



newsletter

Week ending
11th October 2024

Our Vision Statement **'Learning for Life'**

'Learning for life' with Jesus' promise of 'life in all its fullness' is at the heart of St Mary's. At our school children are seen as unique and will feel loved, safe and empowered to flourish so they reach their full potential both academically and personally.

Dear St Mary's Families

'Working together to improve attendance' statutory guidance was published in August 2024. I thought a summary of our revised Attendance policy may be helpful as a quick reference document. The full policy can be found on our school website.

Attendance

How does attendance affect outcomes for pupils?

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/18/school-attendance-important-risks-missing-day/>

Government blog: *'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the **highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.***

Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

The data also shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who didn't achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

Similarly, in the same year, secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths missed on 10 more days on average over the key stage than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.'

Please see below for a link to our 'Attendance' video.

<https://www.loom.com/share/791c2c786f7a44f08cf671390860dbd2>

The important times to remember:


- The school day starts at **8.40am** and ends at **3.10pm**.
- Pupils must arrive in school by 8.40am on each school day.
- The register for the first session will be taken at 8.50am and will be kept open until 9.05. The register for the second session will be taken at 12.45 and will be kept open until 1.00pm.

A pupil who arrives late:

- Before the register has closed will be marked as late.
- After the register has closed will be marked as unauthorised late.
- If there is persistent lateness, parents will be invited to attend a meeting with the headteacher to discuss the context and put in place any support or intervention if applicable.

We ask you as parents to:

- Make sure their child attends every day on time.
- Call the school to report their child's absence by **9.20am** on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return.
- Ensure that, where possible, appointments for their child are made outside of the school day.
- Keep to the home school agreement signed when joining the school.
- Seek support, where necessary, for maintaining good attendance.
- Refer to the school website for information and support materials with regards to attendance.



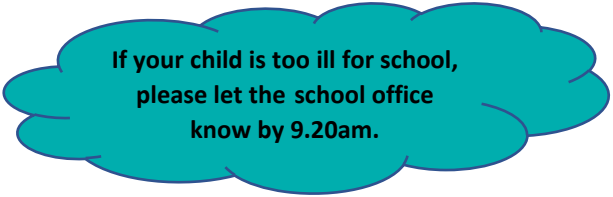
We are here to help!

Children Leaving During the School Day

- Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises without prior permission from the school.
- Parents are requested to confirm in writing, using the absence request form, <https://www.stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=8510&type=pdf> the reason for any planned absence, the time of leaving, the expected return time and whether the pupil is being collected.
- Parents must provide evidence of appointments that need to take place during school hours.
- Pupils must be signed out on leaving the school and signed back in on their return (This must be completed using the Inventory Sign In / Out process).
- Where a pupil is being collected from the school, parents are requested to report to the school office before the pupil is allowed to leave the site and complete the Inventory Sign In / Out process.

Absent children

- We will take calls from parents/carers about absence on a day-to-day basis and record it on the school system.
- We will transfer calls from parents/carers to SLT/ HSLW where appropriate, in order to provide them with more detailed support on attendance.
- All absence is recorded and logged and monitored by the Local Authority.
- If a child is absent from school and the reason is unknown, the contacts for the child will be sent an absence text.
- If the text is not responded to by lunchtime on day 1, then the contacts for the child will be called. This process will be repeated on day 2 of the absence if no contact with school has been made on day 1.
- After 4 sessions of unexplained absence, a cold call will be made to the family home by SLT/HSLW as a welfare check.



**If your child is too ill for school,
please let the school office
know by 9.20am.**

We will keep you informed

We are here
to help!

- Parents will receive an attendance report each half term so that they are aware of how many sessions their child has missed.
- If a child is persistently late, a meeting will be held between the headteacher and the parents to address the lateness. Initially, the class teacher will address lateness this with the parents and if there is no improvement a meeting will be held with the headteacher

What happens if my child has low attendance?

- **At 92%** an Initial attendance letter will be issued.
- **At 90%** the parents will be invited to attend a meeting with the headteacher and HSLW to discuss the context and potential barriers to identify any support and interventions that may help to improve the attendance which may include a referral to external agencies. At this meeting, the parents will be issued with a Stage 1 attendance letter and an attendance contract will be agreed. The attendance will be reviewed each half term.
- **If the attendance does not improve or is an ongoing concern**, then further action may be taken: a stage 2 attendance letter will be issued at a consequent meeting with the headteacher and HSLW. If there are still no improvements then external agencies may become involved; the parents may be issued with a penalty notice / receive a notice to improve.

