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DEPUTY HEAD: Mrs J Hardman BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH

July 2022 Newsletter

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 3 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

Through God's love and our Christian Values we encourage each individual to love, respect and value themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be.

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

We are fast approaching the end of term and this academic year.

SAT's RESULTS:

We are so proud of all our Year 6 pupils who received their SATS results last week and have performed brilliantly and well above national averages in all areas. We are proud that as a school, we were able to support all our pupils throughout the pandemic, setting up remote learning and a virtual lessons and continuing to adapt and overcome throughout the various lockdown and bubble closures. Equally, as families you supported your children brilliantly and so they have never stopped learning and connecting as a school community. As a result, we are celebrating some great achievements across the whole school this summer and feeling proud that our children are well prepared and equipped for their next stages. Year 6 have grown to be fantastic learners and have worked hard, showing determination and resilience. So, well done to Year 6 - carry these qualities with you as you begin your next stage of your education. Also Year 2, who have also shown great resilience and have had a huge learning journey as they missed so much of their early education in school. They have also done brilliantly in their Key Stage 1 SATS. Well done to Year 1 for performing wonderfully in their phonics screening check - our highest phonics score so far and to Year 4 for their fantastic performance in the very first Multiplication Tables Check. Well done to every class, we are very proud of each and every one of you.

SAYING GOODBYE TO YEAR 6:

As we prepare to say goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 pupils (and also Mrs Hardman and Mrs Shore), a polite reminder that our Leavers' Service will take place on Tuesday 19th July at **9:15am in church**. Church will be open from 8:45am where tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

A huge thank you to St Mary's Church for kindly paying for the bibles which will be presented to Year 6 during the service.

The staff and Governors at St Mary's School wish Year 6 the very best wishes for their futures as they embark on the next stage of their journey. They have been a great cohort, who we are confident will go on to achieve great things in their secondary schools and beyond! We hope they come back and let us know how they have settled into their new secondary schools.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Last Week saw many of our children return to the Queen Elizabeth Hall to attend and perform at the Oldham Music festival. Well done to our Choir, Woodwind group and Wind Band who were once again excellent ambassadors for the school; not only when taking to the stage but also when watching the other schools too. All groups received fabulous comments from the adjudicator and we were delighted to be awarded a trophy for our Wind Band. Well done and thank you to all the staff and pupils involved and for their dedication to the successful music provision at St Mary's



Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE:

Prevent a dip in your child's reading ability and find lots of free activities over the summer with Oldham Libraries and the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge. Children are invited to sign up for free at their local library where they will be encouraged to read six books of their choice. They will be able to collect incentives along the way, and if they complete the challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate at their local library. There will also be plenty of free activities at all Oldham Libraries throughout the summer, including free hot meals.

For more information visit www.oldham.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge, pop into your local library and watch our video: <https://youtu.be/yzLeAXilKHw>

YEAR 5 APPLICATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

How you apply for a place at secondary school depends on where you live. The application has to be made to the Local Authority in which you live. Please see below for further details.

Oldham Residents:

Your child is due to start secondary school in September 2023. This is a very exciting and important time. I am writing to make you aware of how and when you need to apply and where to access information to guide you through this process.

You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website. It's quick and easy and ensures school offers can be made efficiently via e-mail. Applying on-line is the only form of application, as Oldham Council no longer provides paper application forms.

The online system will open on **1 August 2022** and close at **5pm on 31 October 2022**.

It is recommended that a **minimum** of three preferences are made for any application.

If you don't have access to the internet, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, these are very easy to set up and staff will be happy to help.

Some voluntary aided schools may want you to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation in addition to the application. Supplementary forms are available from and returned to the relevant school.

To enable you to have a look at what is on offer, all Oldham secondary schools will be holding open evenings during the autumn term. You will be able to access further information, a guide and links to school websites by logging onto www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

The closing date for all applications is **5pm 31 October 2022**. Any application received after this time will be classed as late and will not be processed until all the on time applications have been allocated a school place. Should you have any initial queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Team by telephone on 0161 770 4213.

