Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School Congleton
A Voluntary Academy

Friday 16th October 2026 2026-2027 Edition 7

The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited…
Matthew 22:1-14

Dear Parents and Carers,



This week, the children have reflected on Jesus' parable of the wedding feast from Matthew's Gospel. Through this story, we are reminded that God invites each one of us to share in His Kingdom and calls us to respond with open hearts. This week, we have encouraged the children to think about how they can say "Yes!" to God's invitation through their words, actions and choices each day. Whether through kindness, friendship, prayer or helping others, we can all play our part in building God's Kingdom and sharing His love with those around us. As always, thank you for your continued support in helping our children grow in faith and live out our Gospel values.

Harvest Mass

This week, we gathered as a school family to celebrate our Harvest Mass. We gave thanks for the many blessings we receive and reflected on the importance of helping those in need. Thank you to our families for their generous donations, which will support members of our local community. We also gave thanks to Mrs McDonald and Mrs McGeady for the care and dedication they show in preparing delicious meals for our children each day.



Year 3 and 4 Cross Country

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 and Year 4 children who took part in the Cross Country event at Congleton High School on Tuesday evening. You showed fantastic determination, resilience and sportsmanship, and represented Saint Mary's brilliantly. We are so proud of each and every one of you for giving your best effort and embracing the challenge.



Parents' Meetings

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Parents' Meetings. We hope they provided a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress and how they have settled into school this academic year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further information or support. We value our strong partnership with families and look forward to working together throughout the year.

Safeguarding

We are pleased to share that **Mr Billings** has now joined our safeguarding team. Our safeguarding team consists of **Miss Butterfield**, **Mr Merrick** and **Mr Billings**.

If you have any worries, concerns or need support, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team. We are always here to help. Parents and carers can also find a wealth of safeguarding information and support on our school website.

Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Marleigh	For always having a smile on her face.
	Olivia	For always having lovely manners.
Reception	Mason	For a fantastic retelling of our story “Peace at Last”.
	Aoife	For always being kind and helpful.
Year 1	Alex	For great writing and handwriting in English.
	Autumn	For always having good manners.
Year 2	Isabelle	For her amazing joined up handwriting this week.
	Eva	For being a helpful member of our Y2 class.
Year 3	Sofia	For always engaging in her lessons and learning.
	Tilly	For actively supporting her friends when they need help.
Year 4	Ben	For a great effort with his final write.
	Hugo	For great determination on hi s return to school.
Year 5	Edith	For fantastic effort in her final write.
	Emmanuel	For showing respect to others.
Year 6	Eric	For very good answers during the VR Space session.
	Finley	For leading celebration of the word with reverence and respect.

Dojo winners

ClassDojo

Artsmark

We are delighted to share that Miss Lankester is leading our school’s application for Artsmark. This exciting process will help us celebrate and further develop the many opportunities we provide at Saint Mary’s for children to engage with and enjoy the arts and culture. If any parents or carers have skills, expertise or experience in the arts and would be willing to lead an activity, workshop or share their knowledge with our children, we would love to hear from you. We would also welcome any parents or carers from a heritage or nationality other than British who would be willing to share aspects of their culture, traditions, language or experiences with our children. These opportunities help to enrich our curriculum and celebrate the diversity of our wider community.



Attendance

Thank you for ensuring that your child attends school **every day and arrives on time**. Your support makes a significant difference and has a positive impact on your child's learning, progress, and overall wellbeing. Regular attendance helps children build confidence, maintain friendships, and make the most of every learning opportunity. We greatly appreciate your continued partnership in helping our children achieve their very best.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons

