



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 12th September

2025



Telephone: 01795 532496

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Website: www.smcschool.co.uk

Attendance



EYFS Hamilton	Year 1 Donaldson	Year 2 Anning	Year 3 Malala	Year 4 Hockney	Year 5 Rosen	Year 6 Attenborough
97.4%	97.6%	96.7%	100%	99.2%	95.8%	97.2%
Whole School – 97.8%		Year to date – 97.8%			Target – 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTFA Macmillan coffee morning, we are delighted to announce that they have already raised £100. If you were unable to attend but would like to donate then please do follow the QR code. A huge thank you to friends and parents who baked cakes as well as Cafe Guild, Ours Faversham and Nisa Local - Faversham for their involvement.

It has been wonderful to see so many parents attending our Meet the Teacher curriculum information sessions after school this week, these are vital to learn the expectations of your child's class for the year and the children love the opportunity to show you their classrooms.

I am delighted to share with you the outcome of our most recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on the 8th and 9th July 2025. The report, now published, is a true reflection of the hard work, commitment, and community spirit that define our school.

The grading system has changed since our last inspection in 2018 and Ofsted no longer publish an overall grade for schools. We are proud to inform you that the school has been judged Good or Outstanding in each judged section. The inspectors highlighted a number of key strengths, and we'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate these successes with you.

Among the many positive findings, the report notes that:

- ***“This is a highly inclusive school, where pupils are valued for their individual qualities”***
- ***“The school has developed an engaging and ambitious curriculum, beginning in the early years”***
- ***“Pupils behave very well. Staff provide compassionate support for pupils, who may struggle with their behaviour. Pupils are taught to identify and manage their emotions effectively. This helps them to develop strong behaviour for learning, and they focus well during lessons. Classrooms are calm and purposeful. Pupils listen attentively and try their best”***

We are particularly proud that the inspectors recognised the work that goes into our Early Years Provision ***“Children get off to a flying start in the early years. They engage with their learning eagerly. Children explore the early years curriculum through a range of meaningfully crafted activities”***.

These achievements are not possible without the strong partnership we have with you, our parents and carers. Your unwavering support, involvement in school life, and shared high expectations for your children's education play a huge role in our continued success. Whether it's through attending school events, supporting learning at home, or working with us through challenges, your contribution is invaluable.

As always, we remain committed to building on our successes and striving for excellence in all that we do.

A full copy of the Ofsted report is available on our school website [Full Ofsted report](#), and printed copies are available from the school office on request.

Thank you, once again, for being such a vital part of our school community. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to the continued journey ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise Rowley-Jones
Headteacher



We run our own **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club**; spaces for these need to be pre-booked at least 24 hrs in advance using the MCAS App. Please contact the school office if you need support booking a place for your child.

Breakfast Club: 7:30am-8:35am

After School Club: 3:15pm- 6pm (with a 4pm, 5pm & 6pm collection option)

Please note: If you wish to collect after 5pm, we require 7 days' notice. Contact the office via email or phone to book a 6pm slot.



We have a large amount of school uniform in the lost/unclaimed uniform box in the reception area. Please do check if you are missing any items. Anything not claimed will be passed onto the community wardrobe.

Please ensure that you name all of your child's school uniform, including lunchboxes and water bottles to prevent items getting lost.



This week in Worship

This week in Worship we have been looking at the theme of People of Faith and what it means to trust someone. We have explored the bible story of Joshua crossing the river Jordan and how trusted in God. We reflected on who we trust and why.

Feed my lambs....take care of my sheep.” John: 21

We are a community where everyone is included. A place of nurture where through creative learning, acceptance and celebration we are all able to flourish. Our inclusive school encourages children to be curious, passionate, ambitious and courageous. Everyone at St Mary of Charity is determined to be confident in who they are, aspire to realise their full potential and support each other through respect, honesty and forgiveness. Guided by Jesus we are accepting of the wonderful diversity within our community and have hope that our children will continue to advocate for and celebrate the unique needs of all throughout our wider world.



COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION

**Hunter, Emily, Dolcie-Rose,
Piper-Mae, Destiny-Mae,
Matilda, Emilia, Samantha,
Molly, Carrick, Isla-Rose,
Thomas**





INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster about is **WHAT PARENTS AND EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TECHNOLOGY ATTACHMENT**. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Ling.

ATTENDANCE



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone or leave a message on our answer phone.

DROP OFF

Can we please remind parents that school gates shut at **8:45am**. If you arrive late, please drop off your child/ children at the school office.

For safeguarding reasons we do not allow parents/carers to drop off their children to their classes.



We would politely ask all parents/carers to park sensibly when dropping and while picking children off at school.



We have created additional parking bays over the summer holiday to help improve congestion in the carpark. Please do park sensibly and do not block the entrance of exit to the car park or other vehicles. We hope to get these more clearly defined asap

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TECHNOLOGY ATTACHMENT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital age, children are increasingly forming emotional and habitual attachments to their devices. With 96% regularly accessing the internet and nearly half engaging in live streaming or content sharing, their online presence is greater than ever. This guide explores the phenomenon of technology attachment in young people and offers expert advice on fostering healthier digital habits.

WIRED FOR REWARD

Children's brains are particularly sensitive to reward-based stimulation, and some digital platforms, especially those offering quick-hit content like short-form videos, are designed to exploit this. The instant gratification of likes, comments, and rapid scene changes triggers dopamine release, making these interactions highly addictive. Over time, this may contribute to changes in attention patterns and a reduced inclination towards activities that involve prolonged focus or delayed gratification, such as reading, problem-solving, or creative play.

NIGHT-TIME TECH HABITS

Screen use late into the evening can disrupt natural sleep patterns by suppressing melatonin, the hormone that regulates sleep. Children engaging with stimulating content may experience delayed bedtimes, lower sleep quality, and increased fatigue during the day. Additionally, fear of missing out (FOMO) on online interactions can cause anxiety and resistance to logging off, creating a cycle of late-night engagement and tired mornings.

SHAPED BY SCREENS

For many children, digital spaces have become a key arena for identity exploration and expression. Social media encourages them to curate their image carefully, with likes, comments, and shares serving as social validation. This endorsement can be self-esteem to online feedback, making children vulnerable to comparison, self-doubt, and pressure to present a perfect version of themselves, even when it doesn't reflect reality.

DIGITAL WORLD DANGERS

The internet can expose children to unfiltered content, some of which may be inappropriate, misleading, or harmful. Cyberbullying, exposure to idealised lifestyles, and online predators are all risks children face, often without fully understanding the consequences. Misinformation can shape distorted worldviews, while constant comparison to others can erode self-confidence. Without guidance, children may internalise these digital dangers, impacting their emotional and mental health.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY BUILDS

Devices often become digital comfort blankets. In moments of boredom, anxiety, or loneliness, children may instinctively reach for screens to self-soothe. This reliance on digital distraction limits their ability to develop healthy coping mechanisms, such as mindfulness, conversation or physical activity. As the habit builds, their dependency may displace real-world experiences and emotional resilience.

FRIENDSHIPS & FILTERS

Technology transforms how young people socialise, often replacing face-to-face interaction with text-based or image-based communication. While messaging apps and social media enable connection, they may also limit emotional expression and the development of essential interpersonal skills, such as tone recognition, empathy, and reading body language. As a result, some children may become less confident with exchanges in person and more reliant on digital personas to navigate friendships.

Advice for Parents & Educators

READ THE ROOM

Pay attention to behavioural changes that may signal unhealthy tech attachment. This includes mood swings, increased secrecy about online activity, withdrawal from family time or hobbies, and visible distress when separated from devices. These cues can indicate deeper emotional reliance or even exposure to distressing content. Early recognition allows for proactive support and meaningful conversation.

