



St Mary of Charity Primary

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th October 2025

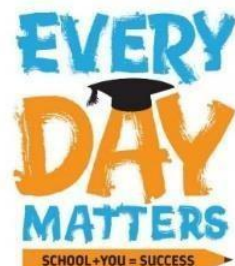


Telephone: 01795 532496

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%	91.8%	93.3%	91.7%	95.4%	97.1%	92.4%
Term 2 94.3%		Year to Date 96.2%			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of Term 2, it has been a great beginning to our busy term and hard to believe that this time last week we were still on half term. I hope everyone had a lovely break, despite the weather.

You can see from the colours above that attendance could be a bit better this week! Whilst we appreciate that we are entering a period when there are lots of germs around please do ensure that your child attends school if they are able to. Any absence means that children miss out on learning which they then have to catch up on.

Year 4 had a wonderful Egyptian day on Tuesday – there were some inspired costumes and the children were all involved in a variety of activities throughout the day which have truly sparked their interest and I know will produce some great pieces of work this term.

Next week is the start of anti-bullying week and we are starting the awareness of this by wearing odd socks to school on Monday, as well as taking part in a community art day. The children will all be learning about collage and contributing to a whole school collage piece which will be proudly displayed for all to see.

Next week is also Remembrance Day on Tuesday, we will all take part in a special act of Remembrance Worship on Tuesday at 9am lead by Rev Simon. Thank you to our Year 6s who have been selling Poppies for the RBL, these will be continued to be sold next week.

We are looking forward to showcasing our school to prospective new parents next week who are looking for school places for September 2026. This is always a popular event; our classes are always oversubscribed and we operate waiting lists for all classes in the school. Last year we had 90 applications for the 30 spaces available.

I am also delighted to let you know that we are investing in the school and are slowly repainting and decorating where we can. Next week Years R, 1 and 2 will have new interactive screens installed in their classes which will allow us to repurpose the ones currently in use to new areas of the school.

Please can you ensure that you continue to ask for tokens at Tesco's to place in our OPAL play fund so that we can build on the projects we have going for outdoor play.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Rowley-Jones
Headteacher

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!

**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.

This week in Worship

This week we have been exploring proverbs and the bible story of Solomon becoming King. The children have thought about what it means to be wise, what wisdom is and how we can demonstrate this to each other.

Our Dyslexia champions also led an excellent Worship on work they have been doing around the school to raise awareness of Dyslexia and the support that is available. We have purchased additional dyslexia friendly books which are proudly on display in the library.

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

**Uriel, Antoni, Rory, Oliver,
Zoe, Dara, Fletcher, Dulcie,
Lola-Rae, Archie, Dora,
Evelyn, Havva**





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **Pokemon TCG Pocket**. 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 POKÉMON TCG POCKET

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 3

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time ranked match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 270 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

REMINDER

The School Gate

Please be mindful of other children and parents at the school gates. The front of the gates can become a very crowded place and we want children to have ease entering the school in the morning. Please encourage your child to walk through the gates on their own and do not stand in groups talking where you potentially block the entrance. It is intimidating for children to walk through adults into school.

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 2	
03/11/25	Start of term 2
04/11/25	Year 4 Egyptian Day
10/11/25	Anti-Bullying week begins – wear odd socks SMC community arts day Abbeyfields care home visit for Year 4
11/11/25	Remembrance Worship 9am Year 5 Astronomy Roadshow pm
12/11/25	EYFS 2026 Tours 9.30am & 1.30pm
17/11/25	Phonic Workshop for Parents in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 2.30pm
19/11/25	EYFS 2026 Tours 9.30am & 1.30pm
24/11/25	UK Parliament week begins Residential presentation to Year 5 parents
25/11/25	Year R & Year 6 NCMP Screening
27/11/25	Whole School Family Trust Christmas Show 9.30am
1/12/25	Kent Fire & Safety Workshops – all classes
8/12/25	Abbeyfields care home visit for school councilors
9/12/25	SMC Football Match against BysingWood 3pm Kickoff
12/12/25	Carols on the Playground 2pm – 4pm
16/12/25	KS1 Nativity
17/12/25	Governor Prize Giving Christmas Lunch Day
19/12/25	Christingle Service at the Church 9.30am End of Term 2 – school finishes at 2pm

