

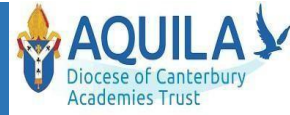
St Mary of Charity Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026

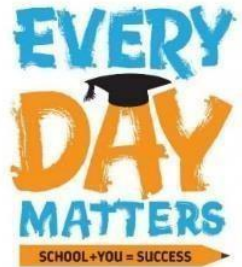
Telephone: 01795 532496

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
97%	95%	100%	98%	100%	96%	98%
This term 98%		Year to date 95%			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of term 5, it has been a wonderful beginning to the term, especially seeing the children's enthusiasm to all of the building work that occurred over the Easter break. We now have a wonderful new canopy which stretches across all of our KS1 classes and will allow these year groups to access learning outside no matter the weather. There is also a brand-new climbing frame and slide in the KS1 Kingdom area which the children have enjoyed climbing over and it has been lovely to see them exploring this new apparatus and taking turns. Please can I remind all parents that this climbing is only suitable for children 7 years old and younger, and that whilst we appreciate that younger siblings will of course want to explore it at school pick up time they must be closely supervised by parents.

There was also building works occurring inside the building over the Easter holidays and we now have a purpose-built new kitchen area which has greatly improved our cooking facilities and will really enhance our DT curriculum. This area is still waiting for the first class to use it but we will make sure to take some photos and share them with you shortly.

Please do join us on Tuesday morning next week for a coffee and a chat in the school hall. Mr. Moorfield and Mrs Ling will be on hand to speak with you about anything you would like to discuss. Your child does not need to be diagnosed with SEND to attend, it is just a lovely opportunity for parents and staff to meet informally, so if you can spare the time then come along.

The wonderful BluePrint Arts will be running their 3rd Arts Holiday camp at the school over the May half term. We are so delighted to be working in partnership with them to provide affordable childcare over the school holidays. If any parents are struggling with the cost but would love for their child to take part then please do speak to Mrs Ling to see if there are any payment options, we are able to support you with. Please sign up using the QR code on the next page.

And finally, we are proud to be able to offer the Year 4 Sleepover which will be introduced next year. This will be taking place for our current year 3 class in February next year, 2027. We hope afterwards this will then continue for each year group as they join Year 4. It is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 4 children to experience a mini residential and help prepare them for Year 6 when they get to spend a week away. It is something that SMC has done in the past and we are delighted to be reintroducing it as a way to offer exciting new opportunities for our Year 4 children each year and relieve some of the anxiety they may have over the Year 6 residential.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Rowley-Jones
Headteacher

faversham



£35
per day

arts

holiday club

May 26th, 27th, 28th

★ St Mary of Charity Primary School

★ 10am - 4pm

★ Or +£5 for 9am - 5pm

Suitable for
all primary
aged children





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.



Please be aware that at the end of last term we again had an enormous amount of unclaimed uniform at the end of the term. Staff go through the lost property box at the end of each term and check to see if anything is labelled. If it is it will find its way back to its rightful owner. Items that are not labelled are placed in a black sack and given to the salvation army. Last term there were 3 black sacks full of unnamed uniform/clothing items. In total we have therefore donated 5 black sacks of clothing to the salvation army since Christmas. Please do not waste your money by ensuring that you label all of your children's clothing.



As we move into the summer months the weather can become very warm and unfortunately there is limited shade on the playground (this is something we hope to work on in the future). Please can you ensure that your child comes to school with a sunhat and a water bottle daily. Suncream should be applied before school and children are able to bring a named bottle into school to reapply during the day. Please be aware that staff are not allowed to apply suncream directly onto children and have to supervise children applying it themselves. For this reason we recommend purchasing the smaller, roll-on suncreams which can be easily picked up from Aldi etc as these are easier for the children to use themselves.

This week in Worship

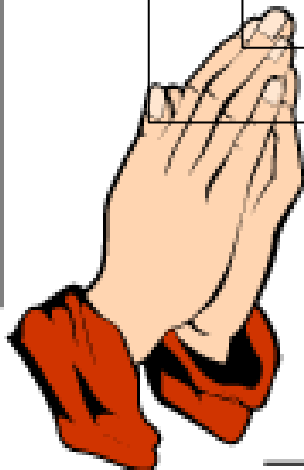
This week in worship we have been reflecting on the Easter story and how it can give us hope, as Jesus was resurrected. We have considered how we can be Hope carriers for each other and read the parable of the Mustard Seed.

*Dear God,
We thank you for giving us hope when we feel worried, when we are having a hard time, when we don't know what's ahead of us and when we are sad. Thank you that even the smallest seed of hope can grow into a big, tall tree. Please help us when we find it hard to be hopeful, so we can offer hope to others.*

Amen

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

Bailey, Hunter, Olivia,
Hunter, Luna, Rose, Ernesto,
Kodiie, Ben, Zoe, Reggie,
Lilly-Haise, Myla, Violet,
Hikmah, Year 4 and Year 2





IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **YOUTUBE**. 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 supervise your child carefully during drop off and pick up. Some children have been seen standing in the flowerbeds and picking/pulling out plants. Please ensure that they do not destroy the school site which our staff and volunteers work so hard to maintain.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS



YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING



Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE



YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED



YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION



There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK



While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS



YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

SET TIME LIMITS



The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY



YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

WATCH TOGETHER



It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-kids-2025>

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, this will increase to £3.10 from September 2026

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
20/4/26	Term 5 starts
22/4/26	Yr 4 'Sleepover' residential talk with PgL 3.15pm
27/4/26	SMC Vs Boughton Football Match
30/4/26	Year 5 trip to Fleur-de-Lis Museum. SMC Vs Whitstable Endowed Football Match
04/5/26	Bank Holiday
05/05/26	Yr 3 Magna Carta Trip
07/05/26	Class Photos
11/05/26	KS2 SATS Test week Yr R Trip to Physic Garden
12/05/26	Yr 5 Art morning at QE
18/05/26	Family Trust Worship
20/05/26	KS2 Dreams and Goals enrichment afternoon
21/05/26	School Census Day
22/05/26	End of Term 5 – finish at 3.15pm