Please let us know if you have any questions as we are here to help.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

From

Mrs Chambers

HSLW

In this week's [HSLW weekly bulletin](#), you will find information on the following:

- Mindworks
- YUVA (Youth Using Violence and Abuse)
- Libraries
- 'Feeling Good Week'
- St Mary's Firework display

There is also a fun family activity to try at home and a recipe idea.

Emailing the School

Please can we remind parents/carers to email the main school email info@stmarys-byfleet.surrey.sch.uk for your messages for teachers, absences, general questions or enquiries you may have and to also add your child's class, to enable your email to be dealt with promptly.

Harvest Donations

In order to help those less fortunate than ourselves, we are joining forces with St Mary's Church to

support the work at Vaughan House, Guildford.

We welcome donations of dry, tinned and packaged food.

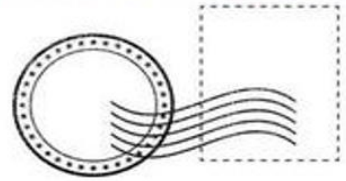
Please send your donations into your child's classroom between Monday 21st & Thursday 24th October.

Thank you, Mrs O'Connor





The PEN PAL Project



Do you want to have a pen pal? Would it feel good to make someone smile?

Why not try writing to a pen pal at West Hall Care Home!

How it works:

- 1) Write a letter explaining a bit about your self and what school life is like now.
- 2) Give the letter to Miss Simmons (by Thursday 24th October) to envelope up and send.
- 3) Wait for a response from a pen pal at West Hall.
- 4) We can set up regular times to reply to our pen pals!



Christmas Writing Competition for West Hall Care Home

How to enter:

- Design a Christmas card.
- Write your own Christmas poem inside.
- Decorate it as much as you would like.
- Give entries to Miss Simmons by Thursday 24th October.



PDA

PDA will be running their football club after half term for children in Years 1 – 6. [Please see their flyer for details.](#)

Any questions or queries, please contact PDA directly.



Star of the Week



Moles	Freddie “for wonderful acting in our Gingerbread Man story.” Rose “for starting to develop her friendships with others.”
Hedgehogs	Seb Seb “for always coming in with a smile and being eager to share ideas!”
Rabbits	Sienna “for fabulous listening during carpet time”
Cheetahs	Raavan “for fantastic progress in reading.”
Panthers	Hope “for always showing great enthusiasm and resilience across all lessons”
Lions	Aria “for sharing your understanding with the class so clearly and confidently.”
Tigers	Ava “for continuing to work really hard to learn and use her phonics in English.”
Polar Bears	Grace R “for her hard work and determination to improve her handwriting!”
Pandas	Sehaj “for always working hard and taking extra care in her learning, particularly in English!”
Hippos	Rocky “for sharing great facts about volcanoes.”
Elephants	Erin “for great independent corrections in Maths.”
Kangaroos	Sonya “for top notch use of mathematical talk in the classroom”
Giraffes	Abdullah “for improved focus and working hard in all your lessons.”
Lemurs	Beau “for showing enthusiasm towards all learning, but particularly when creating a song about the suffrage movement!”
Chimps	Phoebe “for having the courage and confidence to perform her song about the Suffragettes!”

Times Table Rock Stars

Year2:	Madison – Lions Mimi – Lions Max – Lions
Year 3 & 4:	Charlotte W – Hippos Tommy – Elephants Raees – Elephants
Years 5 & 6:	Safa – Giraffes Abdullah – Giraffes Ayala - Giraffes

Dates for your Diary

(New dates/events shown in bold)

