Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Safe | Valued | Loved

Starting School

An Information Booklet for Parents



Welcome to Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School

Starting school will be an important and exciting time for your child and our aim is to make the transition into school life a smooth and happy one.

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary school is a Christ centred learning community where all are safe, valued and loved. We will aim to foster your child's love of themselves, of others and of the world around them.

Everyone at Saint Mary's is looking forward to welcoming your child to school in September. As a school, we are passionate about your child's education and aspire for the very best in all that we do as a community to support your child and to support you as a family.

The close partnership between school and home is critical and we will always be on hand should parents wish to speak to us. Miss Butterfield, who is our Headteacher, operates an open door for parents and invites all parents to make contact if they require support.

We aim to give you the information you need to prepare your child and yourselves for the exciting adventure of starting school.

Catholic Life

Choosing your child's school is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, and we hope you and your family enjoy your time with us. As a Catholic school, the basis of our mission is a Christ centred learning community, where all are safe, valued and loved.

We value and respect every person as an individual, made in the image of Christ. High standards of behaviour are expected from all pupils within our school. Children are actively encouraged to participate fully in school life. Strong emphasis is placed on pastoral care and all staff are fully committed to promoting the well-being of every child. The nurturing of this positive attitude is essential if pupils are to become successful learners, striving for excellence and achievement in all areas of the curriculum.

At Saint Mary's we offer a variety of extra-curricular activities and after-school clubs for all pupils. We retain a high regard for the importance of fostering a healthy home-school partnership through regular communication and contact with parents. We celebrate merit assemblies throughout the term on Fridays which are well attended by families. We have a very active Parents and Teachers Association group who meet to socialise and fundraise for the children.

Parents' evenings are held in school to inform you about your child's progress. We believe that if parents and school work together we will have more success in ensuring all children reach their full potential. We encourage you to attend our regular masses and assemblies.



We want you and your child to grow in faith with us and remember what Jesus said,

'I have come so that people may live and that they may enjoy it to the full'

Our Father

Our Father,
Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day
our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen

Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of Grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.
Holy Mary Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death
Amen.

Glory Be

Glory Be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be,
world without end
Amen

Morning Prayer

Father in heaven,
you love me,
You are with me night and day,
I want to love you always
in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you, Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen

Grace Before Meals

Bless us, O Lord, as we sit together.
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that made the food.
Bless us, O Lord,
Amen.

Home Time Prayer

Hands together softly so, little eyes shut tight
Father just before we go, hear our prayer tonight
We are all God's children here, this is what we pray
Keep us when the dark is here and through every day.
Amen

Safe
Valued
Loved

Saint Mary's
Catholic Primary School
Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Early Years Foundation Stage

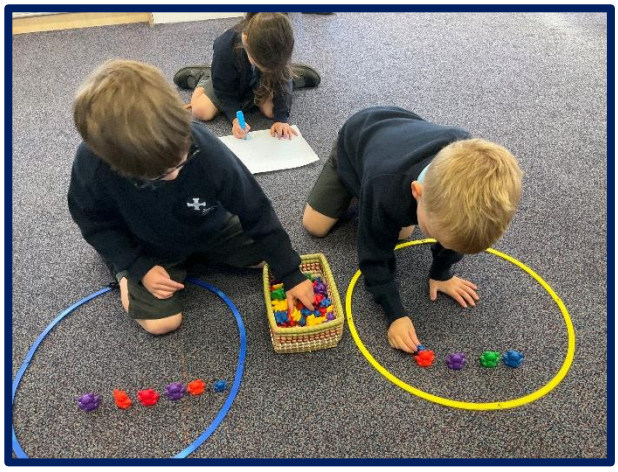
Your child will be part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) until the end of their Reception Year. At Saint Mary's our Early Years curriculum is designed to be creative, inspiring, challenging, memorable and fun. It will provide opportunities for children to participate in a range of experiences that will develop their knowledge and understanding and will provide them with the skills needed to be successful, confident, lifelong learners who reach their full potential. We intend to work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, eager learners and will strive to prepare children to reach the Early Learning Goals at the end of the EYFS through good quality teaching and learning opportunities, ensuring that pupils make good progress from their starting points and are ready for the next step on their learning journey.

Prime areas:

The three Prime areas, Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSED), Communication and Language (CL), and Physical Development (PD), describe universal core aspects of early child development.

