



# St Mary of Charity Primary

## Weekly Newsletter

### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

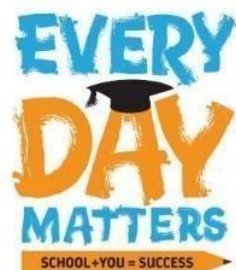


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# Attendance



| EYFS<br>Hamilton       | Year 1<br>Donaldson | Year 2<br>Anning    | Year 3<br>Malala | Year 4<br>Hockney | Year 5<br>Rosen |     |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----|
| 96%                    | 99%                 | 97%                 | 97%              | 99%               | 93%             | 93% |
| Year to date:<br>97.4% |                     | This Term:<br>97.4% |                  |                   | Target<br>96%   |     |

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the school has felt a little quieter than usual whilst most of our Year 6 children have been away on their residential trip. From the photographs shared on ClassDojo, it is clear that they have had an absolutely fantastic time. Throughout the week they have challenged themselves and created wonderful memories whilst taking part in team games, zip-line activities, buggy building and testing, archery tag, laser tag, the ever-popular giant swing, campfires and assault courses. It certainly sounds as though they have packed a huge amount into their week! We hope they return home with plenty of stories to share and enjoy a well-earned, restful weekend after such an adventure.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Year 6 children who remained in school this week. They have worked incredibly hard in a smaller group, focusing on their English and Maths learning. In addition, they have been exceptional role models, offering support to younger pupils and staff throughout the week. We are very proud of the maturity, kindness and commitment they have shown.

Our Year 5 pupils also enjoyed a wonderful trip to Canterbury Cathedral this week. The visit provided a valuable opportunity to enhance their learning and explore this important local landmark. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to St Mary of Charity Church, who generously fund this trip for us each year and make this experience possible for our children

The children have also been busy strengthening links with our partner school in Spain. They have thoroughly enjoyed creating videos to introduce themselves, their classes and different areas of our school. They have also been practicing Spanish words and phrases to include in their recordings. I am sure our Spanish friends will enjoy learning more about life at our school, and we look forward to hearing from them in return.

This week, a letter was sent home regarding our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy. The Department for Education requires schools to consult with parents and carers on this aspect of our curriculum, and we greatly value your feedback. If you have not yet done so, please take a few moments to complete the short consultation questionnaire using the link below:

Relationship and Sex Education Policy Consultation:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/pNgFh8HVQB>

Finally, a reminder that next week we will be hosting maths workshops for parents and carers of children in Years 2, 3 and 4. The focus will be on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) and how you can support your child in developing confidence, fluency and recall of their multiplication facts at home. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing practical strategies that can make a real difference to your child's progress in mathematics.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and we wish you all a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Rowley-Jones'.

Mrs Rowley-Jones

Headteacher



Suitable for  
Primary aged  
children



# Arts Holiday Club Faversham

27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> October

St Mary of Charity Primary School

10am – 4pm | £35 per day\*



(or £40 with  
wraparound care,  
9am – 5pm)



# WRITING COMPETITIONS FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG ADULTS

SUBMIT A STORY OR POEM  
UP TO 500 WORDS

THREE ENTRY LEVELS:

- YEARS 3-6
- YEARS 7-10
- YEARS 11-13

1ST PRIZE: £30 BOOK TOKEN

2ND PRIZE: £20 BOOK TOKEN

Plus the winning entry from each group will  
win £100 worth of books for your school  
library or a nominated book charity



FAVERSHAM  
LITERARY  
FESTIVAL

**Deadline for entries: 15 January 2027**

Entry to the competition is free.  
To enter you must be living within or  
attending a school within the  
Faversham postcode area.

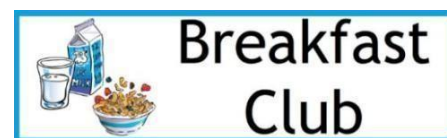
Entries can be submitted  
through participating schools  
or sent direct to Faversham Literary  
Festival:

[info@favershamliteraryfestival.com](mailto:info@favershamliteraryfestival.com)

All entries must include the entrant's  
name, age, and your school or your  
home postcode

**[www.favershamliteraryfestival.org](http://www.favershamliteraryfestival.org)**

**PLEASE  
NOTE..**



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.*



**Caution**

Please take care on school site, no parking or driving in pedestrian areas and ensure that groups of parents do not block entrances/pathways into the school.

We have had to make the decision to ban the use of school bikes after school and these were not being cared for or supervised adequately. Children are not allowed to ride bikes on the playground after school. Please ensure that your child does not do this.

**Don't  
Forget!**

Children need to bring a water bottle into school daily. This should be filled with plain water only unless your child has a medical condition that necessitates a different type of fluid. The children have opportunities to refill their bottles throughout the day and are reminded to do so.

Due to the changing nature of the weather children are required to have a waterproof coat with them each day. We always try to get outside regardless of the weather. We also recommend your child having wellington boots in school for access to the grass and mud kitchen areas when it is wet.

## This week in Worship

This week we have continued to talk about compassion, we have considered that you do not just show compassion by helping but also by challenging things that make others suffer. We have considered what we can do to improve the world and how we can provide challenge to show compassion to those in need.



# COLLECTIVE CELEBRATION

**RORY, DULCIE, KEEGAN  
AVA-ANNE, TEDDY-JO,  
NOAH, DOTTIE, LILITH,  
LOUIE, NOAH, TOMINI,  
THEA, ALL OF YEAR 1 AND  
YEAR 4, OLUWOLE, ELLIS,  
RILEY, OLUWATONI**





## INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **AMIGO**. 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.

You **MUST** phone in before 9.10am.

## 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 supervise your child carefully during drop off and pick up. Ball games are not permitted before school as this poses a risk to other children, please do not allow your child to play with a ball anywhere on the school site before the start of the school day.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

### LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

### REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

### RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

### BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

### ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

## 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.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

# 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 £3.10**

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.***

**NO NUTS OR NUT  
PRODUCTS ALLOWED  
IN SCHOOL**





Faversham  
**Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell

# HARVEST SCHOOL COLLECTION

— HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN FAVERSHAM & VILLAGES —

Please donate the following items to support  
individuals and families in our community.



Tinned fruit



Cartons of  
fruit juice



Jars of Jam



Tinned Carrots



Brown/BBQ  
sauce



Unisex  
Deodorant



Household  
cleaning products

# Dates for your Diary



| Date                     | Event                                                                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> October  | Year 2 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm                                       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> October  | Year 4 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm                                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> October  | Year 4 Trip to Otterden Woods<br>Year 3 TTRS Parent Workshop at 2.45pm      |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> October  | Hello Yellow Mental Health Day – wear something yellow to school            |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October | PTFA GLOW Disco                                                             |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> October | Yr R Phonic/Reading parent workshop at 2.30pm                               |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> October | Creepy Claws Assembly 2.45pm                                                |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> October | Year 6 Golden Ticket reward pm                                              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> October | 2.30pm Year 3 Class Assembly – parents welcome                              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October | 9.30am Harvest Festival at St Mary of Charity Church – all families welcome |

