and Tomato Sauce available every day Filled Jackets and freshly made sandwiches are also available				
Apple Crumble Yoghurt Jelly Fruit	Vanilla Cup Cake Yoghurt Jelly Fruit	Chocolate Brownie Yoghurt Jelly Fruit	Lemon Cookie Yoghurt Jelly Fruit	Peaches & Ice Cream Yoghurt Jelly Fruit

WEEK COMMENCING:
24/4, 15/5, 5/6, 26/6, 17/7

Fresh Bread wedges will also be available for pupils to enjoy with their lunch



St Mary's CE First Academy PTA newsletter

We would like to say a **BIG THANKYOU** to all the parents, teachers, pupils and anyone else in the wider community that have supported our events since September. Everyone has played an important role in helping us to reach our fundraising goals!

Event:	Total:
Pumpkin Party at the social club	£285
Nearly New Sale in school – toys, books, teddy tombola	£74
Lights Switch On – Santa's grotto, water 2 wine	£381
Christmas Raffle Draw – over 30 wonderful prizes donated	£383
Christmas Children's Disco	£126
Christmas photo cards & Baubles	£368
Bags2school collection	£92
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts sale	£45
Valentines Movie & pizza Night	£182
Mother's Day Gift shop	£122
Easter Egg Bingo family night at the social club	£411
Feed the RAF Marchers BBQ	£306
King's Coronation celebration BBQ	£140
Donations & grants received	£20,082
Total raised from events	£2,914

UPCOMING EVENTS

Father's Day special gift
available to pre-order coming soon

Bag2School Thurs 29th June
collection of all unwanted clothes, shoes, bags, soft toys and others

Sports Day 12th July
strawberries & cream, BBQ and other refreshments

School Disco Thurs 20th July

Our fundraising this year has already provided the school with the outdoor trim trail, gardening resources, football goals for the field and upgrades to school audio and visual equipment in the hall and IT suite.

We have also approved funding for new bike racks in the school car park area for children travelling to other schools on buses leaving St Mary's and lots of fabulous Early Years outdoor play and learning resources.



Putting a face to the name! This is Helen Roberts – the Chair of the PTA. Helen has been involved in the PTA, mainly acting as chair, for a number of years now. Her youngest daughter is currently in reception.

Committee:

Vice Chair – Jo Rowley Treasurer – Charlotte Welsh Secretary – Gina Thomas

There are also other PTA members and volunteers who provide help and support to enable all of the events be organised and go ahead. We always need more helpers, so if you can spare a few hours and would like to help out at our events, please get in touch.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapshot is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoot have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily. Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's "disappearing messages" feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking in to locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This "Friend Check Up" encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't safe to share on Snapchat (e.g., don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's "spotlight" feature has a challenge for kids to see if they can make their friends understand the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use Snapmaps, their location is visible unless "Ghost Mode" is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasize the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows users to add locations to their profiles and receive regular visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why there are reports: the user is harassing or threatening, the user is sending malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Debbie Sullivan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday