



Welcome to St. Mary's Primary School,  
a Catholic Voluntary Academy

We love our school and would like to tell you more about  
it!

We hope this brochure will give you all the information  
you need to help you make that very important decision of  
choosing your child's Primary School.

## What is special about St. Mary's?

Our school is special because St. Mary is at our heart.

You see this from the minute you come through our door where you are greeted by our beautiful statue of St. Mary.



Like St. Mary, we welcome everyone to be part of our school family - we are a Catholic school for the whole community.

The school prides itself on having a 'family feel', where the whole family is welcomed and encouraged to be part of the child's educational journey.

Our mission statement is, 'Journeying in the light of Christ, together we live and learn'

The mission statement is at the heart of everything we do.

We want everyone in our school to be loving, caring, kind and compassionate, just like Jesus.

When you visit St. Mary's, and through this booklet, we hope you will see how we celebrate the range of opportunities we give our children and their families to live and learn together.



*"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it" - Proverbs 22:6*

## Helping our children grow

We expect adults to model, celebrate and recognise positive behaviours to enable our children to follow Jesus' example, become active citizens & learn effectively.

To do this we have 3 school rules:

Ready	Respectful	Safe
		



Alongside these rules, we have a set of **virtues** we teach the children - Love of learning, Love of neighbour, Resilience & Perseverance, Forgiveness, Respect & courtesy, Honesty, Charity, Belief, Kindness, Patience.

Each day children engage in collective worship:

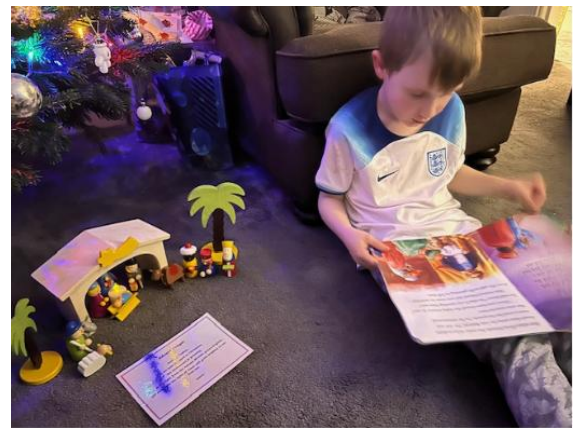
- Monday shares the message from Sunday's gospel
- Tuesday focuses on Catholic Social Teaching
- Wednesday we talk about something from the news
- Thursday children plan prayers in their own class, which parents are invited to termly.
- Friday we celebrate children's achievements



All of these things are shared on our weekly newsletter, which can be viewed on the school [website](#).

## Prayer

At St. Mary's, prayer is an integral part of school life. This helps to empower us to serve God through showing care and compassion to others. Our children have regular opportunities to express themselves through prayer. We encourage everyone to submit their prayer requests to be prayed in our collective worship. We have a beautiful 'faith forest' in our school grounds and use this for quiet reflection time, prayer and collective worship. The children love to pray the rosary in this special area. We always encourage our families to pray at home and send home travelling Advent and Lent bags to support this.



Hymns are regularly sung in our school and we have some very talented staff who support this. We believe through song we are worshiping God and singing our prayers.

Our school prayer is:

St Mary, Help us every day

To be like Jesus this we pray

Help our school to be a place

Where happiness shines from every face

Help us learn and share and care

And make our school a place of prayer

## Our Community

We are very fortunate to have a great community around our school and we seek every opportunity for our children to be a part of this.

Our Reception children love our walk around the local area to visit

### The Post Office



### The Library



### The Woodland



### The Vets



Every opportunity we get we make the most of our wonderful surroundings with the woodland close on our doorstep!

Currently, we are working with Foresteers to immerse the outdoors into our curriculum and social times.



## Experiences

We want our children at St. Mary's to have a wide range of activities and experiences to support their learning.

Our St. Mary's Super 60 includes 60 experiences we want our children to have had the opportunity to engage in before they leave St Mary's. These include:

**Working with artist**



**Travel on a bus**



**Play an instrument**



**Meet a local councillor /MP**



## School Life

Advent & Christmas are important seasons for us and we provide a wealth of experiences for the children and their families - Crib Making, Christingle, Traveling Carols, Candle Lit Carols, Nativities



Lent & Easter are also important to us, as we want children to rejoice in the joy of Jesus' resurrection.



Throughout the year we mark other events such as Harvest by collecting for the local food bank, Grandparents day by having a special assembly for them, odd socks day to promote anti-bullying, bedtime stories during national story telling week, world book day, world maths day...

Please see our school website, which shows the events and experiences our parents and carers are invited to.

## Reading

Reading for Pleasure (defined as choosing to read) is the single most important indicator of a child's future success.

Reading for Pleasure is a key aim for our children at St. Mary's. We want to create a culture around reading where all members of our community read for pleasure, read widely, share books and talk about books.

We want to share this message even before children reach our school. Through a book sale in school the children raised funds to buy new books for children in the local nurseries, which our school council delivered.



We are very lucky have a beautiful new school library that all children have regular access to. This is well stocked with a wide range of books from current authors and some old favourites too!



## Sport

St Mary's has a proud and strong tradition of participation in competitive sport. This has been recognised by being awarded the School Games Mark Gold for the last 3 years - this year we are aiming to be awarded platinum. All children are encouraged to get involved in competitive sport and we offer a wide range of opportunities through our sports partnerships.

### Cross Country



### Whole School Golf



### Basket Ball



### Handball



### Athletics



### Scooter Skills



### Santa Dash

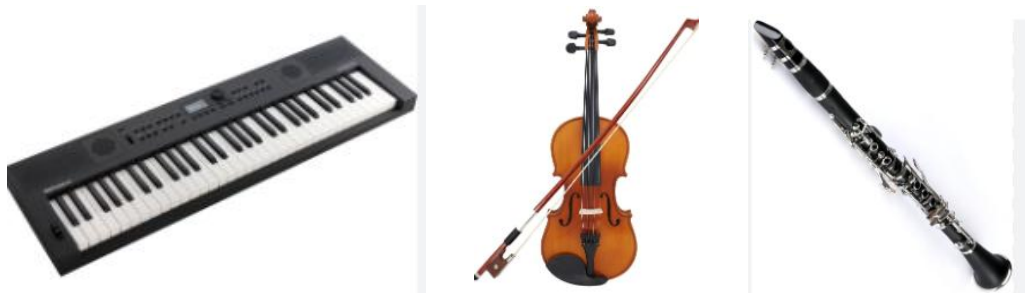


## Music

We have many opportunities for children to participate in music activities including drumming workshops and Young Voices. We have two active choirs who perform in the community regularly.



We also benefit from external music teachers who offer instrument tuition in keyboard, violin and clarinet.



Each year we hold the St Mary's Music Festival. This includes a workshop with musicians, a performance for parents and a chance for children to share their musical talents with a live audience. The festival also features our talented musicians who are competing for the title of 'St Mary's Musician of the Year.'

Thanks to funds raised by parents, from this year, each child will have the opportunity to learn to play a glockenspiel and have access to new instruments to support music in the curriculum.

