Welcome back!
Welcome back to all our pupils. We extend a warm welcome to our new P1s and other new pupils we have in our school. We are sure you will grow and flourish here. Our pupils are looking confident in their uniform and are looking ready to be successful learners. Keep this up and wear our uniform with pride! (Remember to have your name on all your clothing so as to avoid any confusion!)

We also extend a very warm welcome to new members of our staff who are:
Miss Lynch P3/4 (Wednesday afternoon/Thursday)
Mrs Smith P3/4 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday morning, Friday)
Miss Mulreany P4/5 (covering Mrs Garland’s Maternity Leave)
We are delighted to have you as part of the St Mary’s Team.

School Improvement Plan/ Standards and Quality Report
The core subjects of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing continue to be the focus of our School Improvement Plan this session as does the development of our Parental Engagement Strategy. Both our School Improvement Plan and our Standards and Quality Report (the evaluation of academic session 16/17) will soon be available on our website for your perusal.

School Policies and Procedures
We are in the process of reviewing some important school policies and procedures. They will soon be available via our school website: www.stmarysprimarylarkhall.co.uk.

Reminders:
- Regular attendance at school is essential for children’s learning. If, however, your child is not fit for school, please contact the school office as soon as possible on 01698 88 11 21
- Late coming impacts negatively on learning for the latecomer and their classmates as it causes major disruption. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before the 9am bell. Latecomers will be required to add their name to the late book on the window ledge at the office window to enable us to track and monitor late coming.
• Children in P1-P3 are entitled to free school meals. Children P4-P7 are required to pay for their meals at a cost of £1.60 each day. If possible, please ensure your child has the correct change as this helps speed up the process in the lunch hall. Thanks in advance.

• Please make sure your child knows in advance lunches for the following day to avoid unnecessary confusion or disappointment. The menu can be found by clicking this link: http://www.stmarysprimarylarkhall.co.uk/uploads/1/4/4/1/14414828/summer_menu_2017.pdf

• As we are a Health Promoting and Eco-Friendly School, we ask that you support us with this as and when possible. We ask that you encourage your child to bring healthy snacks for playtime and lunchtime and be mindful of unnecessary waste e.g. using a sandwich box instead of tinfoil etc. Children are encouraged to drink plain water during the day in the class.

• All children should wear black plimsoles as their indoor shoes to protect our flooring. Gym kit is black/navy shorts and polo shirts. Class teachers will inform children very soon of their PE days.

Curriculum Enhancement

Swimming

Our pupils are in the fortunate position of having opportunities to support the curriculum from partners in our local community. Our P6s will attend swimming lessons at Larkhall Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoons from August 24th 2017 up to and including 23rd November 2017. Please ensure the appropriate consent forms have been completed and returned to school.

Health and Wellbeing

Our staff recently received some In-Service in supporting pupils in developing positive mindsets from Wholistic Life, a local charity. Input on the day was very well received by staff and we look forward to working in partnership with Wholistic Life as together we work to enhance the health and wellbeing of our children. Mr Shiels and our P6/7 pupils will participate in tasks around developing a positive mindset on Tuesday afternoons from 1.45pm-2.45pm starting Tuesday 22nd August 2017 up to and including Tuesday 26th September 2017. This will complement our work in enhancing our existing positive ethos and living out our school motto: "Dream, Believe, Achieve".

We are also very privileged to have Terri Pein who works with the children to support the curriculum with growth mindset and meditation. We are very grateful to Terri and the commitment she has to our school.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

We are in the very fortunate position to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities. Please ensure if your child is attending any of the clubs detailed below that the appropriate permission slips have been completed and returned. Many thanks.

Breakfast Club: Monday to Friday 8am-8.45am
Machan Trust P2-P7 Tuesdays 3pm-4pm
Active Schools Wednesday 8.30am-9am P2-P4, Wednesday 3pm-4pm P2-P4, Friday 8.30am-9am P4-P7
Please note, to avoid unnecessary confusion (except for Breakfast Club), **we will assume that by returning the permission slip your child will attend every week**. If for whatever reason your child is not attending one week, **please make sure you contact the school office no later than 2pm that day**. This prevents confusion at the end of the school day. Thank you in advance.

**Football Training**
Football Training for P5,6,7 boys and girls will start on Monday 4th September 2017 from 3pm-4pm. Our thanks to Mr Shiels and Mr Martin for leading this once again.

**School-Home-School Communication**
Our pupils will soon receive a homework diary which will detail their homework each week. As a result of the consultation we carried out last year, we are reviewing our homework policy and procedures. Each teacher will continue to set homework in the meantime as per previous years. Please bear with us as we work to improve homework and your opportunities to engage with your child's learning.

**Supporting Spelling At Home:**
*We have uploaded our Parents' Guide to Supporting Spelling to our school website. You can access it by clicking on this link:*


Our newsletters will continue to be available on line via our school website ([www.stmarysprimarylarkhall.co.uk](http://www.stmarysprimarylarkhall.co.uk)); we will send you a text to inform you of its availability.

**We will also use Twitter (which is completely cost free)** as a way of communicating reminders and for sharing children's learning. In order to ensure you are always kept up to date please follow us on Twitter at [@stmarysML9](https://twitter.com/stmarysML9). Remember to protect your own tweets please. Thanks in advance.

**Open door policy**
Please be aware that we operate an open-door policy and will endeavour to address any issues or concerns you have. In the first instance, you should contact the class teacher via your child's homework diary to arrange a time for an appointment. For urgent matters, please contact the school office on 01698 88 11 21 to arrange to speak with me. Many thanks for your cooperation with this matter.

Please follow us on TWITTER @stmarysML9 to ensure you are kept up to date!

I look forward to another successful year in St Mary's working with you, our local community and our parish to ensure our children achieve their potential.

Kind regards