Attendance

Nursery - 93.33%

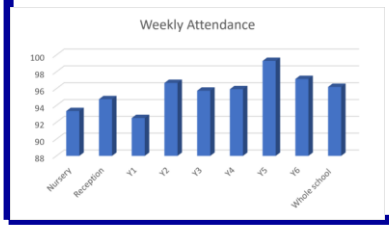
Reception - 94.74%

Y1 - 92.5% **Y4 - 95.93%**

Y2 - 96.67% **Y5 - 99.29%**

Y3 - 95.75% **Y6 - 97.14%**

Whole school 96.2%



Dates for your Diary

Monday 19th—Y5 swimming
Tuesday 20th—Whole school Flu vaccine
Wednesday 21st—Friday 23rd—Y6 Residential to Culmington Manor
Wed 21st Big Clothes Event - school hall 7-8pm
Thursday 22nd—Y5 Forest school
Friday 23rd—EYFS Autumn Welly Walk at Congleton Park.
Friday 23rd School closes for Half Term. Reopens Monday 2nd November
Tues 3rd November – FHC Sacramental Preparation parent meeting 4.30pm in school
Wednesday 4th November -KS2 Parents - Stay & Pray 8.35am
Thursday 5th November – KS1 Parents – Stay & Pray 8.35am
Thursday 5th November – Whole school photos
Thursday 5th November—Early Years Forest School Stay & Play 9.30-11.30 for visitors (EYFS/Reception Forest School - Thursday afternoon)

Secondary School

A reminder for parents of children due to start secondary school in September 2027: applications for secondary school places must be submitted through Cheshire East Admissions by **31st October 2026**. We encourage families to apply in plenty of time to avoid missing the deadline.

Early Years Forest School Session

We are pleased to be offering a Forest School session for children aged **3 and 4 years**.

Please note: Children who attend our Nursery **will not attend if they are already in Nursery on 5th November**. However, if your child is aged 3 or 4 and does **not** attend Nursery on that day, they are very welcome to join us.

All children **must be accompanied by a parent, carer or other responsible adult throughout the session**.

We would be grateful if you could **share this information with friends and family** who may be interested. We look forward to welcoming lots of children and their grown-ups for a fun and exciting Forest School experience!





Reception Places September 2027

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our recent Open Morning. It was a pleasure to welcome you to Saint Mary's and share what makes our school such a special place to learn, grow and thrive. If your child is due to start Reception in September 2027, applications must be submitted through Cheshire East School Admissions by **15 January 2027**. We look forward to welcoming many new families to our school community next year.

Football



A huge well done to our Year 5/6 Girls' Football Team, who represented Saint Mary's so proudly at the recent tournament at All Hallows. The team performed brilliantly, finishing in **3rd place** after winning two games, drawing one and losing one. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, determination and excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition. Well done, girls!

Space VR workshops

On Thursday, children from Reception to Year 6 had the opportunity to take part in our exciting Space VR Experience. The sessions gave pupils the chance to immerse themselves in the wonders of space, exploring planets, stars and galaxies in a way that truly brought their learning to life. The children were captivated from start to finish and loved being able to experience space in such an engaging and interactive way. It was wonderful to hear their excitement as they shared what they had learned and discovered throughout the day. Experiences like these help to spark curiosity, inspire future learning and create lasting memories. A fantastic day was had by all, and we are sure there are a few budding astronauts amongst us!





Online Safety Workshops

On Tuesday 10th November, PC Cornall will be leading a series of online safety sessions for our Key Stage 2 pupils. These sessions will explore a range of important topics to help children stay safe online, including responsible use of technology, social media awareness, gaming, cyberbullying and the potential risks associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI). As technology continues to play an increasingly important role in children's lives, we are grateful for opportunities such as these to educate and empower our pupils to make safe and informed choices online. Following morning drop-off, PC Cornall will also be delivering an online safety session for parents and carers. This meeting is open to all families and will provide valuable information and practical advice on keeping children safe online, including guidance around emerging technologies such as AI. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend this important session. We look forward to welcoming PC Cornall and know that both our children and families will benefit greatly from his expertise.



Miss Small

Next week, Miss Small begins her maternity leave as she prepares to welcome her first baby. Whilst we will all miss her very much, we are incredibly excited for her and her partner, James, as they begin this wonderful new chapter in their lives. We know that Miss Small will find it a little strange not being with us each day too, but there is such an exciting adventure ahead. On behalf of everyone at Saint Mary's, we would like to wish Miss Small and James lots of love, happiness and, of course, plenty of sleep when their little one arrives! We cannot wait to hear all the news and look forward to welcoming Miss Small back to visit us whenever she can.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for inviting each of us to be part of Your Kingdom. Help us to say "yes" to Your invitation every day through our words, actions and choices. Teach us to show kindness to others, to welcome everyone with love and to be generous in serving those in need. As we continue our journey through this school year, help us to grow in faith and become more like Jesus.
Bless our families, our school and our parish community, and may we always follow Your path with joyful hearts.

Amen.