Rochdale Residents:

Parents of children who live in Rochdale should check the 'School Places' section of the Rochdale council website for details of the application process and deadlines (www.rochdale.gov.uk). Alternatively you can contact the Admissions Team on telephone 0300 303 0340 or email school.admissions@rochdale.gov.uk for further information.

LUNCHTIMES

Due to the increasing costs of food and fuel prices, there will be a very small increase in the cost of school meal. From September 2022 a school meal will cost £2.50 per day. This is an increase of 10p compared with the LA costing which will be in £2.80 in September. Governors have worked very hard to keep any cost increase to a minimum to support parents as much as possible. Please take a look at the lunch menus on our school website.

LINKS WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH

On Wednesday 6th July Mother Katy and Mother Dorothy led St. Mary's School Eucharist, alongside Year 6 pupils. The Eucharist was a very special service with Year 6 leading prayers and readings, choosing the hymns and taking up the offertory. My thanks to the parents who joined us. Pupils and parents, throughout the school, commented positively about the service and what a lovely way it was to begin the school day.



Pupils have continued to enjoy circle time and Worship from Mother Katy and Father Paul. This half term we have been thinking about our Christian Value Trust.

It was so lovely to see so many of our pupils and families at St. Mary's Donkey Derby. It was a fabulous day and extremely well supported, thank you to the Men's Society for all their hard work and effort in making this such a spectacular event and thank you to everyone who helped in any way and to the School Choir for opening the event. A huge thank you to St Mary's Church for their donation of half of the proceeds to School. Such funds enable school to provide the additional resources for our pupils.

SPORT SUMMARY

What a year of sport we've had! Considering everything we've been through over the last couple of years, St Mary's has continued to commit to helping our pupils become aspiring sporting heroes.

We have appointed Health Champions and Sports Ambassadors, who have done a sterling job in promoting healthy lifestyles in school and beyond. We have been active participants in the local Royton and Shaw sports cluster - coming away champions in Cross Country, Inclusion Handball, Girls' Football and Cricket. We have had several friendly football matches against local schools, which have also been fantastic sporting events.

Our extra-curricular provision continues to be ambitious, and this year we have been privileged to offer badminton, netball, football, gymnastics, Anna's dance, and a lunchtime sports club. Looking forward to September, we already hope to be the lead school in organising the local football league of ten schools, whilst continuing to look for successes in cluster group competitions.

The ambition continues to be that we help our pupils to build their confidence that is needed to try new things, to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to 'live life in all its fullness'.

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

150 Club

The next draw will be on Tuesday 19th July. This draw will include the end of term £500 draw.

When we return in September we will complete the draws for August and September.

School Disco

Reminder the Summer Leavers' Disco for all pupils in school is on Thursday 14th July. Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the Infant disco as well as the Junior disco to meet up with their Reception Buddies. As a thank you and leaving gift to pupils in Year 6, there is no charge for entry to the disco. All other pupils will be charged as usual.

Reception and KS 1 Disco: 6:15 - 7:15pm

KS 2 Disco: 7:30- 8:30pm.

Raffle

Please do not forget to purchase your raffle tickets, details have been sent home; tickets also available in the school office and on the morning of the Leavers' service in church. There are 3 amazing prizes to be won.

HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME:

A reminder that holidays taken during term time will always be unauthorised. You may also be subject to a fixed penalty notice as per the local authority guidelines, you can find details at

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200226/schools_and_colleges/1834/poor_attendance_at_school_-_penalty_notices

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Below are details of the Holiday programmes available through Oldham Council are available this summer

Holiday activities and food (HAF)

These start as soon as school finishes for the school holidays. They are free for children and young people aged 5+ who are eligible for the free school meals (FSM). Those not eligible for the FSM benefit can still participate at a small cost.

Please see the HAF web link below:

www.oldham.gov.uk/haf

More Holiday Activities

Fantastic free opportunity for children aged 6 - 11 alongside a paid for option with Sports Camps at both Failsworth and Radclyffe, as well as a Dance camp at Failsworth. FSM Children will also receive a hot meal.

Families can book on using the following link:

<https://oclactive.co.uk/holidaycampbookings/>

Return to School In September:

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that **school will re-open for pupils on Tuesday 6th September.**

Kind regards,
P.A Hartley
Headteacher