



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 39



Dear Families,

This week has been incredibly exciting as we have had a dinosaur come to visit! Our wonderful children in Willow Class wrote to Mr Dinosaur, asking him if he'd like to visit St Mary's. Much to their surprise, he did! The children across school were delighted to find huge dinosaur footprints across the academy on Wednesday and then enjoyed meeting Mr Dinosaur during the afternoon. Well done Willow Class for your beautiful writing with a clear purpose. I wonder who else you can invite into school?!



Anti-Bullying Week:

The children have all been joining in with the national campaign for Anti-Bullying week. Classes have been discovering the importance of identifying bullying and how to act if they or someone they know is being bullied. The children have also considered E-Safety, learning how to enjoy being online while keeping themselves and other people safe.

On Monday we joined in with the Anti-Bullying Partnership Alliance with Odd Socks day. It was so much fun seeing the children in their odd socks as they celebrated being unique individuals. The children also enjoyed listening to Mrs. Wendel-Davies and her colleague and her colleague who talked about the importance of balanced diets, health and fitness. Thank you so much for coming in to help our children develop their understanding.

On Friday we joined in with Children in Need. It has been wonderful seeing lots of mini-Pudsey and Blush bears in school today.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Christmas light switch on. Willow Class have had costumes provided. Please can all other children come in festive jumpers and clothes but remember to be wrapped up warm as it will be chilly outside.

*Mrs. N R Brennan
Head Of School*



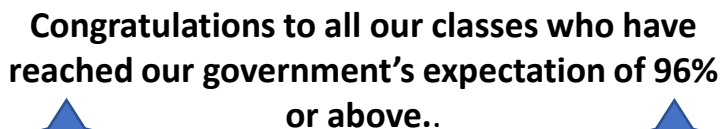
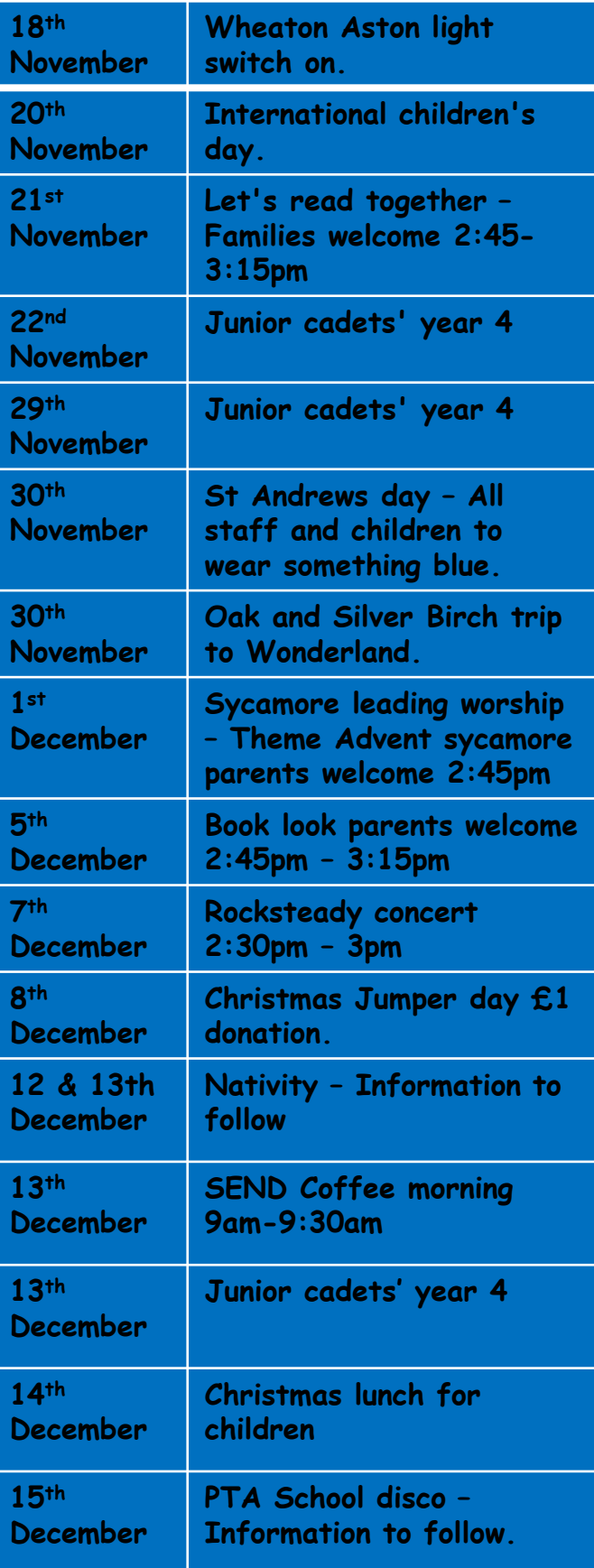
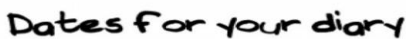
***WA Christmas light Switch on
Saturday 18th November 2023 - We can't wait to watch our
children preform..***

