



Archdiocese of Birmingham
St. Mary's Catholic Academy
Principal: Mrs S Rathbone BA (Hons) NPQH,
Ford Green Road, Norton-le-Moors, Stoke on Trent, ST6 8EZ
Telephone 01782 234820 Fax 01782 236523
Email: office@stmarysnewman.co.uk
www. www.stmarysstoke.co.uk.

Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Attendance at school is important and recent research shows pupils with the highest rates of attainment have higher rates of attendance. Missing school for even a day can mean a child is less likely to achieve their full potential, which can have a damaging effect on their life chances. At St Mary's we encourage all pupils to strive for the best attendance which they can achieve; every day and every lesson counts.

Our aim is to work with parents to ensure that all our pupils receive the most from their educational experiences and reach their full potential. The Department for Education guidance regarding attendance clearly states that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances and schools must continue to take steps to reduce absence to support children's attainment. Where possible, dental and medical appointments should be made outside of school hours.

We were very proud that week beginning Monday 22nd January we had 4 classes with 100% attendance. In addition to our weekly attendance award, annual 100% attendance trip and the class attendance prize, we will be implementing a new and exciting initiative to promote positive attendance across the school.

Throughout the academic year, a total of 10 weeks will be chosen at random. During that week, every day a child comes to school on time they will receive a ticket, therefore if a child comes to school on time for 3 days they will get 3 tickets, if they come to school on time for 5 days, they will get 5 tickets. The tickets will then be placed into a draw and one name will be drawn out in Friday's assembly. The winner will receive a £10 toy voucher and a £15 supermarket voucher.

We hope that this new initiative encourages parents and children to attend school on time, every day. Thank you for your continued support in working with us to further improve attendance at St Mary's.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rathbone

