



# End of year Newsletter 2025

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*18.07.2025*

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Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another school year, it's been lovely to take time to reflect on the many moments we've shared together as a school family.

Our Year 6 pupils brought joy and emotion to their leavers' assembly, sharing memories and stories from their time here - it was heartfelt, full of talent, funny and very moving and we were proud to send them off with our prayers during a beautiful leavers' Mass. It's always a special moment to celebrate how far they've come and the exciting journeys ahead.

Across the school, we've had a packed final few weeks—from fantastic trips to our ever-popular sports day and transition sessions that helped children settle into their new classes.

These experiences all help to strengthen the bonds and confidence that make our school such a special place to grow.

We say goodbye and thank you to Miss Bayliss, Miss Hughes and Mrs Willetts—we're grateful for all they've brought to our school, and we wish them well for their next chapters. We also send our love and prayers to Mrs Brice-Bateman as she begins her maternity leave.

In September, we look forward to welcoming Mr Humphries (Year 5), Miss Sewell (Year 4), and Ms Tait (Year 3 and English Lead) to the team. We're also pleased to welcome back Miss Harris, who will be sharing the week with Mrs Poynter in Reception as she begins a new balance between school and home life.

On a personal note, I want to say heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome and support I received on returning from maternity leave earlier this year. It has meant so much to me. Additionally, on behalf of myself and all the staff, thank you also for the generous cards, thoughtful messages, and kind gifts we have received—it really is appreciated.

As we close the year, I leave you with a short scripture to carry into the summer:

“Let all that you do be done in love.” – 1 Corinthians 16:14

Wishing you and your families a joyful, peaceful and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for a new year of growing, learning and working together and wish our wonderful Year 6s all the very, very best for their new chapter.

Mrs Borriello

## Jubilee Year 2025 Pilgrims of Hope



What is a Jubilee?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

### **What is the theme for the Jubilee Year?**

The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

### **When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?**

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door on Christmas Eve 2024 to begin the Jubilee year. In schools, this officially launched 24th January 2025.

### **The Jubilee Prayer**

The official Prayer allows pilgrims from all over the world to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness. The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year, this can be found in other languages on the website of the Jubilee. The Jubilee is an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

*Prayer Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.*

*To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen*

Our Gospel Value and Virtue for Summer 2 are: faith-filled and hopeful



Our Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principle for Summer 2 is: **Rights and Responsibilities**



## Class Attendance - July



Reception: 80 %

Year 1: 89 %

Year 2: 89 %

Year 3: 91%

Year 4: 89 %

Year 5: 93 %

Year 6: 75 %

School's Target: 96%

National Average: 95%

**Attendance of pupils at school is a legal requirement and their entitlement to a full education. I ask parents to work with us next year to significantly improve these figures and talk to any member of the school's Senior Leadership Team if you are experiencing difficulties with getting your children to school, so that we can agree a solution together. Thank you, Mrs Borriello.**

#### **Attendance record and lessons missed**

- 95% attendance means 50 missed lessons. This means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.
- ***90% attendance means 100 missed lessons. This means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.***
- 85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 80% attendance means 200 missed lessons. This means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year
- 75% attendance means 250 missed lessons. This means the child misses about 9 weeks of lessons in the school year

#### **Punctuality**

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year, that's 20 lessons missed
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year, that's 55 lessons missed
- Arriving 30 minutes late every adds up to 19 days absence a year, that's 123 lessons missed

## Attendance - What does this mean?

### Attendance Matters



This newsletters' attendance is 86 %, which needs huge improvement! If you're unsure about your child's attendance, worried about getting them into school or just want advice and support then please come and speak with us. Together, we can work hard to improve this.

On average, this would mean that:

- **85% attendance means 150 missed lessons. This means a child misses six weeks of lessons in the school year.**

Please do reflect on this; 100 missed lessons could cause significant interruption to children's learning and would mean that learning outcomes may not be as strong as they could be. We also have some wonderful rewards for those children who try to come in everyday, such as our coveted 'Curley Wurley' prize, golden stars to collect or even, recently, free ice creams!

We would obviously love to be as close to 100% as we can. The government, rightly so, has a huge focus on attendance as, ["research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well."](#) There is a clear link between attendance and better outcomes so well done to everyone that has focussed on this; by doing so, you are prioritising a brighter future for your child/children.

Attendance is everyone's responsibility just like the safeguarding of every child and young person.