***International Childrens day
Monday 20th November 2023***

***Let's Read Together
Tuesday 21st November 2023 families welcome 2:45pm to
3:15pm.***



***Junior Cadets 'year 4
Wednesday 22nd and 29th November 2023***



Star of the week



**A massive well done to all children
for all their hard work this week.
We are proud to call you a part of
our St Mary's Family**

Let's read together

Tuesday 21st November 2.45pm-3.15pm

Please come and join us for a story time session where you can read with your child and their friends.

Welcome20!

Christmas is coming to St Mary's

Your child/children will have their photo taken in front of a stunning Christmas back-drop, which can be made into a lovely photo bauble!

Each photo bauble costs £4 or you can order 3 for £10.

If you would like to purchase a bauble (or 3!) could you please fill out the form below and enclose it with the payment in an envelope marked **'Christmas Package'** to the school office.

Name: _____ Name: _____
Class: _____ Class: _____
Sign: _____ Print: _____
Date: _____

If you have more than one child, would you like a joint photo? Please circle YES / NO

I would to order: Please circle 1 bauble YES / NO 3 baubles YES / NO

I enclose payment of £_____ or transfer to PTA account
using this QR Code quoting your child's / children's names.



Free School Meals

Are you entitled?



Are you entitled to Free school meals, please use the link below.
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



WEEK 1

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Margherita Pizza (v)	Cottage Pie	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Build your own Chicken Wrap with Mexican Rice	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Teriyaki Noodles with Edamame (v)	Bean and Spinach Enchilada (v)	Onion Bhaji and Sweet Chilli Flatbread with Wedges (v)	Cheese and Tomato Quesadilla with Mexican Rice (v)	Veggie Nuggets and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese				
Vegetables				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert				
Parsnip Cake	Flapjack	Vegan Autumn Cake	Jelly Crunch Pot	Fruit Mousse
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

30th Oct, 20th Nov, 11th Dec, 1st Jan, 22nd Jan, 12th Feb, 4th Mar, 25th Mar



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

We are a friendly team of volunteers who meet approximately 6 times each year to support our academies in improving outcomes for all our pupils.

No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the academies and be prepared to play an active part in the Local Academy Committee's work. Full induction and training is available for all members.

WHY CONSIDER JOINING US?

FOR OUR SCHOOL:

AS A MEMBER YOU WILL HAVE 3 CORE FUNCTIONS:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Principal to account for the educational performance of our academies and their pupils; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of our academies and making sure their money is well spent.

FOR YOU:

- Use and develop your personal and professional skills whatever your circumstances are.
- Gain valuable experience that can be used for other personal and employment opportunities.
- Provides training that is useful in your own life as well as for the role such as e-safety and safeguarding.
- Make a new group of friends and be part of the school community

All Members have the same roles and responsibilities; as a parent LAC Member, you would be a representative member of St Mary's parents, not a parent representative. The role and responsibilities of a LAC Member are set out in further detail in the attached description **[see Annex B]**.

Parent LAC Members are elected to serve for a four year period.

If you would like to stand for election or nominate another parent, please complete the relevant nomination form from the academy office and return it to St Mary's Office by 3:30pm on Monday 4 December 2023. Self-nominations will be accepted, but if you are nominating another parent please seek their prior consent!

Please provide, on your nomination form, a short personal statement (maximum 250 words). The statement should only include biographical information, your reasons for wanting to be a LAC Member and the contribution you believe you can make. If there is only one nominee, s/he will be automatically elected as parent LAC Member. If there is more than one nominee, an election will be held and copies of candidates' personal statements and ballot procedure will be circulated to all parents.

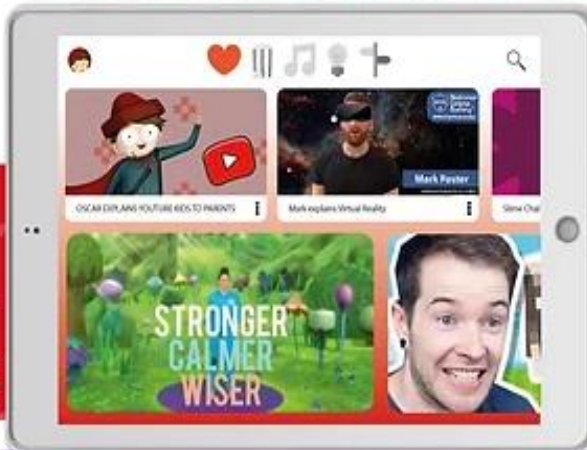
We look forward to welcoming our new St Mary's Parent LAC member!