- **Communication and Language** involves giving the children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; to speak and listen in a range of situations. Young children depend on back-and-forth interactions with others to develop confidence as effective communicators and language users.

- **Physical Development**
  Each child's journey relies on whole-body physical experiences. Fine and gross motor control must develop together in an integrated way, so that the child can achieve what they set out to do. Children must also be helped to understand health, wellbeing and self-care which are integral to their physical development.



- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** is key to children's wellbeing and resilience. It involves helping children to develop their self-image, their emotional understanding and how the quality of their relationships affect their self-confidence, their potential to experience joy, to be curious, to wonder, and to face problems, and their ability to think and learn.

The four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied are:

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.
- **Understanding the World** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, communities and the environment.
-

- **Expressive Arts and Design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design technology.



Stories form a vital part of the curriculum, and these stories often go on to inspire the learning in class during the week. Talk is also very important, and we build in regular opportunities for children to talk and share their ideas and problem solve with others in the school day.

In addition to this, children take part in PE and Forest school sessions.





How can you help prepare your child for school?

Here are just a few ideas for how you can help your child prepare for school. We are sure you are doing lots of these already, and have lots more ideas that you could add:

- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, including using buttons and zips and folding their clothes
- Ensure your child can manage using the toilet by themselves, including washing their hands fully with soap and water and drying them afterwards
- Share books and stories
- Go to the public library and share a range of books (don't forget to take part in the summer reading challenge at the library)
- Teach your child nursery rhymes
- Play turn-taking games such as snakes and ladders
- Have play opportunities with other children, especially over the summer holidays. Encourage safe play and help them think about other children's needs.
- Talk about numbers and teach your child to count objects accurately; you could involve your child in helping around the house by counting out the bowls or spoons needed to lay the table, counting steps up and down the stairs, look at house numbers or numbers on cars or buses as you go for a walk
- Talk about shapes and colours
- Teach your child to independently use tissues to blow his/her nose

General Information

Dates, Times and Routines

The gates open at 8.35am and parents are welcome to bring their children into the classroom from this time. The gates will be locked at 8.45am and all children need to be in class for registration and parents to have left the premises.

Registration is at 8.45am. Lateness is monitored closely by the school and parents will be contacted if there is an issue with punctuality. It is very disruptive for your child, as well as for staff carrying out the early morning school routines, if children arrive late. Late arrivals need to enter via the office reception and the child needs to be signed in there.

Home time is at 3:15pm and parents are asked to collect their child from the classroom door.

Attendance



It is very important that children attend school every day so that they can make good progress in their learning. It is very tricky for children when they miss days and need to try to catch up with their learning. As a school we really believe that every day counts and we do lots to encourage and reward good attendance.

Absence

If your child is unwell please call or email the school office as soon as possible to make us aware: admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk

We expect your child to be in school where at all possible, as there is a direct link between a child's attendance and the progress they make. If they have an infectious disease, please call the school office to get advice about the length of time they need to be absent from school.

Appointments

Please try to arrange medical appointments out of school hours. If this is not possible, please organise appointments as close as possible to the end of the school day. Any absence needs to be communicated to the school office or to the class teacher. Please let school have copies of all appointment letters.

Communication

In the mornings, Mrs King will be busy ensuring that the children settle into the classroom happily and is responsible for taking the register as quickly as possible so that the school day can begin promptly. She is always happy to help but if you need to speak in person, the mornings are very busy with drop-off so please come at the end of the day when she will be available. The best way to get in touch is by email via admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk. However, if you would like to pass on an urgent message to Mrs King, please call into the office and staff will make sure the message gets to her.

School communications to parents will be sent by email via Arbor.
Class communications will often be sent via Class Dojo but please do not send messages or respond via this channel. You will receive a login for this once your child starts school.

Medicines

If your child needs to take short-term prescribed medicine or medications continuously throughout the school year, please contact the school office to fill out the necessary paperwork. A copy of the school's Administration of Medicines policy is available if required.

Asthma

If your child is asthmatic, a form needs to be completed at the office and an inhaler must be kept in school.

Allergies

If your child has an allergy of any description, please let us know as soon as possible.

All information will be treated confidentially.

Snacks, Drinks and Lunchtimes

Drinks

Children under the age of 5 are entitled to free school milk every day. We encourage children to bring in a named water bottle which can be kept in the classroom. Please ensure you fill up your child's bottle at home with fresh water in the morning and empty and clean it at night. Water is available from the various water fountains located around the school site.

