



Autumn Newsletter 1

2024 -
2025

Welcome back to St Mary's Fields Academy

It was fantastic to welcome the pupils in Y1 - Y6 back to school last week. The children have settled in well and are all busy working hard and are already demonstrating great motivation to learn.

This week we have begun to induct our new Nursery and Reception pupils into the academy, it is great to see so many new faces.

We hope that all of our new families have felt welcome and soon feel part of our friendly academy community.

The academy's values are to be safe, motivated and friendly and we are extremely proud of the way in which our community uphold and promote these values.

We look forward to seeing our academy grow this academic year and the impact of lots of school improvement projects become evident to both the pupils and their families. We have lots to look forward to and we are very excited to begin the year as part of the L.E.A.D. Trust.

A huge thank you!

We would like to express our many thanks for all the wonderful gifts that staff have received at the end of the academic year and last week to welcome staff back to school and for all of the good luck messages and messages of support. We are truly thankful for having such amazing supportive parents and we really do appreciate you all. Thank you.



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A L.E.A.D. Academy



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Staffing & class updates

We wish to welcome to St Mary's Fields Academy Mr. Clark, our new Deputy Head - Look out for him on gate duty and please feel free to introduce yourselves.

This year we also welcome 5 new teachers (Mrs. Naylor in Y4, who worked in Y4 last year as a supply teacher, Mrs. Sankada in Y5, Miss. Lee in Rowan/Reception, Mrs. Reilly & Miss Pope in Y1)

Congratulations to Miss Brown who was married in the summer and will now be known as Mrs. Morris

From this year, classes will now all be named after trees.

Chestnut - Nursery (Mrs. Holden & Mrs. Hurst)

Hawthorn & Rowan - Reception (Mrs. Morris 'was Miss. Brown' & Miss. Lee)

Oak & Willow - Year 1 (Ms. Reilly & Miss Pope)

Cherry Blossom & Sycamore - Year 2 (Mrs. Alba & Miss. Mee)

Beech & Cedar - Year 3 (Mrs. Furze/Miss. Forster & Ms. Drew)

Pine & Maple - Year 4 (Mr. King & Mrs. Naylor)

Holly & Ash - Year 5 (Miss. Sharma & Mrs. Sankada)

Elm & Birch - Year 6 (Mr. Wilson & Mrs. Clark/Mr. Clark)

All children across the school will assigned to and belong to a 'House'

The 'Houses' are now known as Bradgate, Abbey, Victoria & Watermead (after local parks)

When children receive rewards (House-points) these will be assigned to the House they belong to - the house points will counted up each week and the winning house will be awarded the House trophy in assembly on a Friday. There will be rewards for the house with the most House-points each half term.

The children will have the opportunity to win 'non-uniform days, film afternoons or House Breakfasts. Houses will also be assigned two House-Captains (from Y6) and they will also be part of the School Council.

These will be joined by school council representatives from each year group, voted for by their class.



Dates for your diaries

We would like to invite you all to attend a parent meeting

The meetings are a way of offering you the opportunity to learn more about the curriculum your child will be learning and find out what trips and experiences they will have the opportunity to take part in.

Staff will share with you their timetables, so you can get a sense of what your child's school day looks like.

Teachers will discuss their expectation of you and it will give you the opportunity to ask questions too.

These meetings have always been well attended and those parents that do attend always share with us great feedback and say that the meetings are informative and a great way to learn more about your child's education and the school.

This year the meetings will be followed by the opportunity to access the Book Sale & Uniform Sale. We will also be on hand to help parents apply for Free School Meals & the associated additional funding that the school receives for each eligible free school meal pupils - which allows us to offer a 50% reduction in trips

We look forward to seeing you at the parent meetings. Please don't forget to bring some money along for the book sale & uniform sale - there are some great bargains to be had. For those parents that are unable to attend please see your child's class teacher if you wish to discuss any information you will have missed.

Y1 & Y2 = Tuesday 17th September - Straight after school - the class teacher's will invite you all into the classroom at the end of the school day. The book sale & uniform sale will then go ahead in the Hall.

