

NEWSLETTER



September 2023

'Always treat others as you would like them to treat you'

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope that you all have had a lovely summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school on Monday.

There will be important information being sent home over the next few weeks, so please make sure you check bags regularly for any letters and make sure you have signed up to Class Dojo as this is the main platform we will use for communication.

Newsletters will be sent home each term and will have the dairy dates for all events /assemblies /trips included so please take the time to read it every term as dates can occasionally change. May I remind that we have an open-door policy, which means you can speak with your child's class teacher, or myself regarding any concerns or queries you may have.

With kind regards,
Miss Mackay

St. Brendan's Church

The school would like to give a warm welcome to our new parish priest Father Mark Floody who is looking forward to working with us. I am sure we will all help him to settle in here at St. Brendan's. After meeting with him and Mrs. Brydon today, he would like to invite everyone to church. Below are the times for mass:

Saturday: 6PM

Sunday: 9.30AM and 11.00 AM

Staffing

I would like to start the year by welcoming a number of new members of staff to the St Brendan's family. We have three new teachers joining the team: Miss King in year one; Miss Campbell in year four and Miss Sharkey in year five. We wish them all the best for their first term with us and I hope they feel welcomed by everyone at St Brendan's.

Miss Rose will continue to support another school in our trust and will be working with us on Wednesday and Thursday.

School Day

We will continue with our staggered start to the school day with the gates opening at **8.40am** and closing promptly at **8.50am**. If you arrive after 8.50am please accompany your child to the school office for them to be signed into school on the late register.

We will all finish the school day at 3.20pm.

Please support us by ensuring your child's attendance is the best it can be by being in school on time each day and not taking any holidays during term time.

Early Bird Maths

We will be continuing with Early Bird Maths this year so we ask if your child can be in and ready to start their learning at 8.50 AM. Again, we would just like to reiterate that if every child is in school on time for this every day then they will complete an extra 65 hours of maths skills over the year. This will only help them deepen and strengthen their mathematical thinking.

Superstar Learners

Each week during our Monday morning assembly we will announce a superstar learner from each class. This is in addition to our celebration certificates for our curriculum foundations, as this recognises children who consistently demonstrate positive learning behaviours, are on time ready to learn each day and who show extra determination, resilience or dedication towards their learning during the week. The children who are superstar learners will be invited to a reward of hot chocolate and cake with Miss Mackay on a Friday.

Breakfast and Tea Time Club

We continue to host our after school wraparound care club until 5:30pm every evening which can be booked via the Parentmail app. St Brendan's no longer run a breakfast wraparound care club.

We now have LM Academy hosting our breakfast and afterschool sports club each day. A time table and booking availability can be found on their website. Any children attending LM Academy clubs need to be registered and pre-booked directly through LM Academy in line with their safeguarding procedures. Children cannot just turn up for this club, if you need any help with booking your child into the breakfast club, please contact the school office.

All clubs held within St Brendan's require booking in advance to secure a space.

How to Keep Children Safe

Each month we will send home links from the county website for you to read so that you can be aware of any updates/information on issues that may put your child at risk. The first link is all about online safety with children. This will be sent home on Dojo too so that you can access the information.

<http://www.northamptonshirescb.org.uk/parents-carers/esafety/>

Meet the Teacher Presentations

Meet the Teacher Presentations have already started this year with a fantastic turnout for year six yesterday. This is a chance for parents to meet your child's new teacher and find out what the intended learning for the coming year is. Information will be on: the curriculum, any trips teachers have planned and about statutory testing in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6. I hope that parents will find these meetings useful and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. The meetings will take place in the school hall at 3.30pm on the following dates:

Thursday 7 th September	Year five pupils
Friday 8 th September	Year four pupils
Monday 11 th September	Year three pupils
Tuesday 12 th September	Year two pupils
Wednesday 13 th September	Year one pupils
Thursday 14 th September	EYFS parents

School PE KITS

We will continue the routine of children attending school in their PE kits on the days they have PE, this will be shared in the children's class newsletter. As this is in place of the school uniform, it is really important that the correct school PE kit is worn, not football kits or branded sportswear.

PE kit should be:

- *sky blue round neck t-shirt
- *plain navy jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts - not branded tracksuits
- *plain navy hoodie or a school sweatshirt is acceptable - not branded hoodies.
- *trainers

It is important that PE kit is school uniform and school colours. By following the dress code, it also makes it easier for children who are chosen to represent the school at sporting events as they all have the same PE uniform to wear.

