



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

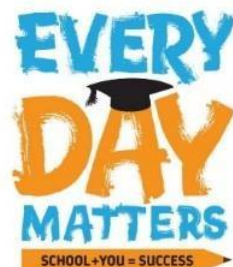
Friday 26th September

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
99.2%	92.2	97.1	97.2	98.1	95.4	93.5
Whole School 96.1%		Our attendance has crept down since the start of term!			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some wonderful highlights from our school community this week. Our recent dance days workshop was a real success, with each class exploring dances from countries directly linked to their current topic work. It was inspiring to see the great moves from individuals, with everyone involved exploring space, movement, and music in such creative ways. Please do make sure you check ClassDojo for videos of the classes in action.

I hope you have all enjoyed seeing your child's individual photos, which always provides such a wonderful way to mark the start of our new academic year.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to those who attended the PTFA Annual General Meeting on Friday. I am particularly excited to announce an excellent opportunity for community support. Our wonderful PTFA have arranged for us to be part of the Tesco Community grants scheme. When you are shopping in Tesco, I warmly encourage you to grab a blue token and place it in the collection for St Mary of Charity Opal Play equipment. If we are successful, we will receive funds that will help us progress to the next stage of our Opal play initiative, ultimately benefiting our pupils.

I also want to provide some important information about recent changes in our daily routines. You may have noticed fewer senior teachers at the gates recently, as we have all been teaching in classrooms. Every member of our profession joins teaching because of our deep love for spending time with children and helping them learn new skills. This passion is shared by our Senior Leadership Team, and we are genuinely enjoy being in class - it truly is the best part of our day.

Please do not be concerned if you do not see us at the gates immediately. We are very nearby and always happy to chat once classes have been dismissed. However, I must emphasise that ClassDojo is not the most effective way to contact the Senior Leadership Team. If you have an urgent message requiring a quick response, please contact the school office, who will ensure we are promptly informed.

And finally please don't forget our special carnival menu on Thursday and to get your tickets for the GLOW disco.

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

ST MARY OF CHARITY PRIMARY SCHOOL P.T.F.A.

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

caterlink

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.



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.

St. Mary of Charity Primary School

ST. MARY OF CHARITY - COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HAS BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE A GRANT FOR OPAL PLAY EQUIPMENT FROM

TESCO

Community Grants

So... we now need your help in 2 easy steps...

1 Between October and January, please remember to ask for a blue token every time you shop, and use it to vote for SMCS at the front of Tesco

2 Share this information with family and friends so they can vote too!

THE GRANT VALUE MAY BE £500, £1000 OR £1500.

THE MORE TOKENS, THE LARGER GRANT WE RECEIVE!



**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 thinking about how important it is to listen carefully, and how this can sometimes be difficult to do, especially when there are lots of other voices or things in the way. The children explored what things can get in the way of being able to listen and considered how we can listen if we are not silent. We explored the bible stories of Hannah who prayed silently to God and Samuel who heard God's voice when he was asleep.

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

**Imogen, Roman, Noah,
Naachi, Selena, Eleanor,
Teddie, Ben, Joshua, Nora**





INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **EA SPORTS FC 26** 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 EA SPORTS FC 26



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As with the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players and keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will not want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviour.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game items. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins - something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to push players to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and monitoring of the real-world kit and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reinforcing funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth setting a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to chat, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites - doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coleman is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iDk, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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
10/10/25	Hello Yellow – Express yourself dress up day.
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

