



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me

St Mary's Summer Social !

Join St Mary's PTFA on
Sunday 3rd July 2022 from 12 noon - 3pm
for

St Mary's Summer Social!

St Mary's Junior School, Barn Way

To celebrate our first summer event since 2019, we're doing something a little different to the traditional summer fair, especially for our St Mary's families. This year will be our first **summer social – a party in the park** (well, sports field).

Why not bring a picnic rug or deck chairs, sit back & relax while the kids have the run of the field & have fun.

There'll be a **free inflatable & outdoor games** provided by **KAB** & **free entertainment & magic show** from **Adamcadabara**, courtesy of your PTFA. We're asking those who can, to **donate £5 per family** towards the cost of the day. There'll be donation buckets at the gate.

You can **bring your own picnic** or buy food from **Di's Deli-licious Dining** or perhaps something chilled from **Riley's Ices**. **Face Painting by Kim** will be with us too. All have kindly offered to donate a % of their takings to the PTFA – thank you!

The PTFA will be selling **cakes, snacks, drinks** & running a **bar** should you fancy a wine, gin cider or beer. We'll have our **summer raffle** & of course our famous **bottle tombola**. We're very lucky to have the **school choir** performing & for the first time some of the junior school children will be running their own '**enterprise**' stalls & **games** including Slime & the Stocks – please support them if you can.

A huge thank you to the parents and teachers who have volunteered to help so far. If you'd like to join in - to set up beforehand, take down or help on a stall we'd love to hear from you.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Please note: All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Most stalls will be cash only however we will be also accepting card payments at the PTFA bar & refreshment stall

No dogs are permitted on the school grounds



Dates for your Diary 2022—Infants

Sunday 3rd July — Summer Social at the Junior Site 12pm-3pm

Wednesday 6th July - Transition Day Y2 to the Junior School—Y2 children to go straight to the Juniors

children to enter school through new class doors at 8.40am.

New Reception children (non-nursery) 9.30—11.30am

Tues 12th July - AM Year 1 prize-giving at 9.15am parents welcome.

Wednesday 13th July - Nursery prize-giving and Graduation assembly at 9.15am parents welcome.

Thurs 14th July - Reception prize-giving celebration at 9.15am parents welcome.

Friday 15th July—Party Day at the Infants (Party Clothes)

Tuesday 19th July - - Year 2 leavers assembly & prize-giving at 1.30pm parents welcome.

Y6 leavers' events

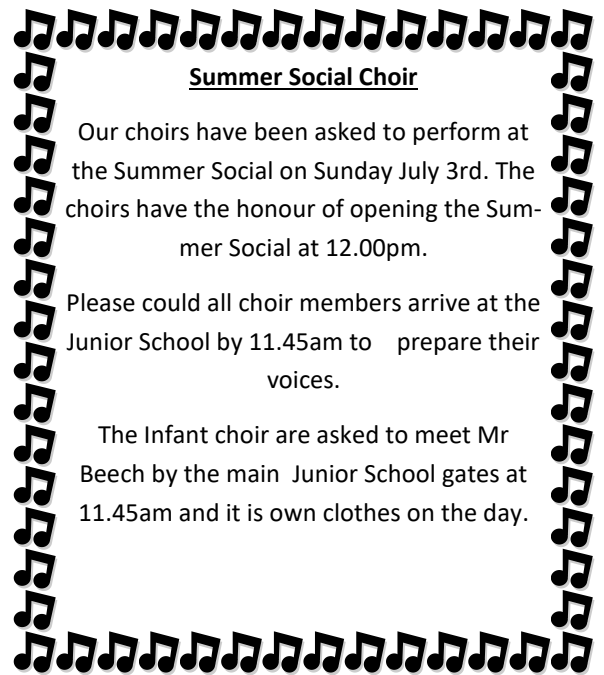
Friday 15 th July	10.00am	Whole School Leavers' Mass in St Mary and John Church.	Families welcome.
Monday 18 th July	2.30pm	Y6 performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'	Tickets available soon – 2 per child initially.
Monday 18 th July	6.30pm	Y6 performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'	Tickets available soon. 2 per child initially.
Tuesday 19 th July	6.00pm – 7.30pm	Leavers' party. Children are to be dropped off and collected by an adult.	
Wednesday 20 th July	9.30am	Leavers' assembly in the school hall.	Families welcome. 2 adults per child initially.

HOPE ACADEMY TRANSITION WEEK 4th-8th JULY 2022

Letters regarding transition week at Hope Academy have been posted to home addresses last week. If you have not received this letter please email lesley.white@hopeacademy.org.uk. Information can also be found on the academy website.



Many congratulations to Miss Hesketh who had a beautiful baby girl on Wednesday 29th June.
Mum and baby are both doing well.



Summer Social Choir

Our choirs have been asked to perform at the Summer Social on Sunday July 3rd. The choirs have the honour of opening the Summer Social at 12.00pm.

Please could all choir members arrive at the Junior School by 11.45am to prepare their voices.

The Infant choir are asked to meet Mr Beech by the main Junior School gates at 11.45am and it is own clothes on the day.

St Mary's Summer Social
St Mary's Junior School Field
Sunday 3rd July 2022: 12 noon – 3pm
What's On!

Bring your deckchairs or your picnic rugs, sit back & enjoy your afternoon!

