



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](mailto:office@stmarysnewman.co.uk)  
www. [www.stmarysstoke.co.uk](http://www.stmarysstoke.co.uk).



Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents,

As we draw to the end of this half term, I would like to thank you for your continued support. We have had a very busy and successful half term, with many things to celebrate.

A huge well done to all children who represented the school on sporting events this half term – cross-country, football, basketball and change for life events. A great display of skill and sportsmanship by all! Thank you.

Both our Year 5 and Year 6 classes have had residential trips this half term. Year 6 went to Stanley Head for a week of outdoor adventure and Year 5 visited Alton Castle for a spiritual retreat. On both visits staff were amazed with all the children – their excellent behaviour and positive attitudes were a credit to the school and the children's families.

Today we have had a non-uniform day, on a day on which Pope Francis has called for Prayer and fasting. Pope Francis has called us, 'I urge believers to take just one side in this conflict: that of peace. But not with words — with prayer, with total dedication.' This morning we shared in prayer as a school community – praying for peace.

On a final note, I would like to share some special news. Mr Hodgson, our Head of School, has been appointed to be the Principal of St Peter's Catholic Academy. I know you will join me in congratulating Mr Hodgson and thanking him for all that has he done for our school. It is great that Mr Hodgson's skill and expertise will continue to benefit the children of our collegiate family. Mr Hodgson will take up his new post in January 2024.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Rathbone  
Principal

**CAFOD's Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza**

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Amen