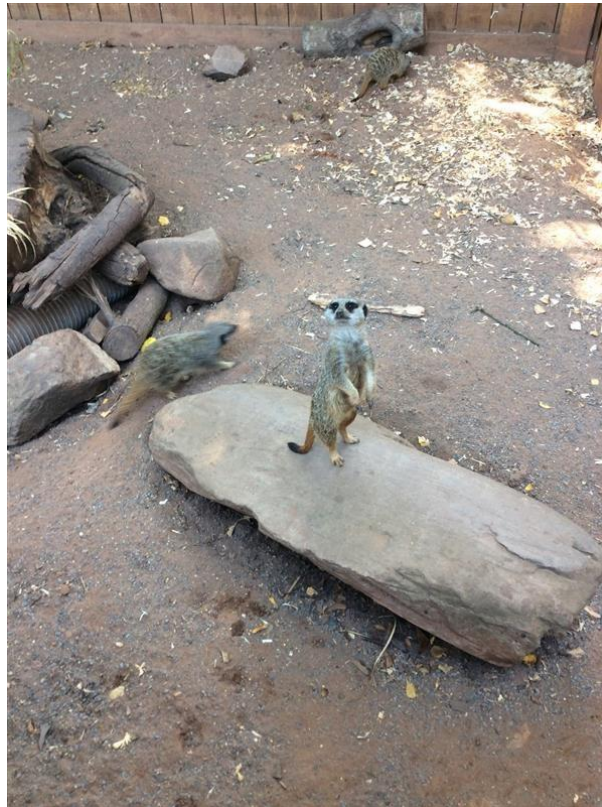
Please understand, that if attendance shows deterioration, you will be contacted - this is to establish a path forward so that we can raise the level of attendance, which is heavily linked to raising the performance of your child in their crucial education. We need to prioritise this so join us and work with us!



Thank you and God bless, Mr Lodge.

Take a look at what's been happening around School







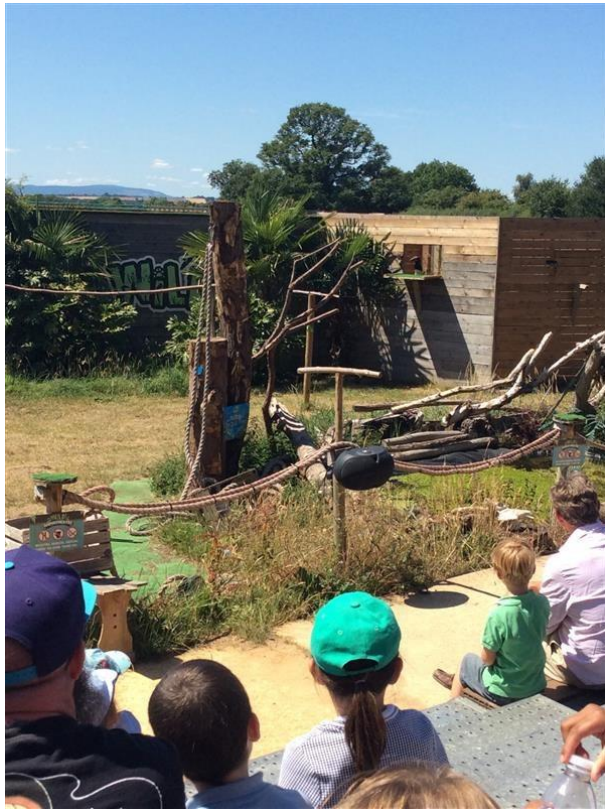


















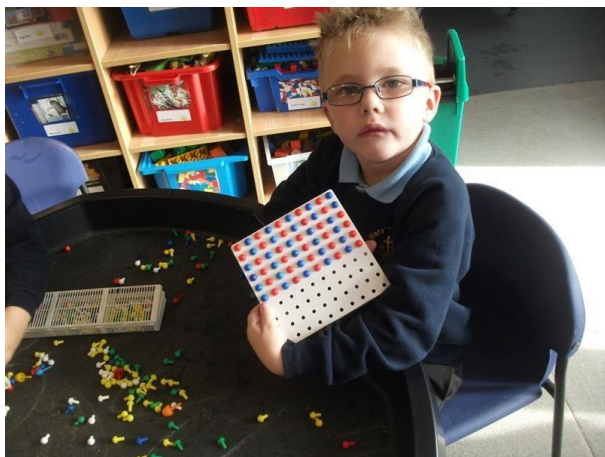
















## Notices



***Thank you for all your support for a wonderful year.***

### **Dates for the new school year:**

Further dates for the term ahead are available on our website. If you require support accessing these, please contact our friendly office administrator, Mrs Bate, for additional help.

### ***Pope Francis' prayer intention for July***



**"Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel"**

## Safeguarding



If you find you are ever facing something challenging in your family life, please come and see us. We are always here to help you and your child(ren).

