



St Mary of Charity Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 19th June 2026

Telephone: 01795 532496

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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%	94%	92.5%	95%	93%	89%	95%
Year to date: 95%		This Term: 95%			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support and understanding this week as we have navigated the British weather! The decision to move Sports Day was not taken lightly and we have been working hard with the QE to secure a new date. I would like to take this opportunity to explain that the QE school own the field which the school uses for Sports Day and therefore we have to confirm dates and times with them, and of course the events they have booked in take precedence. Sports Day is always booked a year in advance and rearranging dates and times takes considerable negotiations at both schools. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful space at our disposal for sports day but are restricted in the dates and times that we can offer.

I am delighted to announce that Sports Day will now take place on Friday 24th June, next week and thank the QE school in being so accommodating in this change. The format will be the same as originally planned and gates will open at 1.10pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

This week the children enjoyed a fun and engaging Science Show presented by the Family Trust. This was one of the wonderful events organised by our fabulous PTFA who continue to work incredibly hard to enrich our children's experiences. They have also been busy preparing hygiene bags for our Year 6s as well as welcome to SMC bags for our new EYFS children.

We know that many children, and parents begin thinking about transitions at this time of year. We are pleased to be offering our usual three morning sessions which will take place on Thursdays each week, commencing on the 2nd July. Our social stories will be updated on our website shortly for you to share with your child if they are concerned about transition. A letter which shares information regarding next years classes and staff will be sent out on Monday 29th June.

Finally, you may have become aware that from September 2026, free school meal eligibility will be changing and will be extended to all families receiving Universal Credit. This removes the current income threshold and makes more pupils eligible for support. It could save families up to £495 per child each year on school lunches. Parents will still need to apply through school by supplying their national insurance number. Please read here for more information

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2025/06/expanding-free-school-meals-what-parents-need-to-know/>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Rowley-Jones
Headteacher

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

COULD YOU GIVE A LITTLE
TIME TO HELP RUN THE
SUMMER FAIR?



PREPARING STALLS
SET UP ON THE DAY
RUNNING A STALL
CLEARING UP

**IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY, PLEASE
MAKE CONTACT VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

Every helping hand makes a difference.





Arts Summer School

suitable for all primary-aged children

Faversham

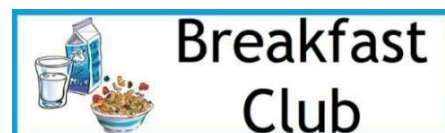
August 3rd - 7th

St Mary of Charity Primary

10am - 4pm £35
or £40 for wraparound care
(9am - 5pm)



**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.



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 2 black sacks full of unnamed uniform/clothing items. In total we have therefore donated 7 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 the weather increases, please ensure that your child comes into school with a sunhat, sun cream applied and a water bottle. Children are encouraged to refill their water regularly throughout the day.

This week in Worship

This week we have been reflecting on what it means to be part of a community. We have considered how it takes lots of individuals working together to make a successful community and how we act in order to support our class as well as our school.

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

**Arianna, Kastriot, Ingrid,
Maddox, Year 2, Lucas,
Oluwatoni, Noah, Dolcie-
Rose, Robyn, Kodiie, Antoni,
Ethan, Tyler-Jay, Finley,
Beth, Ellie, Helena**





INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD**. 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 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fair, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 29 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".



The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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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
23/06/26	Make Time for Music Assembly 2.30pm
26/06/26	Re-scheduled SPORTS DAY – gates open at 1.10pm
29/06/26	Abbey school transition week Information about next years classes sent to parents. CRAZY HAIR DAY.
30/06/26	Archbishops School Transition day Year 5 trip to Rochester
2/7/26	Whole School transition morning 1/3
3/7/26	Summer Fair 3 – 5pm
6/7/26	Year 5 art morning at QE
9/7/26	Wimbledon Lunch Menu Whole school transition morning 2/3
10/07/26	Year 3 Dover Castle Trip Reports sent to Parents Year 5 Music day at QE
14/07/26	Year 6 end of year Performance 1.30pm and 5.30pm
16/07/26	Whole school transition 3/3
17/07/26	PTFA Inflatables activity for all classes
21/07/26	Year 6 Prom 5pm
22/07/26	Year 6 Leavers service 9.30am at the church LAST DAY OF TERM 2pm FINISH

