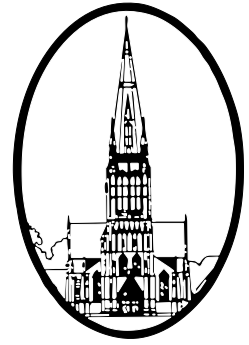


**St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School**  
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**Headteacher: Jane O'Brien**

*'Through God's love, we strive to be  
the best we can be.'*

Thursday 5th September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had an enjoyable summer holiday. We are very excited to get to know the children coming up from the nursery as well as new children starting at St. Mary's this year.

At St. Mary's the children's learning will be linked to a different topic every half term. Your child's topic this half term is:

### **All about me**

During this topic, the children will have the chance to find out all about themselves and their new friends. They will learn about their bodies, make self-portraits, discuss their likes and dislikes; they will be able to describe themselves in positive terms and will also learn about each other's interests and families.

Here are some of the areas that will be covered this half term:

<b>Literacy</b>	Hearing, saying and writing the initial sounds in words. Name writing and beginning to write other familiar words.
<b>Maths</b>	Counting, recognising & ordering numbers to 20, identifying the names and properties of 2D shapes, understanding and using positional language.
<b>RE</b>	Creation - Who made the wonderful World?

### **Music**

The children will have music every Wednesday with an experienced music teacher, Rachel Gavin. Music ignites all areas of child development: intellectual, social and emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. It helps the body and the mind work together.

### Reading

Every child will be given a red bag when they first start at St. Mary's. Books will be changed **every Friday** so please ensure your child comes to school with their '**red bags**' with the previous book and reading log inside. We expect that you share a book with your child for 10 – 20 minutes each day and to fill out the orange reading log. For the first term the children will choose a book from the classroom to take home and share with an adult.

We are opening our classroom up each Friday morning for you to come in and read a story to your child and their friends (small groups). The '**reading morning**' will take place between 8:50 – 9:10 and we would really love it if any family members could come and support us promote a love of reading during this time.

### Phonics

During the whole Reception year there will be a big focus on phonics. At our parents evening in a few weeks I will offer more information about phonics and how best to support your child at home.

### School Shoes

All children in nursery and reception **must wear black school shoes** (not black trainers) when coming to school.

### Change of clothes

Please can you bring into school a change of clothes and underwear for your child that will be kept on their peg in the case of any spills or accidents in school. These will be returned at the end of the school year.

### Junk modelling

In Reception we are constantly using our imaginations to construct and build. We use various materials to do this, including empty food boxes, empty drink containers and caps, loo rolls, etc. Please feel free to bring in these types of items any time for us to use.

We look forward to working with you all during what I'm sure will be a successful school year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us after school or arrange a meeting when convenient.

Yours sincerely,

Miss McKay and the Reception Team.