Snacks

All children are entitled to free fruit funded through a government scheme and this is available every day for the children.

Children are welcome to bring in a piece of suitable fruit/vegetable for morning break time if they so wish. Chocolate bars/biscuits, sweets, fizzy drinks and cordial are not allowed in school. Please see the school food policy on the website for full details.

We also offer toast, made with wholemeal bread, which is ordered half-termly in advance at a cost of 50p per day and paid for via Arbor (see below).

Lunchtimes

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 will be entitled to a free school lunch. The school kitchen cooks delicious and healthy school lunches each day. There is a three week menu cycle, which is available for parents to view on the school website www.saintmaryscongleton.co.uk

Your child can choose which option they would like to eat at the beginning of each day. If your child has any specific dietary requirements, please let us know.

Payment

The school office is “cashless” and, therefore, any payments for school trips, school building fund, toast etc. must be made through “Arbor”. If you encounter any difficulties using the system, please contact the school office who will help. You will be given a login when your child starts school if you are not already on our system.

Uniform



At Saint Mary's, we are striving for excellence in all areas of school life and as an important part of this we encourage all pupils to take a pride in their appearance and to enjoy wearing their uniform correctly. The uniform, which is described in the policy, is compulsory for all pupils. In cases where pupils arrive in school incorrectly dressed, parents will be contacted with a request to bring the correct items to school, or there will be an expectation that loan items will be worn.

Our uniform items with the school logo are available from:

DP SPORTSWEAR, 42-44 Bromley Road, Congleton, CW12 1PT, 01260 274400

https://www.dpsportswear.co.uk/shop/Saint-Marys-Catholic-Primary-School-c174415038

Items without the logo can be purchased from any uniform outlets, major chain stores or supermarkets

Jumper or cardigan: Saint Mary's navy blue V neck jumper/cardigan with school logo
Shirt: Plain, pale blue long or short sleeved shirt with collar and top button. Top button must be closed to allow correct wearing of the school tie. Polo shirts are not acceptable.
Tie: Saint Mary's school tie
Trousers: Plain grey and tailored
Skirt or Pinafore Dress: Plain grey
Socks: Plain grey socks or grey tights
Shoes: Black and sturdy. Please note that fabric shoes, pumps, trainers, boots and open-toed sandals are not acceptable
Coat: Warm, water-proof with a hood. (Children will play out in the rain, unless it is very heavy)
Book bag with school logo (optional)

Summer term (optional) – Plain grey, tailored shorts with grey socks OR gingham style blue and white summer dress with white socks

PE Kit: navy blue shorts (not cycling/Lycra shorts), navy blue T shirt with logo, trainers (any colour). Navy blue jogging pants and sweatshirt (available with school logo) can worn in cold weather.

No jewellery - earrings are not permitted. A wristwatch is permissable
Hairstyles - long hair should be tied back at all times with navy or black accessories
No make-up, nail varnish and other body embellishments (such as fake tattoos)
All uniform must be clearly labelled with the child's name

Supporting your child with their learning

Parents always ask what they can do to help support their child with learning at home – the answer is lots!

Most importantly, we ask all parents to read with their children as often as possible. This includes reading stories to your child as this helps them to develop a love of reading and good story language; it also develops their understanding. Children who love stories, and who are able to talk about and retell stories, have a brilliant starting place when it comes to writing. Reading also includes listening to your child read to you. Little and often is the key – children who read regularly at home for just 5-10 minutes a day, especially in the early years, grow in confidence as readers. We encourage all parents to set aside some time each day in a comfortable quiet space, when distractions are minimised, to enjoy reading together. If you would like any advice or support with reading, we are always happy to help.

In the Autumn term we will hold reading and phonics workshops for parents, to give you hints and top tips on how you can support your child with their learning at home.

We will send home other learning activities, such as number games, handwriting activities or words to learn to read.

If you have any questions about how you can support your child, there will be opportunities at our Parents' Evenings to discuss this and you can always have a word with your child's class teacher.

School Contact Details

The school office opening hours are 8:30am to 4pm Monday to Friday during the school term time.

Address:

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School
Belgrave Avenue
Congleton
CW12 1HT

Telephone:

01260 274690

Website:

https://www.saintmaryscongleton.co.uk/

Email:

admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk