

Key Dates this term

Monday 9 th May	Year 6 test week
Monday 16 th May	Walk to School Week
Tuesday 3 rd May	MUGA installation on field begins
Monday 23 rd May	Jubilee Week begins
Thursday 26 th May	Individual photographs
Monday 6 th June	Skills Builder Project Week
Friday 10 th June	Teacher training day – school closed to children
Monday 13 th June	Year 6 Leavers' Service at Liverpool Cathedral
Wednesday 15 th June	Year 6 residential to the Anderton Centre
Wednesday 22 nd June	New Starters' Meeting 5pm (reception 2022)
Friday 1 st July	Annual reports out to parents
Friday 8 th July	New Reception visit (afternoon)
Monday 13 th July	Wellbeing week begins (including sports events)
Thursday 21 st July	School closes for summer at 1.15pm

We are looking forward to an exciting summer term. As you can see from the dates above we have our Walk to School Week, Jubilee celebrations, Skills Builder Projects and a Wellbeing Week to look forward to this term. You will also receive our class newsletters to keep you up to date with what is happening across the curriculum. All statutory assessments are back in place so the Year 1 children will undertake the Phonics Check in June, the Year 4 children will take the Multiplication Tables Check in June, Year 2 will undertake end of key stage tests across May and Year 6 will take their tests week beginning Monday 9th May. Results will be sent out as part of the annual report.

We have a new website in place which is still available at www.saintmarys.wigan.sch.uk It is a more modern website so please take a look.

Walk to School Week – 16th May

This year we are re-instating the Walk to School Week. I know that you are all aware of how hard it is to park near school. Sadly, we have also witnessed illegal parking, blocking drives and careless driving as people drive too fast and bump up the kerb. There have been a number of near misses. We are not entitled to use the private car park of Langton Court, yet parents still do and are sometimes abusive to the residents when they are asked to leave.

As we are in spring and the weather is better, we are asking that where you can you either walk all the way to school or if you have to drive please park away from Wright Street and Lymm Street and walk for a couple of minutes. Each child will be given a Walk to School Passport. If they walk all the way to school, or even 'Park and Stride' from a few streets away they can have their passport signed. Those that walk for the full five days will be entered into the prize draw. There will be a prize for each phase in school.

This is part of our Travel Plan and we are hoping to be part of future initiatives that the Local Authority run to reduce the numbers of cars parking outside the school.

Covid

There is no need to use Lateral Flow Tests at all now unless requested by your GP or the hospital. If you do still have some at home and your child tests positive they should stay off school for 3 days as per the government guidance. If they have a high temperature they should stay off until it comes down. If they have a cough you should use your own judgement as to whether they are well enough to come to school.

Attendance

The government has a national focus on improving attendance. We now have our own Attendance Officer from the Local Authority who will work with Miss Prescott to help support families where attendance or lateness is a concern. They may also issue penalty notices if a child's attendance meets the criteria. Information about this can be found on the website. It is important that children don't take more time off school than they need. During the main part of the pandemic it became quite natural to take a week off school when a child had any symptoms as we were not sure if it was covid or not. From now on we need to return to a sensible approach of taking only the time off we need when we are really unwell. Please speak to Miss Prescott if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss.

Messages for the office

If your child is going to be absent due to illness or a medical appointment please contact the school office or email enquiries@admin.saintmarys.wigan.sch.uk. If you want to use Class Dojo please message Mrs Talbot and NOT the class teachers. Class teachers can't take messages at the classroom door. Please tell the staff at the front of school or the office.

A few reminders of some of our school site rules

- **Dogs must not be brought to site at any time, even if they are being carried. This is a rule that has been in place for many years and is also a rule laid down by the Local Authority. If you have an assistance dog please register them with the office so we can let families know that there is an agreement in place.**
- **Bikes and scooters are welcome on site BUT your child must dismount and push them to the bike/scooter park. Children who ride bikes and scooters on site will be banned from bringing them on to the school grounds.**
- **ALL children should wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter.**
- **Children are not allowed to play football, rugby or other ball games on the school grounds before school. Please do not let your child bring a ball to school.**

Now that covid restrictions are no longer in place there is no need for us to have a one-way system on the school grounds. Families are welcome to use all the open gates to enter or leave the school grounds. We will continue to open the gates at 8.40am to allow children to be in school for an 8.45am start and they will close again at 8.50am. In the afternoon the gates will open at 3.10pm.

Thank you so much for your continued support. We are looking forward to our most 'normal' term since the pandemic began. We have a lot to look forward to.