Although children of all ages often watch YouTube content directly via the website or main YouTube app, YouTube itself states that the only place children should be watching its videos is in the YouTube Kids app.

AGE RESTRICTION

4+

8 things parents need to know about YOUTUBE KIDS



1 SETTING UP

- To set up the YouTube Kids app you need to do the following:
1. Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your YouTube account.
 2. Specify your child's Name, Age and Birth Month.
 3. Select the types of videos to include in the app based on their age or select them yourself.
 4. If you choose to Approve Content yourself you will be presented with some sample videos to accept or reject. You can select collections, shows, music or learning.
 5. Once chosen you are ready to use the app.

2 USING THE APP

Based on how you have set it up your child can then use the app to explore a safe set of videos. It's worth noting that YouTube Kids uses algorithms to ensure safe videos rather than a personal check, so it's possible for videos to slip through. If an inappropriate video does appear you can select the menu in the top right to block and report it. This not only helps your child but also improves the YouTube Kids app as a whole.

3 ADVERTISEMENTS

It's worth remembering that even in YouTube Kids, children will still see adverts. These are marked as 'Ad' and preceded by an ad intro. The types of advertisements and products are checked to follow YouTube's advertising policies which exclude things like food and beverages. However, there can be toys or other items included in videos directly by creators themselves to advertise them. You can remove adverts in YouTube Kids, like the main YouTube, by subscribing to YouTube Premium. This also has the added benefit that you can download videos for offline viewing, you can also watch videos in the background while using other apps. This can be really useful if you have a long journey to take children on.

As with television adverts or bus stop posters, it's a good idea to talk to children about how adverts work and help them to recognise them. In my family, I remember pointing out the grinning children, added sound and light effects and exciting narration in TV ads. It's important to do this for other forms of advertising as well. It's important to understand how YouTube Kids collects information about your child's viewing and how this relates to advertising and video content. When they watch a video, the device, language, which videos they watch and searches they make are recorded. This is used to help suggest personalised content. It can also be used to serve contextual advertising, although the app does not allow interest-based advertising or remarketing.

4 SELECTING GREAT CONTENT

One of the best features on YouTube Kids is the ability to select channels, videos or collections of videos for your child to enjoy. This is a great opportunity to sit with your child and better understand what they want to watch. Are there particular topics or themes that resonate? Then you can check through different options in this area, and together with them choose the best matching channels.

The YouTube Kids app also enables you to disable the Search feature to avoid younger children stumbling upon content designed for older viewers. The app also avoids videos from inappropriate channels being suggested to watch next. If you have selected content for your child only those will come up. If you have set an age limit, only videos deemed appropriate for that age will be suggested.

5 VIEWING TIME

There are a number of ways you can administer how long a child can watch YouTube videos in a day. In the YouTube Kids app, you can set a timer before handing your child the smartphone or tablet. Once the time has run out the video will be paused.

You can also set limits on iPhones and iPads in the Screen Time section of the Settings. This not only enables you to see how long they play but specify how and when they can do this. You can apply similar limits on Android devices via the Family Link app settings. Other systems like the 'Circle' system or features built into your Internet Router enable you to set limits across multiple devices which can be useful as children will often cruise to another smartphone, tablet or smart TV once their time has run out on their device.

As well as helping younger children not watch longer than is healthy, this is a good tool for discussion with older kids. Discuss together how long is appropriate to watch in a day and then agree on the limits. This ensures they see them as helpful rather than being policed.

6 RESTRICTIONS

As well as using the YouTube Kids app, you can also set up restrictions on other ways your family watches YouTube. Ensure you are logged in when using YouTube and turn on Restricted Mode in your User Profile. You can also set this at the bottom of the video page by clicking Restricted Mode On. Ensure that you also click the Lock Restricted Mode on this browser to ensure so that other users can't turn it off.

7 WATCHING TOGETHER

Another good way to keep YouTube viewing positive is to spend time finding channels and content that your child will enjoy and benefit from. In my family, we each get together once a month and show each other our favourite videos from the last four weeks. This not only sparks conversations about what we've watched but enables us to share the things we've enjoyed watching.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

For younger children, you can use the YouTube Kids app to keep tabs on what they have been watching. Tap on the Recommended icon on the top of the home screen and then swipe right. You will see videos with the play button on them and a red bar at the bottom. These are the videos your child has watched. Anywhere the bar at the bottom is mostly black is a video your child has skipped.

Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His *Taming Gaming* book helps parents guide children to healthy play.