### Early Help

An Early Help Assessment is a great way of getting your family some support, whether it be with your child's behaviour, their sleeping pattern or social and emotional wellbeing, or something that effects the whole family, housing and finances, for example.

It involves a meeting with professionals from different agencies (dependent on your family's individual needs) and a plan will be put in place to show the different support you will receive and who is responsible for getting this done.

It is not input from Social Services: it is there as a support tool only, for a variety of different reasons.

If you have any questions, or feel you may benefit from this, please contact Ms Mosley on 01384 985 005, or contact the school office to arrange an appointment to see her.

### Safeguarding

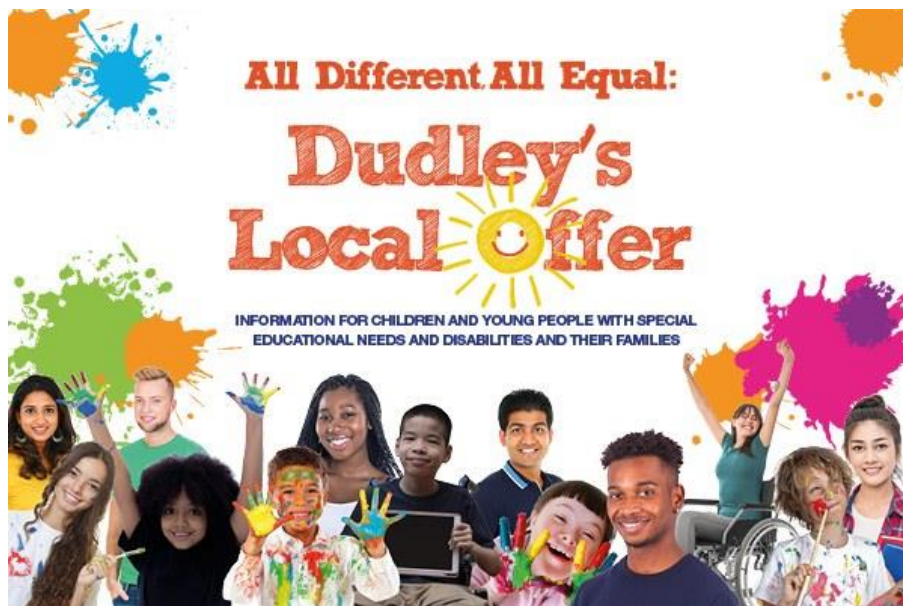
Please be aware that we have a duty of care to all children at St. Mary's and this may mean we need to contact Social Services/Family Support for advice or to report a situation. We understand that this can be distressing for those involved, but please be assured that we **always** have your child's best interests at heart.

If you have any concern or worry about another member of the St. Mary's School community, please don't hesitate to contact any of our DSLs (Designated Safeguarding



Leads): Mr Lodge, Miss Clewley or Ms Mosley. Our Interim Executive Principal, Mr Wilkes, will also be a member of our DSL team too.

## **SEND - Dudley's Local Offer**



### **Dudley's Local Offer**

The Local Offer is full of information and advice on things to support you and your child with Special Educational Needs or disabilities. If you need advice on health, education, social care and community support for you and your family visit the Local Offer website:

[www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.localoffer.dudley.sch.uk)

### **Dudley Parent Carer Forum**

Parents and carers from across Dudley borough who have children with disabilities and special needs are being invited to join the Dudley Parent Carer Forum.

Dudley Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parent carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with disabilities and additional needs. The forum provides a safe environment for parent carers of children with disabilities or additional needs to share their thoughts and concerns and to empower them to have their voices heard in a way that influences change and service design.

Any parent carer of a child with a disability or additional needs, residing in Dudley borough can become a member.

For more information contact the forum via their Facebook page or by their website:  
[www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/](http://www.dudleyparentcarerforum.co.uk/)

### **Events and workshops for people with SEND**

Dudley SENDIAS (special educational needs & disabilities information advice and support) Service is running a range of online activities over the coming months to help parents and carers or young people with SEND. Find out more at <https://dudleyci.co.uk/workshops-and-events>

## Dudley Family Information Service



Please click on the following link to access the latest bulletin from Dudley's Family Information Service:

[Family Information Summer Newsletter \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)

Polite reminder - teachers can be contacted using the class email address or through making a telephone appointment through the Main Office. Teachers will reply as soon as possible, during normal working hours. Out of school hours, in an emergency, you can contact us by completing this form here: <https://st-mary-bh.sch.life/page/detail/contact-school-1>



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Visit us on the web at [St. Mary's Website](#)