St. Mary's Catholic Infant School

SANCTA FAMILIA CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'

YEAR OF PEACE

HEADTEACHER NEWSLETTER NO. 10

13th November 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I have had the pleasure of showing prospective parents around the school over this week. With every group I accompanied, the children consistently demonstrated positive attitudes towards their learning. They showed independence, collaborated beautifully with one another, and welcomed every opportunity to talk confidently about what they were working on. Each classroom had a calm, purposeful atmosphere, and I couldn't be prouder of our pupils and staff. It has been wonderful to share with so many visitors what a truly special place St Mary's is.

Anti-Bullying week



Next is Anti Bullying week, the official theme this year is '**Break the Silence'.** We will be taking part by wearing odd socks on **Monday 16th November.** Please send your child in odd socks or some brightly coloured, jazzy tights.

WHY IS ODD SOCKS DAY IMPORTANT?

The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves and that we choose to respect others and create a community free from bullying and it helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

I look forward to seeing all of your socks on **Monday** 16th November!

Remembrance Assembly



I want to thank Year 2 for leading such a reflective and poignant Remembrance Assembly. It gave us all time to reflect on all those soldiers who have fought to keep us safe and to think about how we can bring peace into the world

Workshops for parents

Wednesday 25th November 9.15am or 2.45pm– Phonics workshop – find out how our phonic scheme is taught and how you can support your child at home with their phonics and reading.

School Trips

A reminder that Year 2 have a school visit coming up.

They are going to the National War Museum on Wednesday18th November to bring to life their learning this half term.



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Please ensure you have completed the permission forms and expressed whether your child will be having a school packed lunch or you will be providing them with a packed lunch from home. We need to inform the kitchen of numbers so that they can cater accordingly.

Christmas



Attached to this newsletter are some posters and information about the Christmas fair. Please read them for all the relevant information.

You can now buy your Christmas tokens from the school office. At the moment we have a deal for you-

10 tokens for £8

5 tokens for £4

This is a limited offer until the **20th November 2026**

Christmas hamper donations

We are also collecting items for our Christmas hampers. We would appreciate the following donations from each year group:

Year Group	Items
Nursery & Reception	Christmas food: Cake, Xmas pudding, Yule log, biscuits, drink etc & books appropriate for children aged 3-5year olds
Year 1	Pamper items: body lotions, soap talc, bubble bath etc & books appropriate for children aged 6-7 years old
Year 2	Boy/Girls New Toys & books appropriate for children aged 8+ years old

Christmas Nativity Plays

Reception- **Thursday 3rd December at 2pm** in the school hall

Year 2 - **Wednesday 9th December at 2pm** in the school hall

Year 1 - **Thursday 10th December at 2pm** in the school hall

Nursery will be having a Christmas activity session for parents to attend on **Wednesday 2nd December**. More information and timings of this will follow shortly.

Christmas Disco's

Reception – Tuesday 15th December 3.30pm-4.30pm

Year 2 Wednesday 16th December 3.30pm-4.30pm

Year 1 -Thursday 17th December 3.30pm-4.30pm

Tickets will be **£5 each** and your child will receive a small snack, a drink and some dancing time!

On the day of your child's disco they may come in their own clothes so they are disco ready at 3.30pm. If you are able to help please let me know, it will be much appreciated.



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Chicken Pox

We would like to inform you that we have had a number of reported cases of chickenpox across the school. Chickenpox is a common and highly contagious childhood illness. We kindly ask all parents and carers to remain vigilant and monitor their children for any signs or symptoms to help prevent further spread.

The most common symptoms of chickenpox include:

- A red, itchy rash that develops into small, fluid-filled blisters, which eventually dry out and form scabs.
- A high temperature (fever).
- Feeling generally unwell, tired or irritable.
- Loss of appetite.
- Headaches and general aches and pains.

The rash can appear anywhere on the body, including the face, scalp, chest, back and inside the mouth.

