



Hermes – Our School Newsletter - Michaelmas Term



@stmaryskl



@StMarysKL



@stmaryskl

Dear Parents,

Once again, I want to thank you for the way in which our families are conducting themselves whilst picking up the children at the end of the day. You will be aware that we, like most schools, want to look after the children and staff of the school in addition to those dropping off and picking up the children. The measures reiterated below, will be additionally inconvenient at times, however, I know they will make a difference. They will help everyone feel safer and provide parents with greater reassurance. Equally as part of safety measures, If your child has an agreed EHCP or SEN review meeting, this is most likely to be completed online at the moment.

You will have seen in the last newsletter, that we are planning to do Christmas in a different way. We are looking forward to filming the Early Years Nativity and the Carol Service. We will also be arranging to meet Santa Claus in the woodland area at some point. Very exciting!

One aspect of education we are keen to maintain, is a high level of attendance in school. Following this, we are reviewing attendance regularly for patterns of absence and trying hard to promote good attendance. For many families, they recognise the importance of having children in school from a practical point of view and also recognising valuable education and social impact of being in school. Soon, you may receive an email/text highlighting your child's attendance. This will be for information only, however if the attendance is below 90% we are likely to follow this up. If anyone's attendance is significantly below this then we may require a further conversation to talk through any issues and agree improved attendance targets. This may be followed up by an inclusion officer from the local authority taking part in an attendance review. Please do not be concerned if we have already agreed the medical reasons for absence.

This week, we will be launching our school video and prospectus for parents whose children are starting in Nursey or Reception. Whilst not the ideal situation, it will provide prospective parents with a small and helpful window into the life of the school. We hope it will assist families who are making decisions about the school.

Cordially,

*Mr Jones*

Mr Jones

Honesty



Trust



Responsibility



Perseverance



Respect



## Additional Restrictions

### Polite Reminder of our newest restrictions:



- Drop off or pick up should be with one adult only.



- Please **do not wait** after your child has been handed over to meet with other parents on the school grounds or surrounding paths/roads



- If your child has forgotten something – we will not be allowing adults to bring things to the main office for them.

Diwali Day 17<sup>th</sup> Nov. – PE Kit needed.

We will be taking part in dance tomorrow, so please wear PE Kit (YR-6). There will be lots of craft also!

## Fair trade – Traidcraft Calendars

You will be aware that we normally sell fair trade goods each term and also at the PTA School Fair. This year will obviously be different, so Mrs Neale is offering an alternative this year. Please look at the offer below:

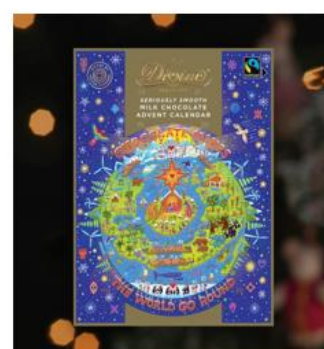
### FAIRTRADE CHOCOLATE ADVENT CALENDARS



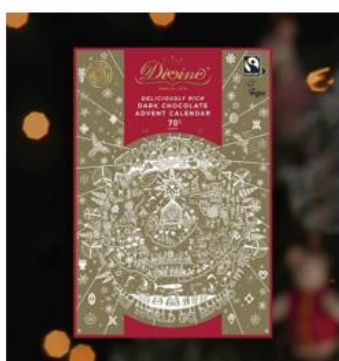
Countdown to Christmas with some tasty Fairtrade chocolate 🍫 Indulge in a moment of bliss and choose chocolate that has given cocoa farmers a fair price. Make this Christmas fairer with Fairtrade food and drink delights here at Traidcraft.



£4



£5



£5

If you would like to order any of the calendars, then please contact Mrs. Neale on:

[sneale@stmarys-kl.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:sneale@stmarys-kl.cumbria.sch.uk)

First come.....

'When they're gone, they're gone!'

One of our PTA members has set up a page for virtual Christmas shopping for the local shops/businesses in and around Kirkby Lonsdale who are always supporting our school for things like Christmas raffles/Summer fairs. It would be met with huge gratitude if you could go and take a look and try and do your Christmas shopping as locally as you can to try and give something back and repay their generosity. Here is the link if you would like to take a peek.

<https://www.facebook.com/Kirkby-Lonsdale-Virtual-Christmas-Shopping-105835398009207/>

## Christmas Nativity (Year N and R) and Christmas Carol Service

You will be aware that we are doing Christmas in a different way this year. If you are new to school, Reception typically perform a Nativity in Church and all of the school take part in a Candle Lit Service at 6:00pm on the second Wednesday before we break up.

This year we will not be able to do this and we are producing films of these to then put up on our website. We are aware that various families do not allow their children to be put on social media and also the school website. We are mindful that families may want to share the video(s) on our website with loved ones, who are unable to meet with each other this year.



If you would **not like your child** to take part in the Nativity or Carols Service because they will be visible on the video, could you please inform your child's class teacher.

## Attendance – Facts

-If your child's attendance drops below **96%** a letter will be sent home to inform you and you will be invited to attend an attendance clinic with the Head of School and/or Education Welfare Officer in order to set targets to ensure that this improves.

-Poor attendees will be supported by the Education Welfare Officer.

-Where attendance is a cause for concern the Education Welfare Officer will visit the home to offer support on how to improve attendance.

Poor attendance can lead to fines and /or prosecution. Parents/carers have the legal responsibility to ensure that their children are in school during term time.

If you take your child on a **2 week holiday** in term time, attendance for the year **immediately drops to 95%.**

### Do you know how much learning children miss out on?

Minutes late per day	Equal days worth of
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days

**90% attendance means 1/2 a days absence each week; 4 weeks over the year & half a years absence over 5 years!!**

## Attendance Ladder



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## Christmas Calendar

- December 10<sup>th</sup> Hanukkah Day
- December 14<sup>th</sup> **Reindeer Rush** – Whole School will be taking part in the annual Fun Run. This year they will be running in their bubbles – not as a whole school. Reindeer Antlers Provided.  
*Year 5 and 6 Party (pm)*
- December 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Carols Film Launched  
*Nursery and Reception Party (am)*  
*Year 3 and 4 Party (pm)*
- December 16<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Dinner – please wear Santa hats  
Outdoor visit to see Santa
- December 17<sup>th</sup> Nativity Film Launched  
*Year 1 and 2 Party (pm)*
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Cinema Morning and Craft  
School Term Ends – **1:15pm**

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## *Spring Term 2021*

<b>Term Starts</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>Ends</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
<b>Half Term</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> to the 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Good Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021	
Easter Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	
Bank Holiday Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	

## *Summer Term 2021*

<b>Starts</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<b>Ends</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Half Term</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> May to the 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Bank Holiday Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	

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