SHAPE DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Create a balanced digital environment with clear guidelines on when and how devices can be used. This includes screen-free zones (e.g. bedrooms, dining tables), app restrictions, and time limits. More importantly, involve children in these decisions and explain the reasoning behind them, even reflecting upon your own digital use so they can see it's something we all have to manage. Turning boundaries into a dialogue, not just directives, helps build trust and encourages self-regulation.

DON'T WAIT, REACH OUT EARLY

If a child's relationship with technology starts affecting their emotional wellbeing, school performance, or social connections, don't hesitate to seek help. Open up discussions with teachers, pastoral staff, or digital wellbeing professionals. Early intervention is key, and a supportive network can provide tools, resources, and reassurance for both children and adults navigating this evolving digital landscape.

SET THE STANDARD

Children often model the behaviour they see. When adults demonstrate healthy digital habits, such as prioritising face-to-face conversation, balancing screen time with other activities, and using devices with purpose, children are more likely to follow suit. Share your own positive uses of technology and invite children to do the same. This collaborative approach helps demystify tech use and encourages responsible engagement.

Meet Our Expert

Philippa Wrightwell is an award-winning educator, author of *The Digital Ecosystem*, and founder of Education and Digital Bridge. Digital Bridge supports the relationship between families and technology, empowering everyone to be balanced and digitally well. With over 15 years in digital education and wellbeing, she supports families, schools, and governments to build balanced and safe digital cultures.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

REMINDER

Coats and Waterproofs

Please ensure that your child comes to school with a waterproof coat each day, the English weather is so unpredictable and we often experience real weather changes during the course of the day. We encourage children to go outside and enjoy a run around as often as possible.



HEALTHY LUNCHES



We promote healthy eating at St Mary of Charity Primary School and would appreciate parents adhering to the healthy eating guidelines as below:

Sweets: Please do not pack sweets or chocolate bars.

Drinks: children under 5 receive free milk with their snacks and water is available for everyone whenever they want to drink. Please do not send in fizzy drinks with your child's packed lunch.

Nut Free: Please be aware that we are becoming a nut-free school. We now have children in school who have potential life-threatening nut- allergies which can be triggered by direct or indirect contact with nuts in the environment. To keep our children safe, we request that parents please find a nut-free alternative. This also includes NUTELLA or any CHOCOLATE spread.
Thank you for your co-operation.



SCHOOL DINNERS –

Dinner Money cost £3.05

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance.

WRAPAROUND CARE: Both Breakfast and Afterschool club bookings are placed under this tab and payments need to be made when you book your session for your child. *This is done to avoid any payments not made.*

Please be reminded to clear out any outstanding balances under individual accounts of your children.

Dates for your Diary



Date	Event
TERM 1- September 2025	
2/9/25	<i>Start of term</i>
08/9/25	Meet the Teacher Year 1 3.20pm
09/9/25	Meet the teacher Year 2 3.20pm
10/9/25	Meet the teacher Year 3 3.20pm
11/9/25	Kent Test for registered Year 6 Pupils Meet the teacher Year 4 3.20pm
12/9/25	PTFA Macmillan Coffee morning 8.45am Meet the Teacher Year 5 3.20pm
15/9/25	Meet the Teacher Year 6 3.20pm
18/09/25	Road Safety Workshop for Years 3 and 4
23/09/25	Dance Days workshop for all classes
24/09/25	Individual school photos
30/09/25	Year 5 School trip to Canterbury Cathedral
02/10/25	School Census Special Lunch day
06/10/25	Family Trust Worship
08/10/25	PTFA Glow Disco
09/10/25	Flu Immunisation
14/10/25	Parents Evening for years R, 2, 3 4, 5 and 6
15/10/25	Parents evening Year 1
16/10/25	Parents evening all classes Parents receive outcomes of the Kent Test
17/10/25	Last day of term – Harvest Festival 9.30am in the church, all welcome