If you suspect your child has chickenpox, please:

1. Keep your child at home and do not send them into school.
2. Notify the school office as soon as possible so that we can continue to monitor cases across the school.
3. Seek advice from your GP or NHS 111 if you are concerned about your child's symptoms. Please contact the surgery before attending in person, as chickenpox is highly contagious.
4. Encourage your child to rest, drink plenty of fluids and avoid scratching the spots to reduce the risk of infection.

In line with NHS and UK Health Security Agency guidance, children with chickenpox must remain off school for at least 5 days from the onset of the rash AND until all the spots have crusted over (formed scabs).

Your child may return to school once:

- At least 5 days have passed since the rash first appeared.
- All chickenpox spots have dried and crusted over.
- They are feeling well enough to participate in normal school activities.

If any spots are still blistered or have not crusted over, your child must remain at home until they have healed sufficiently.

Chickenpox can pose a greater risk to pregnant women, newborn babies and individuals with weakened immune systems. If your child has chickenpox and there is someone in your household who may be particularly vulnerable, please seek medical advice promptly. We appreciate your support in helping us minimise the spread of infection and keep our school community safe.Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

Celebrations this week



Our stars of the week are:

Imani in St Andrew Class
Bhoja in St George Class
Ivanshika in St Bernadette Class
Hazel in St Therese Class



Eliza in St Francis Class
Papa Yaw in St Martin Class

Living and learning in the St Mary's Way are:

Zohair in St Andrew Class
Isabella in St George Class
Itua in St Bernadette Class
Spencer in St Therese Class
King in St Francis Class
Zara in St Martin Class



On the Golden Table this week for having impactable table manners are:

Dorcus in St Andrew Class
Anastasia in St George Class
Angel in St Bernadette Class
Neeljimhumko in St Therese Class
Racheal in St Francis Class
Adina in St Martin Class

Wednesday word

TALENT

"Life is a talent entrusted to us so that we can transform it and increase it, making it a gift to others
Pope St John Paul II

Dear Lord Jesus
Help us to develop our Talents and to know how we can use them for the good of others in this coming week
Amen

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation.

God Bless you all and have a wonderful weekend

Dates for your Diary

Here are some dates for your dairy. As we plan more events we will add them on and let you know in advance.

Autumn 2 Term

~~02/11/2026~~	~~All Souls Day~~		30/11/2026	Feast of St Andrew- St Andrew Class to church
~~03/11/2026~~	~~St Martin's Feast day – Visit the church~~		01/12/2026	
~~04/11/2026~~			02/12/2026	Nursery Nativity Play
~~05/11/2026~~			03/12/2026	Reception Nativity Play
~~06/11/2026~~			04/12/2026	Christmas Fayre
Week 2			**Week 6**	
~~09/11/2026~~	~~Open Day~~		07/12/2026	
~~10/11/2026~~	~~Open Day Friends meeting~~		08/12/2026	



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~~11/11/2026~~	~~Remembrance Day assembly~~ ~~MHST workshop for parents~~		09/12/2026	Year 2 Nativity Play
~~12/11/2026~~			10/12/2026	Year 1 Nativity Play
~~13/11/2026~~			11/12/2026	Reception Height and weight
Week 3	**Anti-Bullying Week**		**Week 7**	
16/11/2026	Open Day Odd Socks day		14/12/2026	
17/11/2026	Open Day		15/12/2026	Reception Disco
18/11/2026	Year 2 Visit National Army Museum		16/12/2026	Year 1 Disco
19/11/2026	Faith Leaders and Student council to St Aiden's for Wintershall Advent Travelling Crib		17/12/2026	Year 2 Disco
20/11/2026			18/12/2026	**Carols by candle light 2.30pm** **END OF TERM**
Week 4				
23/11/2026				
24/11/2026				
25/11/2026	Phonics Workshop for parents			
26/11/2026	I Rock performance assembly			
27/11/2026				

