



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19th September

2025

Telephone: 01795 532496

Email: office@smcs.aquilatrust.co.uk

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
98.3%	96.6%	98.9%	98.9%	94%	93%	92.3%
Whole School – 97%		Year to date – 97%			Target – 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our school this week.

Our Years 3 and 4 pupils participated in an enlightening road safety workshop this week, where they diligently recapped pedestrian rules. It was a pleasure to hear from the workshop leads how well they could recall what they needed to do to keep safe and I was particularly delighted that they commented on the children's impeccable behaviour throughout the session. Well done Year 3 and 4.

Our extra-curricular activities have begun with a bang, it has been fantastic to see the remarkable club attendance this week as well as so many of our pupils enthusiastically engaging in Judo, Creepy Claws, Minecraft, and Football club. These opportunities provide invaluable experiences beyond the classroom and I am thankful that we are able to facilitate them.

This week we have also been celebrating the exceptional start many of our pupils have made with their home learning. In both our classrooms and celebration worship, we have recognised their tremendous efforts. Research consistently demonstrates that homework supports the development of factual knowledge, self-discipline, attitudes to learning, and problem-solving skills.

We deeply appreciate the support parents provide in their child's educational journey. In the coming weeks, we will be updating our guidance around homework expectations. These updated guidelines will be shared directly in your child's books, so please do keep an eye out for this important information.

I would like to draw your attention to a few important notices:

On Thursday, 2nd October, we kindly request that you encourage your children to have a school dinner. This is Census Day, and the number of meals taken directly impacts our school funding.

Our wonderful PTFA has organised a Glow Disco on Wednesday, 8th October. If your child wishes to attend, please place the correct money in a named envelope in the grey PTFA letterbox located in the office by 1st October. Please note that the office does not have cash on site to provide change, so precise payment is essential.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise Rowley-Jones
Headteacher



Bring Ear Defenders If Needed



No phones please

8TH OCTOBER 2025

GLOW DISCO

Bring a bottle to have water / juice in!

YrR/KS1:
4-5pm

KS2:
5.15-6.30pm

£3
£6 for 2 or more children from the same household

PLEASE POST CORRECT MONEY IN NAMED ENVELOPE IN GREY PTFA BOX IN THE OFFICE BY 1ST OCT.



CARNIVAL Festival Menu

THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2025

CRISPY COATED CHICKEN
OR
VEGGIE DIPPERS

CHIPS
BAKED BEANS
PEAS
TOMATO KETCHUP

MINI DOUGHNUTS & FRUIT

Also available: Jacket Potato & Fillings,
Homemade Bread, Salad, Yoghurt & Fruit



TICKETS INCLUDE DRINKS, SWEETS AND GLOW STICKS

**PLEASE
NOTE..**



Breakfast Club



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.

**LOST AND
FOUND**

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.



Harvest appeal



Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 100 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Baked Beans
- Tinned veg (carrots/peas)
- Cooking sauces
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Cold meat
- Rice Pudding
- Fruit juice (long-life)
- Biscuits
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Potato (tinned/instant)

07938 720604



This foodbank is run in partnership with local churches, facilitated by Faversham Foodbank. Registered charity number 1158413 | Registered in England and Wales

This week in Worship

This week in Worship we have been looking at people of faith and have learnt about Ruth. We explored what it means to be a loyal friend and how we are able to provide support to those who most need it. We have focused on friendship and how children can show that they are a loyal friend asking them to reflect on if they show enough compassion and kindness to others through our words and actions.

Collective Worship is a crucial part of our school day and the children enjoy the opportunity to come together, share stories and celebrate one another.

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

**Ruby-Mae, Ingrid, Effy,
Violet, Olivia, Rory, Jerome,
Archie, Katie, Isla-Faith,
Hunter**





INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about [SNAPCHAT](#). 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.

MAIN ENTRY

**ALL VISITORS
MUST REPORT
TO THE
SCHOOL OFFICE**



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

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 📧 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lense+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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

