



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Coronation Crescent, Madeley, Telford, Shropshire, TF7 5EJ

Telephone: 01952 388255

Fax: 01952 388244

E-mail: a3357@telford.gov.uk

<http://stmarysmadeley.taw.org.uk>

Headteacher: Samantha Griffiths

Assistant Headteacher: Helen Lambie

School Business Manager: Nicola Pryce

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St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Dear Jesus,

During this Lenten season,
we come to You with open hearts.

Help us to be kind and loving,
to pray more, and to make good
choices.

Teach us to help others,
to share what we have,
and to follow You with all our hearts.

Please forgive us when we make
mistakes,

and help us to grow closer to You every
day.

We offer our prayers, sacrifices, and
good deeds

to show our love for You.

Thank You for loving us always.

Amen.

Why do Catholics celebrate lent?

Catholics celebrate Lent as a season of preparation, penance, and reflection leading up to Easter, the most important event in the Christian calendar, celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

Lent lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays), symbolizing the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert while resisting temptation from Satan. This period mirrors significant biblical events tied to the number 40, like the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness.

Catholics observe Lent by:

- Fasting and abstinence - giving up certain foods (like meat on Fridays) or other comforts.
- Prayer - deepening their relationship with God through reflection, confession, and attending Mass.
- Almsgiving - showing charity by helping those in need, often through donations or acts of kindness.



School Photographer

Just a reminder that the school photographer will be here on Wednesday.

Please ensure your child

comes dressed in their school uniform and is ready for their photo.

Year 3 Trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town

We are thrilled to share the unforgettable experience our Year 3 children had on their recent trip to Blists Hill Victorian Town in Ironbridge. The children spent a full day stepping back in time to experience life as it would have been during the Victorian era, and it was an educational and fun-filled day that truly brought history to life.

Blists Hill is an open-air museum that recreates a Victorian town, complete with cobbled streets, gas-lit shops, and traditional Victorian buildings. From the moment the children arrived, they were transported into a world of horse-drawn carts, blacksmiths, and bustling market stalls. The experience was so immersive that it felt as though they had actually travelled back to the 1800s.

The children were excited to explore the different areas of the town, including the Victorian pharmacy, the bakery, and the sweet shop. They had the chance to see how people lived, worked, and interacted during the Victorian period, which perfectly complemented what they've been learning in their history lessons.

What made this trip so special was the way the children were able to learn through fun, hands-on experiences. They were not just passive observers but active participants in the Victorian world.



The trip also provided a fantastic opportunity for the students to bond as a class. They worked together in groups, helping each other with the different activities and sharing their discoveries along the way. It was wonderful to see them so enthusiastic about their learning, and we could see how much they enjoyed connecting with the past in such an immersive way. By experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells of the past, the children gained a better appreciation of how different life was for children in the 19th century compared to today.

At the end of the day, it was clear that the children had a fantastic time and had learned so much. They returned to school with excited stories to tell and a greater understanding of what they have been studying in history lessons.

A big thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped organize the trip, and to the parents for their support in preparing the children for the day. Big thanks to one family in Year 3 who contributed three lots of payments in total. We massively appreciate your kindness. Your support truly makes these learning experiences possible. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the staff at Blists Hill for their warm welcome and for providing such an engaging and educational experience for our children. You would be thrilled too as the staff there commented on how well-behaved our children were.



Working in partnership

We reach out to you with warmth and a deep sense of understanding, seeking your support in a shared mission that is at the heart of everything we do: helping every child develop strong skills in reading, spelling, communication, and maths. At St. Mary's, our dedicated staff work hard to carefully select engaging texts, adapt maths teaching to meet the unique needs of every child, make learning fun, nurture a love for stories, and invest in high-quality books and reading schemes. We understand that

reading is not just a skill; it is a gateway to every child's future and success.

The reality is that children who read and practise maths regularly at home make noticeable and meaningful progress. While we are deeply committed to supporting children here at school, it is the daily practise at home that truly helps them flourish. Simple, everyday activities, whether it's sharing a book, counting objects around the house, playing number games, or spotting numbers in the environment, have a huge impact. These small moments of connection build fluency, confidence, and understanding, and are just as crucial for older children as they are for our youngest learners.

However, we have noticed that an increasing number of children are arriving at school without their reading books or diaries. In some cases, it is rare that reading is being done at home and diaries are frequently misplaced. Whilst we do as much as we can do to bridge this gap, through teaching assistants who listen to children who don't have regular reading at home, and through additional maths interventions, the number of children requiring extra support is growing.

In addition to reading, regular practise of homework, spellings, and times tables plays a vital role in laying the foundations for future success. At present, about half of our pupils complete these tasks consistently. We fully understand that family life can be busy, but we cannot overstate how important this practise is. It helps children build confidence and mastery, giving them the tools they need to excel.

