

**ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(Aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOVER**



HEADTEACHER:
Mr Matthew Lamprell
(B.Sc. Hons, PGCE, NPQH)

Laureston Place
Dover, Kent, CT16 1QX
Telephone: (01304) 206887
Fax: (01304) 205152
email: office@stmarysprimary.net
www.st-marys-dover.kent.sch.uk

'Learning for life with God as our guide'

2nd September 2026

Dear Parent/Carers

Welcome Back!

Hello and welcome to a new school year. I hope you have all had a good summer. We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families over the coming weeks as well as catching up with all our returning families. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff, for the cards, gifts and best wishes received at the end of last term – they were all very much appreciated.

Thank you also for supporting us with our school uniform; the children all look very smart and ready for learning!

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our new Free Breakfast Club will start from week beginning Monday, 7th September as per the following schedule:-

Week beginning Monday, 7th September:-

Monday, 7th September – Open to Year 6 pupils and their siblings
Tuesday, 8th September – Open to Year 6 and 5 pupils and their siblings
Wednesday, 9th September – Open to Years 6, 5 and 4 pupils and their siblings
Thursday, 10th September – Open to Years 6, 5, 4 and 3 pupils and their siblings
Friday, 11th September – Open to Years 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 pupils and their siblings.

As from the week beginning Monday, 14th September the Free Breakfast Club will be open to all pupils.

If you would like your child to attend the Free Breakfast Club please bring them to the Laureston Place gate which will open at 8am. This is the only entrance that will be opened at this time. Please note that this gate will be closed at 8:30am and entrance to Breakfast Club after this time will not be permitted.

If you do not wish your child to attend the Free Breakfast Club they should arrive at school as usual between 8:40am and 8:55am at either the Laureston Place entrance for Years R, 1 and 2 or the Maison Dieu Road/Ashen Tree Lane entrance for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

We look forward to welcoming your child to our Breakfast Club.

After School Childcare Service

We offer after school wraparound care through Olympus Learning Collective with flexible collection times and pricing:

- **Until 4:15pm** – £5.50
- **Until 5:00pm** – £10.00 (*includes a hot snack*)
- **Until 5:45pm** – £14.00 (*includes a hot snack*)

All sessions should be booked in advance using Olympus Learning Collective's online booking system



Canterbury Diocesan
Board of Education



(Olympuslc.magicbooking.co.uk). This can be accessed by scanning the QR code below:-



Same-day bookings online can be made up until 11:00am. After this time, availability cannot be guaranteed.

If you need to request a booking after this time, please contact Olympus Learning Collective on **07879 755588** or email stmarys@olympuslearningcollective.co.uk

Please note that responses may not be immediate, as messages can take time to be received and processed.

Olympus Learning Collective accept **Tax-Free Childcare**, which can save you up to 20% on fees. They also work alongside **Universal Credit**, allowing eligible families to claim back a portion of childcare costs.

'Meet the teacher' for Classes 1 - 6

Parent/carers are invited into school on Wednesday, 9th September at 3.15pm to visit the classroom to meet the teacher, say hello and have a look at their child's learning environment. There will be a presentation on the classroom screen showing relevant information – days for PE etc. – as well as a copy for you to take away. If you have more than one child at school you will be able to visit each class.

Sport

Children in classes 1-6 will need to bring a PE kit to school in a draw-string bag which they will keep on their peg. Please support us, and your child, by ensuring they have a full PE kit in school every day. As a minimum, all children need a pair of blue shorts, a house colour T-shirt, a pair of plimsolls for indoor PE and a pair of trainers to work outside. These items should be at school every day of the week and kept in a suitable draw string bag - **NO** carrier bags please.

We suggest that tracksuit bottoms/joggers and a warm top are brought in for outdoor games during the colder months.

Reception Class will have PE every Thursday and should arrive at school on that day dressed in their PE Kit.

I thank you in advance for your support with this important matter and look forward to seeing 100% sport participation at St Mary's!