Nut free school

Please can I remind all parents that we do have children in the school with nut allergies and we try to ensure that we are a **nut free school**. It is important that there is strict avoidance to this food in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. Any exposure to peanuts may cause a life-threatening allergic reaction that requires emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you **do not send any peanut or peanut containing products to school** with your child e.g. peanut butter. If your child has eaten peanuts before coming to school, please be sure your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school

EYFS and Key Stage 1 Free School Meals

All children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are entitled to have a free school meal. If you wish for your child to receive this then please go online to www.kingswoodcatering.co.uk and register. You must order the meal online the week before and the school will be charged accordingly.

Please be aware that these meals are not free to the school if your child is not registered for a Kingswood meal on our census day (Thursday 5th October) as the school **only** receives funding for the number of children who have a school dinner on that day and we of course would like to receive the maximum funding to enable us to spend other funds on all of the children, on books, resources or

visitors to the school. To help us to receive funding, please sign your child up for a Kingswood meal - hot or packed lunch - before **Wednesday 29th September**. Thank you

We will notify you of the Christmas dinner date as soon as we have been informed.

Free School Meals - Pupil Premium

We are all aware of the rising cost of living crisis we are currently living in, please remember the Free School Meals that is available from North Northants Council if you are eligible. The form takes minutes to complete and the information you share on there is confidential and not shared with school. It may be one way of support or help during this difficult time that you may not be aware of. If you think you may be eligible please use the link below for more information.

[Free school meals and pupil premium | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk)

Please remember this is different to the universal infant free school meals, where every child in EYFS, Year 1 and 2 are eligible for. If you are successful in your free school meal application the school office will be notified by your child's names joining our list and you will be sent further information from us as we offer a bespoke package for our children who are eligible, this includes,

*one set of school uniform

*a home learning pack to support learning at home

*a Chromebook (from Year 1)

*£25 worth of reading books each term, individual to your child

*all school trips paid for

*school lunches paid for

*an opportunity to participate in learning a musical instrument, taking part in a sporting or coding club, or attending breakfast or afterschool club free of charge.

If you have any questions about free school meals or pupil premium please speak with Mrs Brydon.

Inhalers

Please can I ask that all parents of children who suffer from asthma and have inhalers in school to fill in a Medication Consent Form, which can be obtained from the school office, if you have not already done so. Please provide your child's class teacher with an inhaler that can be kept in school and ensure that it is in date and clearly marked with your child's name.

Reminders for the New Term

Please encourage your child to bring the correct equipment to school on the correct day this year. You will be receiving a curriculum newsletter from your child's class teacher tomorrow which will inform you of PE days. Can I remind you that, with the exception of stud earrings, **jewellery should not be worn in school**. The children have difficulty in removing earrings, so it is easier not to wear these on the days that they have PE. Staff are not allowed to remove earrings under North Northamptonshire Council guidance.

Please remember that children who bring in a snack for the morning break should bring in a **healthy snack**, such as a piece of fruit or vegetable in Key Stage 2. As a school we aim to comply with the Healthy Eating Standards for schools and I would appreciate your support in encouraging the children to eat healthily.

Important Dates for the School Year:

6 th - 13 th September:	Meet the Teacher Presentations
14 th September:	Flu vaccinations in school
Tuesday 26 th September:	European Day of Languages
1 st October:	Black history month in schools
Week Beginning 9 th October:	Parent consultations (dates and times will be shared at a later date)
10 th October:	World Mental Health Day
20 th October:	School finishes for 2 week half term
Monday 6 th November:	Back to school
Tuesday 7 th November:	Individual photo day
Week beginning 13 th November:	Anti-bullying and Road Safety Week
Friday 24 th November:	Training Day for staff
Week beginning 11 th December:	Christmas Productions for school (dates and times will be shared at a later date)
Wednesday 20 th December:	Last day of term
Thursday 4 th January 2024:	School reopens
Friday 12 th January:	Young Voices for the school choir
Wednesday 17 th January:	Rock Kids
Week beginning 5 th February:	Mental Health Week
Thursday 8 th February:	Class photo day
Friday 16 th February:	Last day of school
Monday 26 th February:	School opens
Thursday 7 th March:	World Book Day
Week beginning 11 th March:	Science Week
Week beginning 18 th March:	Parent consultations (dates and times will be shared at a later date)
Thursday 28 th March - Last day of term	
Monday 15 th April:	School reopens and Art Day
Week beginning 13 th May:	SATS week for Year 6 pupils
Week beginning 2 nd June:	Multiplication check (year four) and Phonics Check (year one)
Week beginning 23 rd June:	Sports week
Week beginning 15 th July:	End of year assemblies for year groups (dates and times will be shared at a later date)
Wednesday 24 th July:	Last day of term

Prayer for the New School Year

Please share this prayer with your child

Loving God, we come to you at this new beginning of the school year.

In You we trust

We have been many places during the summer

In You we trust

Our journey has brought us back to this place and to this time together.

In You we trust

We know that this is not by accident, but by your intimate design for each of us.

In You we trust

Amen

