



# The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*

*Philippians 4: 13*

29th September 2023

Respect

Compassion

Resilience



This week, we have seen the second week of our science topics. In Year 6 and Year 3, the children have been learning about animals, including humans. In Year 6, the children have learnt all about the heart and in Year 3, the children have learnt about the skeleton. In Year 4, the children have been discovering all about solids, liquids and gases in their topic 'States of Matter'. In Year 5, the children have been learning about forces, including the work of famous scientists. Please ask your child what they have learnt—you may be surprised at their knowledge!

## Pick up and pray

Year 3 parents are invited to a short prayer and liturgy session on Wednesday at 3.00pm. Please come in through the office and join your child's class for this short worship. Thank you to all Year 4 parents who attended this week's prayer and liturgy.

## Preloved Boutique

Both schools have lots of preloved uniform that need a new home. Please call into either office and help yourselves to any of our uniform that you might need.




## Reminders

Thank you to all families who have supported our uniform and jewellery policy. Staff will be reminding all children of the rules throughout next week and we will be sending out reminder texts to those who may have forgotten.

Uniform	PE Kit	Jewellery
White shirt School tie Royal blue cardigan or sweat-shirt with school logo Grey skirt / trousers / shorts Blue & white gingham or candy stripe dress (summer) White or grey socks or grey tights Sensible black shoes (no boots or trainers)	White & royal blue top with school logo or plain white T shirt. Plain royal blue shorts. No logos. Plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms or navy blue leggings. No logos. Plain navy blue hoodie or jacket. No logos. Pumps or trainers	We have a <b>no jewellery</b> policy in school. This means no earrings or necklaces. This is to ensure we adhere to our health and safety policy. Watches are allowed.

# Award Winners

	Star of the Week	Bee Award
3Ri	Franklin	James
3Ro	Ella	Sam M
4W	Oliver L	Teddy
4M	Rosa-Maria	Matthew
5D	Isobel N	Olly C
5HQ	Thea	Fraser
6W	Ethan	Marcel
6R	Alex J	Hettie
6M	Olivia W	Joshua D

	<b>School Values Award</b>	Georgie M Niamh B
	<b>Millionaire Reader</b>	Avril
	<b>Rock Hero</b>	

## Applying for a secondary school place in September 2024

The on-line portal for parents applying for a secondary school place in September 2024 is now available.

Letters will be sent out, with information on how you can apply on line.

If you have already submitted a paper application, you can still apply on-line, as this will mean you will receive an offer email on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Please contact Tracy Potter in School Admissions on 01744 671030 with any queries.

## Dyslexia Awareness Week

Celebrate being  
Uniquely You  
#DAW23



The next session of With You Always will be on Wednesday 11th October.

This session will be for all children from Y4 who have signed up with Mrs Bryant.

The session will run from 3.30—4.30pm.



Hope Academy  
A joint Catholic & Church of England Academy



TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH LOVE

### OPEN EVENING

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
5:00pm – 8:00pm  
Leadership Presentations 5:00pm & 6:30pm  
NO BOOKING REQUIRED

### OPEN MORNINGS

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 9:15am – 10:00am  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 9:15am – 10:00am  
Online booking required as spaces are limited



01744 671930  
www.hopeacademy.org.uk

LINK TO PROSPECTUS

Hope Academy  
Ashton Road  
Newton-le-Willows  
WA12 0AQ

### Hope Academy Open Mornings

Wednesday 18th October  
9:15am—10am

Wednesday 25th October  
9:15am—10am

# Reading Workshop

**Thursday 5th October**

**2.00pm-3.00pm**

An opportunity to come into school and talk with our reading lead, Mrs Whitfield, about how to help your child at home.





<b>Excellent</b> <b>99%-100%</b>	<b>Good</b> <b>97%-98%</b>	<b>Average</b> <b>95%-96%</b>	<b>Cause for Concern</b> <b>94%-90%</b>	<b>Of Great Concern</b> <b>Below 90%</b>
<b>Well Done! This is amazing keep it up!</b> Your child is in school learning and getting their entitlement to an education.	Your child's attendance is good and they will be accessing school to the levels they need to make progress with their learning.	Let's Get this percentage higher! Your child may well start to fall behind with their learning and ability to build on previous learning.	Your attendance really needs to improve. There will be a significant impact on your child's acquisition of skills and knowledge. Over time this will result in your child underachieving.	Your child will not be working at their full potential, and this will have a significant negative impact on their future in school and beyond.

#### Why is attendance important ?

- It is a legal requirement for your child to be in school on time every day.
- Poor attendance will have a negative effect on your child's learning, outcomes and overall mental health and wellbeing.
- We want our children to make the most of their experiences in school and reach their potential.

#### What is an example of an authorised absence?

- Your child is too ill to attend school (*proof of illness from your may be requested*).
- An unavoidable medical appointment in school time (*proof of all appointments will be required*).
- A leave of absence agreed by the headteacher

#### What is an example of an unauthorised absence?

- A family holiday in term time
- Staying off school because a sibling or parent is unwell
- Taking the day off because it is your birthday, you have a wedding or other day out planned

#### What do I do if my child is unwell?

- Please notify the school EACH DAY that your child is ill, by ringing the school office on 01744 678390. Please leave a voicemail if no-one is available to answer your call.
- If you have not contacted the school by 9.30am then the school office staff will telephone you. If we are unable to get in touch then a member of the school pastoral team or the Education Welfare Officer may visit your home.