Water Bottles

Please send in a water bottle every day with fresh water. Children may bring an additional flavoured drink to have at lunchtime.

READING BOOKS AND HOMEWORK

All children will bring home a reading book and Reading Record book by Friday, 4th September. Homework will be set during the week beginning 7th September for classes 1-6. Further information regarding homework and home reading expectations will be shared at the forthcoming 'Meet the teacher' session.

Reception class parent/carers – please ensure you have bought your child a Reading Book Bag which can be purchased from www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk. Remember to use our voucher code **STMDFC** for free delivery. These bags are essential in keeping our stock of reading books in good order.

We recognise that as they move into upper Key Stage 2, children will start to not use a reading book bag and ask, therefore, that parent/carers assist their children in looking after the books.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We hold a daily act of Collective Worship which all children attend.

On Fridays we have a 'Celebration Collective Worship'. Sometimes a class will perform at this and parent/carers of these children are invited to attend. These dates are shown below and reminders are sent nearer the time.

Class R – Friday, 7th May 2027
Class 1 – Friday, 12th March 2027
Class 2 – Friday, 16th October 2026
Class 3 – Friday, 22nd January 2027
Class 4 – Friday, 9th October 2026
Class 5 – Friday, 18th June 2027
Class 6 – Friday, 15th January 2027

In addition, we celebrate birthdays every Friday – children who have a birthday from the Monday of the week to the Sunday are acknowledged. So, for example, on Friday 11th September, children who have birthdays which fall on Monday 7th – Sunday 13th September will be given a candle to bring home and will be sung to by the school.

SAFETY REMINDERS:

Cars

Please be advised that the zig-zag areas outside the school gates are **not to be parked on between 8:30am-9:30am and 2:30pm-4pm**. These measures are in place to protect all members of our school community and your co-operation is anticipated and appreciated. If you are travelling to school by car, please note that the St James Retail Park allows 60 minutes free parking (this is any time during the day, but you will need to get a ticket from the machine) and there is no charge before 9am.

Mobile 'Phones

Please be reminded that children are not, under any circumstances, to have mobile 'phones with them during the school day or on school trips. They are not to bring these to school, we will not collect them in and look after them. If your child has a mobile 'phone it must remain at home.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Play Equipment

Our play equipment in the playground is designed for children between 4 and 11 years old, pre-school children are not to use the play equipment at any time. The children are supervised during the break and lunch times by staff when using it. The equipment is **NOT** to be used by any children before or after school hours.

TERM DATES

As you will know from previous correspondence, holiday during term time will not be authorised and Penalty Notices (a fine) can be issued to parents who take children on holiday during term time. To assist you in booking holiday outside of term time, term dates for 2026/2027 are noted below for ease of

reference. Information regarding our staff training days is also indicated below. Please note that children are not required to attend school on staff training days.

Term Dates 2026-2027

TERM 1 2026	1 September 2026 - 23 October 2026
TERM 2 2026	2 November 2026 - 18 December 2026
TERM 3 2027	4 January 2027 - 12 February 2027
TERM 4 2027	22 February 2027 – 25 March 2027
TERM 5 2027	12 April 2027 - 28 May 2027
TERM 6 2027	7 June 2027 - 21 July 2027

Staff Training Days (children not required to attend school)

1st September 2026
2nd November 2026
4th January 2027
5th January 2027
28th May 2027

Dates for 2026/2027 Academic Year

I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice of some of the events, meetings and festivals that will be taking place during this academic year. Please note however, that although events are planned, they may be subject to change or cancellation.

