



— Friday 10th January 2025 —

# HEADLINES

St Mary's Catholic School

*Happy  
New  
Year!*



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 15th January**  
Ski trip information evening,  
7pm - 7.30pm

**Thursday 16th January**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening,  
4.30pm - 7.30pm

**Friday 17th January**  
Inter-House Senior Football

**Monday 20th January**  
Year 12 Physics Senior Challenge

**Thursday 23rd January**  
'Matilda' rehearsal, all day

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. May 2025 bring your family abundance of health and happiness. As we start our Spring Term 2025 the theme of our Assemblies this week has been the Jubilee, as presented by Pope Francis and our journey through 2025 as Pilgrims of Hope.

Spring Term presents a combination of challenge and opportunities for our Y11 and Y13 students as they move ever closer to the examination season. May they rise to these challenges, grasp, and take advantage of every opportunity towards their GCSE and A Level examinations that they are working and studying towards. We ask our students to start the year in the best possible way, organised, prepared, with a positive mindset with their hopes and dreams meeting with the hard work and effort to reap the results they hope to attain.

A thank you to all our Y13 parents who has the Y13 Parents Consultation evening last night. It was lovely to see so many parents taking the feedback and advice on board to help their child make sustained progress. I look forward next week to our Y7 parents attending their first Parent Consultation evening to gain that valuable feedback to support their child in their studies following a very successful first term after their transition into secondary school. It is working in clear partnership with parents that we provide the foundations for every child to thrive.

In this edition you will also find a selection of important dates for your diary for Spring Term and also details of our school musical 'Matilda!' which our actors, singers, dancers, musicians, set designers, costume makers are working so diligently towards!

I would like to close our first Spring term parental bulletin with the prayer Pope Francis leads us with as we pray our Jubilee prayer:

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

God Bless,

Deirdre McHugh  
Headteacher



LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**BOOK  
NOW**

ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.



**ParentPay**

**Thursday 30th & Friday 31st January**

**Showtime: 7 PM**

**St Mary's Catholic School Hall**



The cast members will appear on the following days:

Thursday 30th January: Emilia, Aaron, Maggie, Leticia, Martha, Ciara, Emily, Kerys, Lyra, Tabitha, Lily.

Friday 31st January: Alice, Jamie, Sophia, Lucas, Anna, Annabel, Celeste, Grace H, Ava, Grace D, Anwen.



## THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to the Friends of St Mary's for all the work that went into raising funds for our Advent Charity appeal at the end of last term.

The magnificent sum of £2,119.23 was raised through the sale of raffle tickets, memorial candles and donations.

Thank you for your generous contributions!

**A Smartphone Free Childhood...  
Is it possible?**

Come along to find out more about how to protect our children in the digital space - free workshops for parents/carers

**Where and When?**  
Sunday 19th January 2025 1pm  
or  
Saturday 1st February 2025, 11am  
@  
Bishop's Stortford Library  
The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2EJ  
or online via zoom on  
Thursday 23rd January 8pm

//// Email  
**SFCstortford@outlook.com**  
////  
for the online zoom  
login details // or enquiries

SMARTPHONE  
FREE CHILDHOOD

## SWIMATHON UPDATE

Faye L (Y9) and Bella H (Y9) thank sincerely all those who have supported them in their recent Swimathon – photographed after a very lengthy swim!



## Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services survey.

Hertfordshire's Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) system wants to understand what parents and carers need when they are faced with supporting their child or young person's poor emotional wellbeing.

It can be difficult to understand why they might be experiencing low moods, anxiety or self-harming behaviours, how to cope as a family, or knowing the strategies that could help at home. In preparation for commissioning a new service, CYPMHS wants to make sure parents and carers feel supported, have professionals and peers to speak to and share experiences with, all while knowing they are far from alone. To help with this, please complete the survey by clicking [here](#).

The survey will be open until Sunday 26 January 2025.



# SPRING TERM DATES

DATE	EVENT
16th January	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7.30pm
20th January	Year 12 Physics Senior Challenge
20th - 24th January	GCSE MFL mocks
22nd January	GCSE Music recording day
29th January	Year 9 Options evening, times to be confirmed
30th January	<i>Matilda Jr</i> – evening performance
31st January	Inter-House Quiz Masters (Junior, Intermediate & Senior)
31st January	<i>Matilda Jr</i> – evening performance
3rd-14th February	Years 11 & 13 GCSE mocks
6th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm - 7.30pm
HALF TERM	
24th February	Return to school
25th-27th February	Year 10 & 11 Retreat
3rd-7th March	Careers/Science week
3rd March	Ash Wednesday
6th March	World Book Day
6th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm – 7.30pm
17th March	Years 12 & 13 Trip to Parliament
17th March	Inter-House Rotary Quiz (Junior, Intermediate & Senior)
20th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7.30pm
21st March	Inter-House Senior Badminton and Table Tennis
24th & 25th March	Year 11 Futures Meeting, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
28th -29th March	Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition
31st March	Year 11 Food Nutrition practical exam
2nd April	Year 11 Food Nutrition practical exam
3rd April	Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm - 7.30pm
4th April	Year 11 Food Nutrition practical exam
4th April	End of Spring Term

LOVE - RESPECT - FLOURISH