15.10.2024	NSPCC Workshop Yrs 2, 5 & 6
16.10.2024	Royal Day - NURSERY ONLY
16.10.2024	Local Walk – Yr 1
16.10.2024	Giraffes Class Assembly – 9am
17.10.2024	Harvest Singing at Barnes Wallis – Yr 3
17.10.2024	Local Walk – Yr 1
18.10.2024	Royal Day
22.10.2024	Parents Evening 4pm – 6.50p
23.10.2024	Winchester Science Museum – Yr 5
23.10.2024	Elephants Class Assembly – 9am
24.10.2024	Harvest Festival Church Service – Yr 3 parents/carers invited
24.10.2024	Parents Evening 4pm – 6.50pm
25.10.2024	INSET Day
w/c 28.10.2024	Half Term
04.11.2024	Flu Immunisations
04.11.2024	Macbeth Workshop - Yr 6
05.11.2024	Cinderella – Whole School Pantomime
06.11.2024	Nursery ONLY PTA Mufti Day – donations for hampers
06.11.2024	Parent Voice – 8.45 – 9.30am
06.11.2024	PTA Fireworks Display
06.11.2024	Freshwater Theatre Workshop – Yr R
07.11.2024	Butser Ancient Farm Trip – Yr 3
08.11.2024	PTA Mufti Day – donations for hampers
w/c 11.11.2024	Anti-Bullying Week
w/c 11.11.2024	Shoebox Appeal
11.11.2024	Remembrance Service – Yr 6
13.11.2024	Nursery ONLY Children in Need – Mufti Day
13.11.2024	Watts Gallery – Yr 4
15.11.2024	Children in Need – Mufti Day
19.11.2024	Lightbox Trip – Yr 2
21.11.2024	Byfleet Village Christmas Lights Switch On
w/c 25.11.2024	Life Bus
26.11.2024	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
27.11.2024	Pandas Class Assembly – 9am
04.12.2024	Hippos Class Assembly – 9am
04.12.2024	Nursery ONLY PTA Mufti Day – for fair Sweets/Bottles
04.12.2024	Nursery Nativity – 9.30am (New time)
05.12.2024	PTA Mufti Day – for fair Sweets/Bottles
05.12.2024	St Marys Church Visit – Yr 3
06.12.2024	Reception Nativity – 9.30am
07.12.2024	PTA - Christmas Fair
09.12.2024	KS1 Nativity - 2pm
10.12.2024	KS1 Nativity - 9.15am
11.12.2024	Polar Bears Class Assembly – 9am
11.12.2024	Christmas Jumper Day
11.12.2024	Christmas Lunch
12.12.2024	The Space Between – Production Yrs 3-5
12.12.2024	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
19.12.2024	Christmas Service – Yr 5
20.12.2024	End of term – 1.05pm finish
06.01.2025	Start of Spring Term
08.01.2025	Great Fire of London Workshop – Yr 2

15.01.2025	Chimps Class Assembly – 9am
21.01.2025	Little City – Yr N & Yr R
21.01.2025	Young Voices Concert O2 – School Choir
23.01.2025	Little City – Yr N & Yr R
29.01.2025	Cheetahs Class Assembly – 9am
29.01.2025	Chertsey Museum workshop – Yr 3
31.01.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
04.02.2025	Parents Evening
05.02.2025	Panthers Class Assembly – 9am
06.02.2025	Parents Evening
w/c 17.02.2025	Half Term
26.02.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
w/c 03.03.2025	Book Fair
05.03.2025	Rabbits Class Assembly
06.03.2025	World Book Day
14.03.2025	Comic Relief
w/c 17.03.2025	Yr 6 Mock SATS Week
24.03.2025	Feet First Yr 3
25.03.2025	Year 4 Parents Residential Meeting – 8.45am (in hall)
26.03.2025	Tigers Class Assembly – 9am
26.03.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
01.04.2025	Yr 4 Easter Service
02.04.2025	Class Photographs
03.04.2025	Wisley Gardens – Yr 2
04.04.2025	End of Term - 1.05pm
22.04.2025	Start of Summer Term
29.04.2025	Brooklands Museum Trip – Yr 3
29.04.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
30.04-02.05.25	Kingswood Residential – Yr 4
01.05.2025	Bocketts Farm – Yr R
07.05.2025	Kangaroos Class Assembly – 9am
W/c 12.05.2025	KS2 SATS Week / SATS Breakfast
14-16.05.2025	Bikeability – Yr 4
16.05.2025	Park Trip – Yr 6
21.05.2025	Nursery ONLY Egyptian Day
23.05.2025	Ancient Egyptian Day
w/c 26.05.2025	Half Term
04.06.2025	Lemurs Class Assembly – 9am
18.06.2025	Lions Class Assembly – 9am
25.06.2025	Nursery Sports Day
26.06.2025	Open Classrooms 3.10 – 3.40pm
27.06.2025	Sports Day
02.07.2025	RESERVE Nursery Sports Day
04.07.2025	RESERVE Sports Day
09.07.2025	Hedgehogs Class Assembly – 9am
09 & 10.07.2025	Year 6 Productions to Parents – 6pm
17.07.2025	Year 6 Leavers Day/BBQ
18.07.2025	Year 6 Leavers Service
18.07.2025	End of term – 1.05pm