



# So Long, Farewell and Thank you

Congratulations to Mrs Mary Dorsett. After 22 years of loyal service to the Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools, she has decided to retire. Mary has dedicated part of her life to being ever-present at the infants and her contribution and positive impact has been immense. On behalf of the all staff, children, parents and governors, both past and present, we say a huge thank you and wish Mary all the very best.

## Reading Evening

Thank you to all our parents/carers who attended the reading evening this week. Mrs Ormshaw delivered a very impressive presentation on this vital part of the curriculum and it was great to see so many parents.

As we all know, reading is critical to all children's academic development in terms of their progress and attainment and accessing the whole curriculum. In school we begin with our Read-WriteInc Phonics scheme and try to ensure the children develop a love of reading as they progress through the school. However, as I always say, the most influential people in our children's lives are you the parents/carers. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that all the children are encouraged to read each and every day at home, supported by parents/carers. We suggest that every child reads for at least 15-20 minutes each day so that they develop a love of books and reading, enabling them to access the whole curriculum and improve their chances of success. With your help and working together we can achieve great things.

## Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)

Thank you to Miss McCormack for organising this important information evening at the juniors on Thursday. RSHE is an essential aspect of our curriculum and covers many topics to do with developing good relationships and learning, at an appropriate age, about different kinds of families, sex and many other topics relevant to children's lives. All the information is on the school's website and well worth a look and has been approved by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales.

## Harvest Mass

What a wonderful celebration we had today at Church. The children were magnificently well behaved, sang and read beautifully. And enormous gratitude to all our families who contributed so much food as part of our Harvest. At these difficult times for so many families, the contributions to the Hope Centre Food Bank will help many people who are struggling currently. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

And finally, it is appropriate that we say, so long, farewell and thank you to Mrs Mary Dorsett and wish her all the very best in what is hoped a long and happy retirement. Thank you.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 11th October** Tempest individual/family photographs from 8:00am at **Juniors**

**Wednesday 12th October** Parents evening at the Infants and Juniors in the school halls

**Thursday 13th October** Parents evening at the Infants and Juniors in the school halls

**Thursday 20th October** School closes for Half Term

**Monday 7th November** Open evening from 4pm-6pm in Nursery & Reception



St John The Baptist Church

07519357098

### **OPENING TIMES**

Mon Closed

Tue Closed

Wed 11:30 - 13:30

Thu Closed

Fri Closed

Sat Closed

Sun Closed

Newton Community Centre

01925 224731

### **OPENING TIMES OPENING TIMES**

Mon Closed

Tue Closed

Wed Closed

Thu Closed

Fri 11:00 - 14:30

Sat Closed

## Goodbye Mrs Dorsett



Today after 22 years we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Dorsett as she sets off on her well deserved retirement.

Mrs Dorsett started her journey at St Marys as a Midday Supervisor, progressed onto a valued Teaching Assistant and then into the Infant School Office where she has been an amazing asset, colleague and friend to all.

We will miss her greatly and we wish her all the luck in her retirement.

## Comments from the children

“Mrs Dorsett is a lovely person, she taught us all about the school in the past.”

“Thank you for running our office.”

“Thank you for making me have a smile on my face everyday.”

“I love Mrs Dorsett , she’s my favourite because she’s been here for many years.”

“Thank you for being a role model by being helpful and kind to everyone “

“I will miss Mrs Dorsett, she always makes me smile when she takes me to class.”



Our website events page has been updated to include times and dates of events up to Christmas. If there are any changes to times and dates, we will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible. Click below for the link to our website.

[www.federationofstmarys.co.uk/events](http://www.federationofstmarys.co.uk/events)

Mass will be held in the Junior School hall on Thursday for Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3&4).

Parents, carers and grandparents are welcome to celebrate Mass with us at 9.30.



Parents' Evenings are in both the Junior and Infant halls this coming week. Your child/children's books will be available for you to look at in the hall before or after your appointment. We will be keeping to a maximum of 10 minutes for all appointments. If you require longer with your child's class teacher, we will ask you to make an additional appointment to keep our times to schedule.



### RSHE information evening

Thanks to the parent who attended our RSHE information evening last night in the Junior hall.

If you were unable to make the evening but would like to see the information, please ask the school offices who will be happy to share this with you.

### After School Clubs

Information regarding next half term's clubs will be sent out next week. Please look out for the letter in your child's book bag.



Tempest will be at the Junior school on Tuesday 11th October.

Any sibling photos (either infant or junior or both) can be taken from **8.00** on the Tuesday morning in the **junior hall**. Parents/carers will have to stay with any infant children to take them across to the infant school once they have finished.



Our assemblies and prayer and liturgy sessions this week have focused on the harvest, lead by

our CAFOD club today.

Thank you for all your donations for local food banks. We will continue to collect donations until half term.



## Y4 Football tournament



Y4 represented St Mary's at their first tournament of the year this week. They were placed in 5th place and as always, their high standards of behaviour shone through. Great team spirit!  
Well done Team St Mary's!

Some Y6 children completed their Play Leader training this week from St Helens School Games.

They will begin their roles next week, supporting children to play a variety of games at lunchtime.



## Pupil Leadership Opportunities

Children and staff have been voting for a wide range of pupil leadership roles:

School Council

Safeguarding Team

Worship Warriors

Eco-council

Junior Technicians

Librarians

PE and Sport Ambassadors

House Captains

These children all play a vital part in making our school run smoothly and efficiently as well as promoting our core values of compassion, respect and resilience.