Spring Term Dates 2026/2027

Spring 1			**Spring 2**	
Week 1	Staff meeting:		**Week 1**	
04/01/2027	**INSET DAY**		22/02/2027	
05/01/2027			23/02/2027	
06/01/2027	The Epiphany of The Lord		24/02/2027	
07/01/2027			25/02/2027	
08/01/2027			26/02/2027	
Week 2			**Week 2**	
11/01/2027			01/03/2027	St Francis to Mass
12/01/2027	Parent evening		02/03/2027	
13/01/2027	St Martin Liturgy		03/03/2027	
14/01/2027	Parents evening		04/03/2027	**World Book Day**
15/01/2027			05/03/2027	Mothers Day Liturgy
Week 3			**Week 3**	
18/01/2027	St Francis to Mass		08/03/2027	St Martin to Mass
19/01/2027			09/03/2027	
20/01/2027	St Bernadette Class Assembly		10/03/2027	St Therese Class Assembly
21/01/2027			11/03/2027	Whole Class photos
22/01/2027			12/03/2027	
Week 4			**Week 4**	
25/01/2027	St Martin to Mass		15/03/2027	St Bernadette to Mass



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26/01/2027			16/03/2027	
27/01/2027	St Francis Liturgy		17/03/2027	St Bernadette Class Liturgy
28/01/2027			18/03/2027	
29/01/2027			19/03/2027	
Week 5	**Children's mental Health week**		**Week 5**	
01/02/2027	**St Bernadette to Mass**		22/03/2027	**St Therese to Mass**
02/02/2027			23/03/2027	
03/02/2027	St Therese class Liturgy		24/03/2027	
04/02/2027			25/03/2027	**Annunciation** **LAST DAY OF TERM - Finish 2pm**
05/02/2027			26/03/2027	**Good Friday Bank Holiday**
Week 6				
08/02/2027	**St Therese to Mass**			
09/02/2027	**Safer Internet Day**			
10/02/2027	**Ash Wednesday**			
11/02/2027				
12/02/2027	**INSET**			

Summer Term Dates 2026/202

Summer 1			**Summer 2**	
Week 1			**Week 1**	
12/04/2027			07/06/2027	
13/04/2027			08/06/2027	
14/04/2027			09/06/2027	
15/04/2027	Reception Screening tests		10/06/2027	
16/04/2027	St Bernadette Feast day – St Bernadette class to visit the church		11/06/2027	
Week 2			**Week 2**	**Phonic Screening week**
19/04/2027	**St Bernadette to Mass**		14/06/2027	
20/04/2027			15/06/2027	
21/04/2027			16/06/2027	St Andrew class Liturgy
22/04/2027			17/06/2027	
23/04/2027	Feast of St George		18/06/2027	Father's day Assembly
Week 3			**Week 3**	
26/04/2027	**St Therese to Mass**		21/06/2027	
27/04/2027			22/06/2027	St George Class Assembly
28/04/2027	St Andrew Class assembly		23/06/2027	
29/04/2027			24/06/2027	
30/04/2027			25/06/2027	
Week 4	**Month of Mary**		**Week 4**	
03/05/2027	**BANK HOLIDAY**		28/06/2027	
04/05/2027			29/06/2027	



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05/05/2027			30/06/2027	
06/05/2027	Ascension of The Lord		01/07/2027	
07/05/2027			02/07/2027	
Week 5			**Week 5**	
10/05/2027	**St George to Mass**		05/07/2027	
11/05/2027	St George class Liturgy		06/07/2027	
12/05/2027			07/07/2027	
13/05/2027			08/07/2027	Governors Meeting
14/05/2027			09/07/2027	
Week 6			**Week 6**	
17/05/2027	**St Andrew to Mass**		12/07/2027	
18/05/2027	Sports Day		13/07/2027	Reception Graduation
19/05/2027			14/07/2027	
20/05/2027			15/07/2027	Year 2 leavers Mass
21/05/2027			16/07/2027	Nursery Picnic
Week 7			**Week 7**	Staff meeting:
24/05/2027			19/07/2027	**Whole school to Mass?? TBC**
25/05/2027			20/07/2027	**End of Term**
26/05/2027			21/07/2027	**INSET**
27/05/2027			22/07/2027	**School Closed**
28/05/2027	St Mary's Feast Day Picnic **End of Half Term**		23/07/2027	**School Closed**

