



4 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Welcome Back

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer! It is wonderful to see Y1-6 back in school and we look forward to welcoming our new Reception intake from next Monday. The atmosphere in school is calm and full of joy!

New Teaching Staff

We welcome two new teachers this term: Miss Bower (Y1) and Mr Terry (Y5). Both come with a number of years teaching experience across Nottinghamshire, and with expertise in SEND. Mr Terry takes on the role of Maths and RE Lead, whilst Miss Bower will be our Music Lead. Please say hello – they're very approachable!

Development Priorities

As we move into a new school year, we have new priorities for school development which I'm keen to share with you. Our targets this year are:

Pupils achieve the best possible outcomes; all pupils make at least expected progress from their baselines

- A focus on raising attainment in maths, spelling and writing in particular.
- Changes to assessment strategy
- Staff training to ensure teaching is always the highest quality possible
- Use of online tools to evidence learning, particularly in EYFS and KS1

The school's theologically rooted Christian vision is lived out through a culture of justice and responsibility

- Further developing pupil leadership opportunities
- Further development of partnership across the local community
- A focus on ensuring that pupils with SEND, or are disadvantaged, thrive
- Development of spiritual experiences
- Collaborative fundraising to improve mental/physical health provision

Pupils' talents, interests and character are well developed through coherently planned, rich experiences

- Improving pupils' playtime experience
- Developing the enrichment offer
- Outdoor learning opportunities
- Development of music provision
- Developing opportunities for pupils to read for pleasure
- Increased use of drama throughout the curriculum

Pupils' behaviour is excellent because their needs, experiences and neurodiversities are well catered for.

- Explicit teaching of emotional literacy skills
- Mental Health Strategy
- Development of adaptive teaching techniques
- Involvement with Nottinghamshire Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools

As part of our development work, we will be launching a new playtime approach, incorporating high quality experiences, which encourage children to lead play - more on this in the coming weeks!

Pupil Leadership

Towards the end of last term, we advertised for some pupil leadership roles. It was a very busy time of year and lots of people had difficulties sending videos. Therefore, where we didn't have many applications, we have decided to open applications again. These are listed below. To make the process simpler, this time, we are asking pupils to apply in writing. Class teachers will share details with

children in class, but we would really appreciate your support in helping them write their applications!
Please hand applications to class teachers by Wednesday 11 September 2024.

Vacancy	How to Apply
School Councillors – this is open for applications from Y1 – Y6	Children should submit a written application in which they write about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school values and how they demonstrate these • One aspect of the school that they feel is excellent • One aspect of the school they would like to improve, and ideas for how to do this.
KS2 Worship Leaders - this is open for applications from Y3 – Y6	Children should submit a written application in which they write about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school’s Christian vision and how they live this out • Why faith/spirituality is important in their lives • How they can help to strengthen worship at St Mary’s.
KS2 Reading Champions - this is open for applications from Y3 – Y6.	Children should submit a written application in which they write about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why they feel they would be a good reading champion • How they meet the person specification • Their favourite author, and why
Y5 Mini Leaders - this is open for applications from Y5 pupils.	Children should submit a written application in which they write about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why they would like to be a mini-leader • How they meet the person specification • Their favourite sport and why

Welcome Meetings

These are planned for Monday 9 September, from 4.30pm. We will begin in the hall for a short presentation and this will be followed by two identical sessions in each class which will last for approximately 20 mins. This is to enable parents with more than one children to attend both. The event will be finished by 5.30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet your child’s new class teacher and ask questions about the year ahead. We hope that you are able to make it. If not, we will upload presentations to class pages on the website.

Enrichment Clubs

The brochure for this term has now been published. Please do sign your children up for any after-school clubs via School Money. Lunchtime clubs will be organised within the school day – there is no need to book these. Clubs will commence from Monday 16 September onwards.

I hope that your children enjoy their school year – we have lots of exciting opportunities planned for them. If you have any questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s class teacher.

Best Wishes,

Miss Robinson
Headteacher