Term 1

01.09.26	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
02.09.26	Children in Years 1 to 6 return to school for Term 1
02.09.26	New Year R children start school at 8:40am and finish at 12 midday
03.09.26 & 04.09.26	New Year R children start school at 8:40am and finish at 1:15pm
07.09.26	New Year R children start full days at school
09.09.26	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm – Years 1 to 6
10.09.26	Kent Test Day for Year 6 children who have opted to take test
18.09.26	Swimming for Year 6 starts
29.09.26	Harvest Festival at 9:30am – Classes 1 – 6
02.10.26	Be smart odd socks day
09.10.26	Class 4 Family Collective Worship
16.10.26	Class 2 Family Collective Worship
23.10.26	Last day of Term 1

Term 2

02.11.26	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
03.11.26	Children return to school for Term 2
06.11.26	Swimming for Year 5 starts
06.11.26	Primary School Applications Open for Reception Class September 2027
13.11.26	Individual Pupil School Photographs
w/b 16.11.26	Mental Health and Wellbeing Week
16.11.26	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 6:00pm (by appointment)
17.11.26	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes R, 3 & 5) between 1:15pm and 3:15pm (by appointment)
19.11.26	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes 1, 2, 4 & 6) between 1:15pm and 3:15pm (by appointment)

	appointment)
20.11.26	Children in Need Day
02.12.26	KS2 Pantomime trip
04.12.26	Class R and KS1 Cinema trip
09.12.26	KS2 Christmas Disco 3:30pm – 5:00pm
09.12.26	Reception Class Christmas event 2:15pm
10.12.26	KS1 Infant Nativity 2:15pm
15.12.26	KS2 Carol Concert - 1:30pm
16.12.26	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
17.12.26	Christmas Party Day
18.12.26	Last Day of Term 2

Term 3

04.01.27	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
05.01.27	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school
06.01.27	Children return to school for Term 3
15.01.27	Primary School Applications Close for Reception Class September 2027
15.01.27	Class 6 Family Collective Worship
22.01.27	Class 3 Family Collective Worship
05.02.27	NSPCC Number Day
10.02.27	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
12.02.27	Last Day of Term 3

Term 4

22.02.27	Children return to school for Term 4
04.03.27	World Book Day
04.03.27	Book Fair Opens
08.03.27	Parent/Carer Consultations (Classes R to 6) between 3:30pm and 6:00pm (by Appointment)
09.03.27	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes R, 3 & 5) between 1:15pm and 3:15pm (by appointment)
11.03.27	Parent/Teacher Consultations (Classes 1, 2, 4 & 6) between 1:15pm and 3:15pm (by appointment)
12.03.27	Class 1 Family Collective Worship
23.03.27	Easter Service, morning
24.03.27	Easter Egg Hunt 3:15pm
25.03.27	Last Day of Term 4

Term 5

12.04.27	Children return to school for Term 5
29.04.27	Class Photographs
03.05.27	BANK HOLIDAY– School Closed
07.05.27	Class R Family Collective Worship
w/b 10.05.27	KS2 SATs week for Class 6
26.05.27	Open Afternoon at 3:15pm
27.05.27	Last day of Term 5 for the children
28.05.27	Staff INSET Day – children do not attend school

Term 6

07.06.27	Children return to school for Term 6
w/b 14.06.27	Parent/Carer Consultations (Class 5) about Process for Entry to Secondary Education (PESE)
w/b 14.06.27	Class 6 Bikeability
18.06.27	Class 5 Family Collective Worship
23.06.27	Sports Day for Classes R, 1 and 2, afternoon
24.06.27	Sports Day for Classes 3, 4, 5 and 6, afternoon
29.06.27	Reserve Sports Day for Classes R, 1 & 2, afternoon
30.06.27	Reserve Sports Day for Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6, afternoon
01.07.27	Whole school transition day
02.07.27	Whole school transition day
w/b 05.07.27	Class 6 Activity Week
09.07.27	Whole School Grand Day Out
15.07.27	Class 6 Play at 6pm
20.07.27	Leavers' Service 10:00am
20.07.27	Class 6 Prom 4:30pm to 6:00pm
21.07.27	Last day of Term 6 for the children

We will, of course, notify you of any additions or changes as soon as possible.

We are looking forward to another successful year. Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to any of the staff – we are always very happy to clarify any aspect of our work and to help you with matters related to your child.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Lamprell
Headteacher