

Mary Russell School
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Head Teacher: Mr Stuart Conway



24th August 2026

Be all we can be! Be proud of who we are!

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all of our pupils, families and staff as we begin another exciting school year. I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break, and I am looking forward to working with our whole school community over the coming months.

Staffing Updates

As we start the new session, I would like to share a number of staffing changes.

We say goodbye to Mr MacFarlane, who has left the school. We thank him for his contribution and wish him every success for the future. In the Secondary Department, Mr Smyth has taken on the role of Acting Depute Head Teacher.

In the Primary Department, we are delighted to welcome Lucy Dempster, and we are also pleased to have Bruce Farndale and Aimie Balfour returning to the school on a supply basis.

Within Secondary, we welcome Tracy Skelton to our RMPS Department. We are also pleased to welcome back Michael Creighton and Alex Burt, who will be supporting the school as supply teachers.

In addition, we extend a warm welcome to Joanne Brown and Lorraine Lukasik, who join our support staff team. I am sure you will join me in welcoming all new and returning colleagues to our school community.

Start and End of the School Day

A quick reminder regarding the school day:

- The school building opens to pupils at 9.00 am.
- School buses will begin unloading shortly before 9.00 am.
- For young people who travel independently or who are dropped off by parents and carers, please note that supervision is not available before the building opens.

We would also ask all drivers to take extra care when entering and leaving the school grounds, particularly during the busy arrival period each morning.

The school day finishes at:

- 3.15 pm for Primary pupils
- 3.30 pm for Secondary pupils

ASN Youth Club

We are delighted that our ASN Youth Club will be starting back on Tuesday 1 September. The club is open to all secondary pupils who are interested in attending and provides a great opportunity for young people to socialise, build friendships and take part in a range of enjoyable activities.

The Youth Club runs from 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm every Tuesday only during term time, and there is no cost to attend.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back and encourage anyone who may be interested to come along.

Parent Council/PTA

We have an active and supportive Parent Council/PTA within the school and are always keen to welcome new members.

All meetings are the first Tuesday of every month from 6pm to 7pm with the exception of April and June. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 September in the school. The Parent Council/PTA plays an important role in supporting the school, providing opportunities for parents and carers to share their views, contribute to school life and help strengthen our school community. If you are interested in joining, or would simply like to find out more about the work of the Parent Council/PTA, please get in touch with the school. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Citizens Advice

We are once again fortunate to have support from Citizens Advice available within the school this year. The service can provide advice and support on a wide range of issues, including benefits advice, form filling, financial guidance and access to other sources of support. This service has proved invaluable to many of our families, and we are delighted to continue this partnership.

For further information or to book an appointment, please contact the school office.

Parents'/Carers Evenings

We are pleased to confirm the dates for this session's Parents'/Carer Evenings:

- All Primary, S1, S3 and S5 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Wednesday 18 November, 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm
- S2, S4 and S6 Parents'/Carers' Evening
Wednesday 4 November, 5.30 pm to 8.00 pm

These evenings provide an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements, as well as any areas where additional support may be helpful. As always, our pastoral care staff are available both before and during the evening to answer any questions you may have and to provide support and guidance where required.

School Review

As part of our ongoing programme of self-evaluation and continuous improvement, the school will be undertaking a School Review this session. This review will take place on 29 and 30 September and will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our strengths, identify areas for further development and ensure we continue to provide the highest quality learning experiences for our young people.

As part of this process, we are keen to gather the views of our wider school community. A parent and carer questionnaire will be issued over the coming weeks, and I would encourage all families to take the opportunity to share their feedback. Your views are extremely valuable and will help inform our future planning and improvement priorities.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a successful and productive year ahead and to working in partnership with all of our families to ensure the very best outcomes for our young people.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Conway

Stuart Conway
Head Teacher

Our Values:
Respect, Achievement, Care, Trust, Responsibility, Co-operation

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