Y3 & Y4 = Wednesday 18th September - 3:25pm in the Hall - Enter the Hall, via Reception at the end of the day. The book sale & uniform sale will then go ahead in the Hall after the meeting.

Y5 & Y6 = Thursday 19th September - 3:25pm in the Hall - Enter the Hall, via Reception at the end of the day. The book sale & uniform sale will then go ahead in the Hall after the meeting.

Nursery & Reception Classes = Wednesday 2nd October - Straight after school - the class teacher's will invite you into the classroom before taking you to the Hall and accessing the sale.

COMING SOON

Thursday 12th September 2024 - 3:30pm - Year 4 Residential Meeting for Parents

Wednesday 18th September 2024 - Y6 WW2 Trip to Beaumanor Hall

Friday 20th September 2024 - Harvest Festival Collection of Food items

Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th & Friday 27th September 2024 - Y4 Residential

Monday 7th October 2024 - Y6 Trip to the Houses of Parliament / London.

Tuesday 15th October 2024 - Y2 Trip to the Botanic Gardens

Tuesday 15th October & Wednesday 16th October 2024 - Parents Evening

Friday 18th October 2024 - Last day of the half term

Half Term Holiday - From Monday 21st until Monday 28th October 2024

School reopens on Tuesday 29th October 2024

Tuesday 29th October 2024 - Immunisation programme at school

Thursday 31st October 2024 - Individual / Siblings- School Photos to be taken

Friday 29th November 2024 - Space Centre Overnight Sleepover

Thursday 19th December 2024 - Last day of the term

Friday 20th December 2024 - School Closed for the Christmas holiday.

School reopens on Tuesday 7th January 2024

(Halloween Disco, Diwali Assembly, Christmas Performances, Christmas Fair and trips to be confirmed asap)



We open at 8:40am. Your child needs to be in class by 8:50am, if they arrive after this time then they will be marked as late. Please arrive on time.

General messages about the importance of attendance

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance [Is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk) - NHS (www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

We also know that pupils fall behind their friends and classmates when they miss school.

At St Mary's Fields Academy we want the amount of missed education to be reduced as much as possible.

We believe that our community is stronger together, with all of our pupils in school, on time, every day.

We are building life skills, life-long friendships and preparing your child for future success.

We also know that you can have a significant effect on absences this academic year and we would really appreciate your help and support ensuring that your child comes to school every day so that they can get the best possible outcomes. We want to work with you to achieve this and we appreciate that every family's situation is unique.

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance, of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.



Unauthorised Absences & Term Time Holidays

Working in education we understand the frustration of holidays increasing in price during school holiday times. However, the impact of taking holidays during term time can have a significant impact on a child's achievement and academic progress. It also undermines the school's rich curriculum as key knowledge is missed on their learning journey. Last year the school had issued several penalty notices, which are fines issued by our local authority for term time holidays.

Please take this into account before booking holidays during term time next academic year. There are 175 non-school days during the year in which to take holidays. As detailed below the penalty notices are now more severe and monitoring is over a 3-year basis.

Unauthorised Absences

As part of the new national threshold schools must consider all unauthorised absences for a penalty notice. The new threshold is 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. A school day is divided in to two registration sessions, AM and PM. If these registrations are missed for unauthorised reasons, it may lead to penalty.

Unauthorised absence can be:

- An unauthorised holiday, as explained above
- Reason has not been established as to why the *child/young person is absent,
- The school is not satisfied that the reason given is one that can be recorded as authorised.
- Being late after registers have closed (Please ensure children are in school by 8:50am)

Fines

Whilst there are many changes, one of the most significant changes are around the penalty notices issued for unauthorised attendance. These fines are per parent, per child and have been increased.

First Offence – The first time a Penalty Notice is issued the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days

Second Offence (within 3 rolling years) – The second time a Penalty Notice is issued the amount will be:

£160 per parent per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 rolling years) – The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates Court.

Thank you for your continued support with attendance.