



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

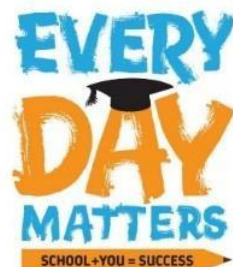


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Attendance



EYFS Hamilton	Year 1 Donaldson	Year 2 Anning	Year 3 Malala	Year 4 Hockney	Year 5 Rosen	Year 6 Attenborough
98.6%	94.5	98.6%	96.4	95.6	96	92.4
Whole School 96%		Our attendance has crept down since the start of term!			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share several exciting updates from our school this week...

Our Year 5 pupils embarked on a remarkable educational journey to Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday, where they immersed themselves in history and creativity. During this trip, they crafted their own stained-glass windows, experienced the traditional art of writing with quills, and brought historical figures to life by dressing up and exploring the cathedral's magnificent spaces. Make sure you look on ClassDojo for all the pictures.

Equally noteworthy was our Year 1 class's first Geography field trip to Faversham. These young learners demonstrated remarkable curiosity and engagement as they explored and understood their local environment. On both trips members of the public commented on the children's exceptional behaviour and politeness, well done Year 5 and Year 1.

Looking ahead, we have several important events to highlight.

Next Friday, we will be celebrating Hello Yellow mental health and well-being day. Pupils are encouraged to dress in a way that authentically expresses themselves. On the same day, we will host a parent workshop at 9am focused on supporting children with anxieties. Mr Moorfield and Mrs Ling will be available to address any concerns and provide valuable

insights. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

I'm also excited to announce our TTRS Battle of the Bands, running from Monday at 3:30pm until Friday, next week. We encourage all pupils to participate by answering as many questions as possible in any game type. The winning team will be determined by the highest number of correct answers per pupil, with the victorious class earning extra playtime. Make sure you login to take part.

Additionally, please check your child's bag today for their Christmas card designs and ordering information. By supporting this initiative, you not only help your child showcase their creativity but also contribute to our school, as we receive 25% commission on all orders. Please note the ordering details on the card, and remember that the shop closes Tuesday, 14th October at noon.

We continue to be proud of our pupils' achievements and look forward to their ongoing growth and success.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise Rowley-Jones
Headteacher



**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 looking at people whose faith helped change the world. We have explored the stories of George Cadbury, who was generous, Martin Luther King Jr who was a peacemaker, Harriet Tubman who fought for freedom and Cecil Jackson-Cole who founded Oxfam Charity shops. We finished the week by celebrating examples of individuals who have made a difference in school this week and remembered how each small difference is important.

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

**Isla, Besiana, Ellie, Hikmah,
Bailey, Romeo, Paige, Jack,
Harper, Jack,
All Year 1
All Year 5**





INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **Conspiracy Theories**. 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 or exit to the car park or other vehicles. We hope to get these more clearly defined asap

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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