### Attendance Matters



#### **When attendance becomes a concern**

If your child's attendance falls below 90%, school will send you a letter and monitor their attendance closely. You may also be contacted by school to attend an Attendance Awareness Meeting to discuss the reasons why your child has been absent. Following this, if your child's attendance does not improve then school may make a referral to the Education Welfare Service.

**FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-13**

**S4K**

**30TH OCT- 2ND NOV 2023**

**BROOK LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, RAINFORD**

**ST PETER'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTON**

Book individual days or a week at a time, our flexible and convenient holiday childcare gives children the opportunity to try new activities, meet new friends and make lasting memories.

From themed arts and crafts and team games to sports and outdoor splash activities, there is something for all children to enjoy at our October Holiday Camps.

0300 303 3866 | [WWW.SPORT4KIDS.BIZ](http://WWW.SPORT4KIDS.BIZ)

**WALK & TALK**

HOME START St Helens

The sessions are designed to reduce isolation, help parents like you and your children to meet new people and to improve your overall wellbeing.

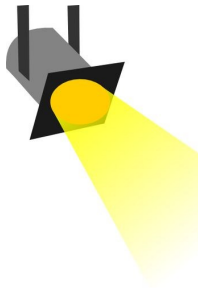
Meeting every Thursday at  
Newton Children's Centre, Patterson Street,  
Newton-le-Willows WA12 2PZ

Come along and meet the Home-Start St Helens Team

Free Nutritious Snack

Join us 9:45am - 11:30am

For more information call 01744 737400



# Spotlight on behaviour

Our new behaviour policy is now being fully implemented across the Federation. The children have been very positive about this, with our most frequent feedback being 'its fair!' The ladders are being displayed in all classrooms and our first emphasis is always on trying our best and following our 3, easy to remember rules. When things do go wrong, we are all encouraged to 'put things right'.

Juniors

At St Mary's, we always try our best to:

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Be Responsible

Infants

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Not getting on with your work.	Reminder from an adult Put things right What might happen? How could we put it right?
Shouting out or disturbing others.	A reminder Support Calming time
Not following class or group instructions.	Individual work space
Poor choice or action (just once).	Time to catch up

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Not doing your work.	How could we put it right? Say sorry
Stopping others learning.	What might happen? Time to calm down
Not following class or group instructions.	My own space to work
Poor choice or action	Time to catch up

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Continuing to shout out or disturb others.	Conversation with an adult Put things right What might happen? How could we put it right?
Inappropriate words or actions.	Calming time Support
Low level physical contact.	Individual work space
Lack of respect for our school.	Time to catch up Lose dojos
Incorrect school uniform.	Miss some of playtime Parents and carers told

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Not doing your work.	How could we put it right? Say sorry
Stopping others learning.	What might happen? Time to calm down
Not following class or group instructions.	My own space to work
Poor choice or action	Time to catch up

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Constantly disturbing others learning.	Restorative conversation with an adult Put things right What might happen? How could we put it right?
Sweating, intentionally hurting with words or answering back.	Calming time Support
Physical contact and someone is hurt (but you didn't mean to hurt them).	Individual work space
Not following an adult's instruction.	Time to catch up Lose dojos
	No football for at least a day
	Miss all of playtime Parents and carers told

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Stopping others learning all the time.	How could we put it right? Say sorry
Sweating or shouting	What might happen? Lose dojos
Hurling someone (but you didn't mean to).	Time to calm down
Not following an adult's instructions.	Time to catch up
Damaging school property.	Miss all of playtime Parents and carers told
	My own space to work

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Repeated behaviours One-off, very serious behaviour.	Restorative conversation with a member of SLT Put things right What might happen? How could we put it right?
Deliberate physical contact.	Any 'orange' consequences that will help.
Putting yourself in danger, damaging property or stealing.	Miss all of lunchtime Discussion with parents and carers (if not here)
Refusal	Behaviour card
Bullying	Internal exclusion, suspension or exclusion
Racism	Time out of class

Behaviour	Consequence
What has happened? Very serious behaviour	How could we put it right? Say sorry
Deliberately hurting someone	What might happen? An 'orange' consequence
Putting someone in danger	Miss all of lunch break
Bullying	Behaviour card
Racism	Suspension or exclusion Parents and carers told





@MarysPTFA

The Federation of  
St Mary's PTFA

## 6 REASONS TO JOIN THE PTFA

### FOR THE CHILDREN

BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO  
SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU  
VALUE THEIR EDUCATION.

THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL  
IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S  
SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.



### FOR YOU

VOLUNTEERING IS A  
REWARDING EXPERIENCE

WE PLAN TO HOST MANY  
SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE  
MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY  
EACH OTHERS COMPANY.



### FOR THE SCHOOL

HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE  
FUNDS.

HAVE A VOICE IN THE  
PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE  
TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.



### BE CONNECTED

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF  
KNOWING WHAT'S  
HAPPENING IN SCHOOL.

MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE  
THE SAME COMMON GOALS  
TO HELP IMPROVE THE  
SCHOOL.



### IT IS FUN!

WE AIM TO ENJOY  
OURSELVES IN ALL OUR  
ROLES.

FROM PLANNING EVENTS  
TO RUNNING A STALL IS  
EXCITING!



### KEEP THE PTFA GOING!

AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL  
WE NEED TO KEEP THE  
COMMITTEE GOING.

COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY  
TEAM AS MANY HANDS  
MAKE LIGHT WORK!



*"I work full time and  
help when I am able"*

*"I really enjoy seeing my  
grown up help out at events"*

*"I didn't realise how rewarding  
it would be"*

*"I've made life long friends"*



**Thank you for your cake  
donations and your  
presence at our coffee  
afternoon today.**



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

### SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.



### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.



### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.01.2022