All children in the Junior school have learned a little more about dyslexia this week. We shared information about what it is like to be dyslexic too. Richard Branson, describes it as "merely a different way of thinking." Some children shared their own experiences and were fabulous at explaining what life is really like for them.





# 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  
and  
St Helens Wellbeing Team.

**Free  
Healthy  
Snack**

**Join us  
9:45am -  
11:30am**



For more information call 01744 737400

**ST HELENS WELLBEING**  
**chcp**



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# BEREAL

BeReal is the latest trending social media app. The concept is that people see others in their authentic day-to-day lives, sharing candid photos without editing or applying filters. Each day at a random time, users are simultaneously notified to take a picture of what they're doing at that exact moment. The two-minute window to submit an image means there's no time to select a particularly glamorous or exciting activity. BeReal shares two pictures: a selfie, and an image of the immediate surroundings. Users can only view and react to their friends' photos once they upload their own.

AGE-RATING

13+

from the App Store & Google Play

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### CONTINUOUS NOTIFICATIONS

Like any social media app, BeReal's developers want users to be on it regularly and scrolling for long periods. BeReal only sends one notification to post a picture each day, but there are other alerts for events such as mentions, comments, friend requests and reactions to your photo. This can cause young users to feel pressure to open the app and respond, distracting them from other activities.

#### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

When someone signs up to BeReal, it highlights anyone in their phone's contacts list who already has the app - so users can connect with friends, or invite others from their contacts. The 'Discovery' feed, meanwhile, shows posts from strangers and gives users the option to add them as friends, too. This means your child could potentially connect with - and communicate with - a stranger.

#### PUBLIC SHARING

As well as sharing posts with friends in the moment, the app also allows posts to be shared publicly and public content to be viewed. Before a user can see this public content, they must post their own photo first. Unfortunately, there currently seems to be a lack of moderation on the content that's being uploaded, so a young user could be exposed to posts which aren't suitable for their age.

#### EASY LOCATION

BeReal's default setting is to share the exact location of where a post was sent from. Given that images are usually shared within the two-minute window, anyone your child is friends with on the app will know exactly where they are (or at least, where they were two minutes earlier). As we've noted, this could include strangers who are intending to use this geographical information for malicious purposes.

#### VISIBLE PERSONAL DATA

As with any other form of social media, it's important that your child doesn't share too much personal information on their profile. BeReal allows for a photo, full name, approximate location and a short bio. It's safest to make sure that your child's profile doesn't display anything which could identify where they go to school or exactly where they live.

#### REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE

What your child says and does online - their digital footprint - shapes the way that other people see them. It's essential that young people understand that when they post something online, they are giving the app in question the right to do whatever they wish with that image or content, including sharing it elsewhere. This form of permission is explicitly referenced in BeReal's terms of use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### LIMIT NOTIFICATIONS

BeReal offers the option to turn off individual types of notification. Doing this will significantly reduce the number of times your child is tempted to open the app by incoming comments, uploads, friend requests and so on. Ironically, it will allow them to actually 'be real' by being present in the moment and their current environment as opposed to being engrossed on social media.

#### STOP AND THINK

BeReal's goal is for users to be authentic with friends, removing the pressure of that flawless photo or perfectly worded post. It's still vital, though, that children stop and think rather than uploading something risky just to meet the two-minute deadline. Point out to them what kind of information strangers could extract from an image: school crests, street names or local landmarks, for example.

#### KEEP IT AMONG FRIENDS

Remind your child why adding strangers to their contacts isn't a good idea, and advise them to decline any friend requests from people they don't know in real life. If something your child sees on BeReal makes them feel uncomfortable, they can report it by clicking on the three dots in the top right. The reporting tool allows them to state the reason that they're flagging up the post.

#### CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Remind your child to use an avatar as their profile pic (as opposed to a photo of themselves) and use a nickname or just their first name, not their full name. Any information they add to their bio (which is optional) should be kept vague, and personal details should remain private. It's also worth turning off the geolocation feature either through the device's settings or in BeReal itself.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.be-real.com/privacy> | <https://be-real.com/terms>

<https://be-real.com/privacy> | <https://be-real.com/terms> | <https://www.commissionerofinformation.org/press-reviews/be-real>



# STARS OF THE WEEK AND BEE AWARDS

	Star of the Week	Kindness Award
Nursery	Jenson	Shria
RM	Esmail	Leon
RB	Odin	Feliity
Y1O	Xander	Elsie
Y1G	Charlie	Alfie
Y2M	Isabelle	Ella
Y2T	Eddie	Daisy

	Star of the week	Bee Award
Y3RI	Oakley	Orla
Y3RO	Teddy	Corey
Y4W	Alice	Emily
Y4M	Queen	Hallie
Y5R	Libby	Harrison
Y5HQ	Sadie	Leo
Y6W	Archie	Amelie
Y6D	Rosie	Leighton

## Respect & Manners Award

**Juniors:**

**Infants:** Parker



Could we please ask all parents to be respectful of our lovely residents and be cautious of how and where you are parking at drop off and pick up.

## Infant school request

**We are running low on underwear and spare trousers. If your child has outgrown theirs we would be grateful for all donations.**

**Thank you.**