St Mary's Junior School Choir <i>Fresh from Young Voices, the choir will open with the Summer Social with a medley of songs!</i>	12 noon
Adamcadabra – Kaleidoscope Parties <i>Crazy Magic Disco – FREE*</i>	12.30 – 2.30
KABS <i>Inflatable & Outdoor Games – FREE*</i>	12 noon – 3.00
Summer Raffle <i>£1 per ticket The Draw will take place just after 2.30pm</i>	12 noon – 2.30
Bottle Tombola <i>£1 a go</i>	12 noon until the bottles run out – be quick!
Student Enterprise Stalls including:	
Slime Station <i>Make your own slime! £3</i>	12 noon – 3.00
The Stocks <i>£1 for 3 goes!</i>	12 noon – 3.00 (or until the teacher can take no more)
Various games including Splat the Rat! <i>50p</i>	12 noon – 3.00
The PTFA Bar <i>Purveyors of alcoholic & non alcoholic drinks plus snacks & cakes courtesy of the wonderful ladies of St Pats & the amazing St Mary's Kitchen staff</i>	12 noon – 3.00
Face Painting <i>by Kim</i>	From 12.30
Riley's Ices	12 noon – 3.00
D's Deli-licious Dining <i>Hot & Cold Food</i>	12 noon – 3.00

This is a free event however we're asking those who can, to donate a small amount towards the costs of the day.
A suggested donation of £5 per family*
Yellow donation buckets will be at the entrance – please bring the correct change. All stalls are cash only, with the exception of The PTFA Bar & some of the external traders.

A massive thank you to all the children, teachers, parents/guardians, friends & traders who have helped to make the day possible!

St Mary's PTFA Summer Raffle

Spa day for 2
Indoor Skydiving for 2
Afternoon Tea for 2
Family Day Out Voucher
Junior Sports Car Driving
£1 per ticket
Drawn on 3rd July 22 at the St Mary's Summer Social

Gadget Shop—Infant School

For the next 2 consecutive **Fridays 8th & 15th July**, we will be holding a 'Gadget Shop' for the children in order to raise money for Science resources.

A payment of **£2** will appear on Schoolmoney and you will have until Thursday 4pm each of the 2 weeks to make payment.

Prices range from **50p-£2**

As ever thank you for your continued support.



Uniform Suppliers

Uniform for St Mary's Infants and Juniors is available online at Touchline and also available to buy from Whittakers and JayMax shops in St Helens and also from Custom It.



touchline
school wear • sports wear • work wear



Y3 meeting with Fr Benedict & Mrs Bryant

Father Benedict and Mrs Bryant, our parish catechist, would like to invite all parents and carers of Y3 children to a meeting on **Tuesday 5th July** at 3.30pm at the Junior School to discuss the Sacramental programme 'With You Always'. This meeting would also apply to any children in Y4, 5 and 6 who has not yet made their First Holy Communion and would like to do so.



for all your bottle donations today.

New Year 3 families

It was fabulous to welcome our new Y3 parents and children to the Junior School on Wednesday evening. If there are any questions that you have following this, please get in touch with the Junior School office.

A huge thank you to the Y6 children who volunteered to show our new families around. They were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Y6 had a 'Money Minds' session on Thursday, led by 2 visitors from Yorkshire Building Society. The children completed activities based on holidays—from the basics of budgeting to planning a family holiday and pitching ideas to classmates.

All Y6 really enjoyed the session. Hollie said, "It was amazing and very helpful!"

Update on COVID-19 for schools

Thank you for your continued effort to keep our schools safe.

Recently, we have been seeing an increase in COVID-19 infections in England and this is similar to St Helens.

This pattern appears to be linked to the new Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5 which are able to spread more easily. However, they are not known to be resulting in more hospitalisation or death and are being closely monitored.

We are aware that our schools have also been experiencing an increase in COVID-19 infections and would like to reassure you that this is not an isolated occurrence.

As we learn to live with COVID-19, mass testing is no longer recommended.

- A small number of people in settings with clinically vulnerable people may be offered tests to minimise the risk of transmission in line with the UKHSA guidance.
- For useful tips on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19, please visit the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Advice for children and young people is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19#Children>

Managing children with symptoms

- Children who are unwell, have loss of taste or smell, or have a high temperature or diarrhoea or vomiting should be kept away from school, stay at home, and avoid contact with other people until 48 hours after these symptoms have stopped.

Children can return to school, college, or childcare when they no longer have a temperature, and two days after diarrhoea or vomiting and are well enough to attend.

Managing children and young people aged 18 years and under who have a positive test result

It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.

If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should

- try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can.
- After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.
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Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults. If they're well and do not have a temperature after 3 days, there's a much lower risk that they'll pass on COVID-19 to others.

Please continue to encourage children to wash their hands regularly with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing and disposing of tissue.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unnerve young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

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.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

STARS OF THE WEEK AND BEE AWARDS

	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Tom	Jessica
RM	Oliver	Brodie
RB	Luca	Adam
Y1B	Amelie	Orla
Y1G	James	Daisy
Y2M	Lyra	Lexi
Y2T	Filip	Amelie

	Star of the week	Bee Award
Y3R	Charlie	Oliver
Y3L	Zane	Alfie
Y4F	Jack B	All
Y4M	Oliver L	Lucy
Y5R	Hollie	Rowan
Y5HM	Charlie	Scarlett
Y6W	Olivia	James
Y6D	Erin	Henry

Respect & Manners Award

Infants: Thea

Juniors: Riley W