We also want to share with you an exciting development at St. Mary's: a significant investment in a programme designed to develop speaking and listening skills. We have observed that some children are struggling to form clear sentences, describe simple events, and use the vocabulary needed to explain their ideas. To support your child's progress in this area, here are a few simple yet impactful ideas for you to try at home:

- Set aside a few minutes each day for uninterrupted conversation: Ask open-ended questions like "What was the best part of your day?" or "What happened next?" to encourage your child to express themselves in more detail.
- Create stories together: Take turns making up a story, each person adding a sentence. This helps build vocabulary and sentence structure.
- Extend their responses: If your child gives a short answer, gently extend it. For example, if they say, "I saw a dog," respond with, "What did the dog look like? Was it big or small?" This encourages them to elaborate.

When I recently wrote to Year 6 parents about the potential risks of unrestricted access to smart technology, I was heartened by the positive response. It reminded me



of the wonderful things we can accomplish when we work together, school and home, in partnership.

Please know that this message is written with a deep sense of care and respect. We share the same goal with you: to give your child the very best start in life. While we are fortunate to have a team of experienced and dedicated teachers here

at St. Mary's, we can't do this alone. Your support, whether through reading together, having conversations, practising skills, or simply creating routines, will make an enormous difference in your child's learning journey.

Dinner Money Accounts

As the end of the school year draws near, we would like to kindly remind you that any outstanding balances on your child's dinner money account need to be settled by **Friday, March 28th**. This will help ensure that all accounts are up to date as we close the financial year.

We sincerely appreciate your efforts in staying on top of these accounts throughout the year. By settling any outstanding amounts before the deadline, you will help us avoid any disruptions in your child's meal service and ensure smooth operations as we move forward.

If you need assistance with making a payment, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office. We are more than happy to help clarify any details and support you in making this process as easy as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Families in Need

In Telford, several organisations offer food support to individuals and families in need.

[Telford Crisis Support](#)

Provides emergency food parcels, baby and toddler essentials, school uniforms, and support services. Donations can be made at various supermarkets and community hubs across the borough.

telfordcrisissupport.org.uk

[All Nations Community Grocery](#)

Operated by All Nations Church, this community grocery aims to reduce the cost of weekly shopping for Telford residents.

livewell.telford.gov.uk

[Citizens Advice Telford and the Wrekin](#)

Offers assistance in ordering food parcels and provides emergency food parcels from their office for those in need.

citizensadvice.telfordandthewrekin.org.uk

[Telford & Wrekin Interfaith Council](#)

Provides emergency food parcels outside of normal food bank hours, available every day after 5pm, including weekends and bank holidays.

telford.gov.uk

Learning Community Trust (LCT) Food Hubs

Available during school holidays, these hubs provide emergency food and toiletries at Hadley Learning Centre and Wrekin View Primary School.

telford.gov.uk

Not JUST A Store, Not JUST A Food Bank, Telford

A fundraising discount store with an independent food bank, pet food bank, and community fridge, located at 23 Bridge Road, Wellington.

not-just.org.uk

These organisations aim to ensure that no one in Telford goes without essential food and supplies. If you or someone you know is in need, reaching out to any of these services can provide immediate assistance.

Dates for your Diary

19.03.25	Photographer in school	the school photographer will be taking photos of individual children, teams, and siblings. More information will be provided closer to the date
28.03.25	Year 3 curriculum assembly	Children in year 3 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
01.04.25	Year 6 trip-Shropshire discovery centre	
03.04.25	Year 2 Trip to Cosford	
09.04.25	Easter Egg Hunt	
10.04.24	Children break-up	
11.04.25	PD day	

28.04.25	Return to school	
05.05.25	Bank Holiday Monday	
06.05.25	Reception Trip to Home Farm	
09.05.25	Year 4 curriculum assembly	Children in year 4 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
12.05.25	Year 6 SATS week	These tests assess children's knowledge and understanding in core subjects: English (reading and grammar, punctuation, and spelling) and mathematics. The results help teachers understand how well children have progressed and are used to inform the transition to secondary school.
23.05.25	Leavers mass in Shrewsbury Break up	Our 6 children will be travelling to Shrewsbury to celebrate mass together with other year 6 children from Catholic schools across Shropshire
03.06.25	KS1 Sports day	Families of children are invited to come and spectate our Sports Days. These will begin at approximately 9:00 AM.
05.06.25	KS2 Sports day	
20.06.25	Year 1 curriculum assembly	Children in year 1 will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.
23.06.25	Parents Evening	More information to follow.
24.06.25	Parents Evening	
04.07.25	Reception curriculum assembly	Children in Reception will be sharing the work they've been doing in their class. All parents of year two children are invited. This will begin at approximately 8:55 AM in the hall.

18.07.25	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Parents of children in year 6 will be invited to our leavers assembly to celebrate the children's years spent here at Saint Mary's Catholic primary school. The assembly begins at approximately 9:00 AM and should last just over an hour.
	Children break-up for summer	
21.07.25	PD day	