



Wednesday 8 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are back; it has been lovely to see all the children once again. We hope you have all had a restful summer break and are energised ready for the new year ahead. A warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school community over the summer; we hope you and your child/ren enjoy your time here with us at St. Mary's.

Thank you for supporting us in ensuring the children have returned in the correct uniform, it has been lovely to see the children looking so smart. Just a gentle reminder that the children should only wear red school jumpers whilst in school and not hoodies. On PE days children need to continue to come to school wearing their PE kit: plain white t-shirts with plain blue or black tracksuit bottoms or shorts.

Children do not need to bring in anything extra from home. Fidget tools are allocated by Mrs McCready, our school SENDCO, after a referral from their class teacher and the children sign a fidget license. If you believe your child needs one then please get in touch with your child's teacher, do not send any in from home as we do not want them to get broken or go missing.

Due to the spaces in classrooms it is essential that all children only bring in a book-bag rather than a backpack. Book-bags come in an FS/KS1 or KS2 size and can be purchased from ParentPay.

### **Buses**

Thank you to the parents and carers for ensuring the children are at their allocated bus stop on time. It is wonderful to see lots of happy faces when they arrive at school. If you have any queries/questions about the buses, please contact the school office – [admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk) and not class teachers.

### **Parking**

We encourage all our families who are not on the buses to park away from the school and walk their child/ren onto the site. Here are some suggestions of places to park nearby:

- St. Mary's Church car park, Darley Lane (6 minute walk to school)
- Parker's Piece Car park, City Road, DE1 1DF (4/5 minute walk to school)
- City Road (free parking for 30 minutes)

For parents and carers who have opted to park on City Road, we have been advised by the local community to ask our families to enter City Road turning off Mansfield Rd or Alfreton Rd onto Old Chester Rd at the roundabout. You will enter a one-way system that will help ease congestion and road blocks when exiting at the junction by the newsagent. The car park by the newsagent is for customers of the shop only.

### **Child Absence**

If you request a leave of absence for your child/ren, parents and carers must complete the relevant forms which can be collected from the school office. These forms must be completed for all requests. Please be aware that unless it is an exceptional circumstance (please see school Attendance Policy found on our website) child absences will not be authorised.



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Company Number 7937154



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



### **Celebrating Achievements**

Many of the outside clubs are restarting once again following the ease on restrictions. If your child/ren are in receipt of a certificate, medal or trophy received for their achievements, if you would like to bring these in we will be happy to celebrate these successes during our Celebration AoW on a Monday morning.

### **Online Safety**

Children are spending more time than ever online. As adults, we need to do everything we can to keep them safe in the digital world. With new apps, games and platforms emerging every day, it can be difficult to stay in the know. National Online Safety (NOS) have launched a National Online Safety mobile application to help adults understand and address online safeguarding risks. Head to [National Online Safety Mobile App](#) to find out more. Their website provides numerous helpful guides too <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

### **Class Dojo**

A massive thank to all our parents and carers, including our new families, for a 100% uptake on ClassDojo; it has been a huge success this past year and we are sure this will continue this new academic year. Mrs Brentnall will be uploading a 'user guide' video for all to access to assist with any misconceptions; this will either be uploaded onto ClassDojo (pending size) or it will be uploaded onto our website.

Please use your child's portfolio to record their reading at home. Remember, each time your child reads at home, and it is recorded in their portfolio, they will receive a Dojo point. ClassDojo is a great way of communicating with your child's class teacher. However, if you have any queries relating to buses, absences, or none-classroom based questions please contact the school office ([admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stmarys.derby.sch.uk)). If you would like to get in contact with a member of the Leadership Team, please email the school office also.

### **New Build**

We are delighted to say that conversations between the Department for Education (DfE), Trust and Diocese are progressing well. All of the necessary initial feasibility surveys on site have been completed. Meetings continued over the summer break, and we are hoping to share more concrete information with the wider community over the coming weeks when authorised to do so by the DfE project team. We are hopeful this will include timescales and details which we hope will reassure you that St Mary's is still the school of choice for all pupils. We are delighted to share that the DfE have chosen St Mary's based on its positive outcomes for pupils over a sustained period of time to review their framework for the building of new schools. Therefore, all schools in the future will be built using this framework which focuses on sustainability and Biophilia (connection with nature) and the positive effects these have on pupil achievement, well-being and mental health. The DfE project team is keen to engage in dialogue with the stakeholders and plans are being developed on how to do this in a meaningful way. As a Leadership Team, we will ensure a monthly update is included within our communications to parents and carers to keep you as up to date as possible.

Finally, just a reminder that we are a healthy school and so would like to encourage you to provide a healthy snack at playtime (KS2 children) and a balanced lunch box. We are nut free school due to the number of children with severe allergies. Therefore, please refrain from sending in products containing nuts.

Please feel free to contact us if you require anything in addition to the information above.

Best wishes and God Bless

The Leadership Team



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NOTTINGHAM

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy

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