St Mary's CE Primary School

'Trust in the Lord and Flourish' (Proverbs 11:28)

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Headteacher: Mrs Nathalie Milhavy-Jones *BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NASENCO, SLE*

Friday 24th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we finish for our half term break today, I wanted to wish you and the children a good week off and also provide you with some updated information.

Firstly, I wish to say a huge well done to our Year 6 class for their effort and positive attitude to learning this half term. Last week, when they completed their Year 6 SATS, they were sensible, mature and tried their absolute best which is all we can ask for. They have engaged extremely well in the preparations for SATS, consistently arriving at school early to be part of SATS booster sessions and for our SATS breakfast during test week itself. I wish to thank the children and also Mr Holmes and Mrs Spickernell, in particular, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the children felt confident and well-prepared for the tests and were also here bright and early each day to deliver the booster sessions.

We have seen our children engage in so many positive activities this half-term, both curricular and extra-curricular. I have been very proud to watch our Year 2, 4 and 5 classes perform brilliant class assemblies and have also been wowed by the parental attendance for them. Thank you for being so supportive of your child's / children's learning. Many of our children have taken part in a variety of sporting events this half term. Most recently, a group of children had the opportunity to play football at the Wolves Molineux Stadium and even better, they were able to wear a brand new school football kit following Year 6's written requests for sponsorship. We have had trips go out to Cadbury's World, Bishop's Wood Field Studies Council centre and Twycross zoo and have further trips planned for next half term too.

ARK - Wrap around care provision

Following parent consultation, we have made the decision to extend the hours for our wrap around care provision from September 2024. From the Autumn term, Ark will open at **7.30am and close at 5.30pm Monday – Friday**. We are currently in the process of reviewing our food and activities offer too with a view to ensuring we cater for all our children's needs fully and that they are provided with a good variety of suitably healthy snacks and breakfast options, in sufficient quantity. We are due to consult with our School Parliament members regarding activity choices for our older pupils in particular. To be able to facilitate the earlier start time we are having to slightly increase charges for ARK sessions from September. Charges will be as follows:

Morning session **(7.30 – 8.40am)**	£5.50 per child
Afternoon session 1 **(3.20pm – 4.20pm)**	£5.00 per child
Afternoon session 2 **(4.20pm – 5.30pm)**	£4.50 per child

Timings for the school day

From September 2024, the Department for Education has said that all schools must be completing a school week of 32.5 hours. For your information I have copied an excerpt from their guidance materials below:

'The 32.5 hour minimum expectation includes the time in each day from the official start of the school day (i.e. morning registration) to the official end of the compulsory school day (i.e. official home time). The 32.5 hour minimum includes lunch times and other breaks as well as teaching time and any enrichment activities that all pupils are expected to attend. It does not include optional before or after school provision.' (DfE Length of the school week, non-statutory guidance, July 2023)

Presently, we find our school day timings result in us being slightly short on the 32.5 hours directive. Therefore, from September, our school day timings will be as follows:

Morning	
Gate opens	*8.40am*
Gate closes and registration is taken	*8.50am*
Afternoon	
End of the school day for all children	*3.20pm*

Uniform

Please may I remind parents and children to ensure they comply with our school uniform policy wherever possible. If your child is in incorrect uniform, we will notify you of this via the school text messaging service so that the matter can be addressed. As you know, wearing correct school uniform helps us to instil a sense of pride and belonging in our children. Should you have any questions regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Nathalie Milhavy-Jones

Headteacher

(Mrs N Milhavy-Jones)