



Care, grow and flourish in
God's loving hands.

St Mary's C of E Primary School

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After School Provision at St. Mary's from September 2025

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks for your engagement with the recent expression of interest form that we shared regarding our plans to start an extended after school provision in September.

The governors and I have taken all of your comments and questions on board.

Whilst there is still work to do in school, we would like to give you an overview about our after-school provision. All of these decisions have been an outcome of our extensive research and information specific to our school site.

We had lots of questions about what the provision will 'look like' as well as queries relating to cost, duration and booking.

As our school is on Littlegrove and our school vision is aligned to growth and flourishing, we will call our provision 'The Grove'.



How and when The Grove will be run:

- The Grove will run every day in term time from the start of the Autumn term, **except** on INSET Days, Bank Holidays, our annual May Day celebration, and on the last day of each term (as we close early on those days).
- It will operate from 3.25pm – 5.45pm and will be run by our own staff who know the children well.
- It will be based in the school hall with supervised access to the playground (weather permitting)
- Children can access The Grove either immediately from the end of the day or straight after another club has finished.
- Children can be collected at any time between 3.30 – 5.45pm via the school office.
- Children must be collected promptly by 5.45pm.
- There will be limited spaces available, therefore they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

How much The Grove will cost and how it can be booked:

- The club will cost £12.50 per child, per day regardless of how long they stay.
- We will accept childcare vouchers.
- There would be a requirement to 'block book' a place in the club. We will let you know more about this soon. We will ask parents to contact us if they require a more bespoke pattern of provision.

What the children will do in The Grove:

- Much like breakfast club, there will be toys and games for the children to play with. There will be opportunities for creativity and crafts.
- Weather permitting, the children can use the outdoor space for physical activity.
- Children can also do home learning in this time but the staff are there in a supervisory capacity rather than to support learning, so this will need to be independently done.
- The children will have some light snacks to eat e.g. toast/crumpets, fruit, vegetables, yogurt, drinks. We will take note of allergies as we do at other times in the school day.

Who can access The Grove?

- Parents of any St. Mary's child can make an application to attend. As mentioned above, there are limited spaces per session.
- Staffing arrangements are considered to meet the individual needs of children who have SEND but unfortunately, **we cannot offer 1:1 support for any child**. If you have a child with SEND who you'd like to access the provision, we ask that you contact us to discuss this.
- As with breakfast club, pupils in Reception should be well established in school and a decision to join The Grove should be taken in consultation with the Reception team and parents.

How we will keep children safe at The Grove:

- Staff supervising the children will have relevant first aid and safeguarding training.
- As staff will be handling food, they will also have relevant food hygiene training.
- We will gather information about children in the 'registration stage' so we are aware of allergies, needs, parents' contact details and authorised adults to collect.
- Children in YR to Y3 will be escorted to the hall by an adult. Children in Y4,5,6 will make their own way to the hall as they are being dismissed from class.
- The children will be registered on arrival and marked as 'off site' once collected.
- If any child behaves in a way to risk the safety of themselves, other children, or staff, they will be at risk of exclusion from The Grove.

What next?

- We are working on the development of a 'Terms and Conditions' document for The Grove. Once this is complete, we will share this next half term.
- Based on the uptake in the Autumn term, if we find that there is consistent demand that we cannot meet, we will consider the possibility of increasing the number of children that can access The Grove. We are however limited by the physical space that we have available.
- Given that The Grove will be based in the hall, we will have to re-evaluate existing after school clubs that also require the hall space. We are liaising with Woody's and All for Sport about this and will clarify further in time.

Holiday Camps:

We had lots of positive feedback about the All for Sports camp that ran at St. Mary's in the Easter break. We will be unable to run a camp in the summer holiday as there will be roof replacement work happening on site.

We are hoping to run the club in October half term and during other school holidays next year – watch this space!

Other after school clubs:

You may have noticed that we are always growing our after-school clubs at St. Mary's. This year alone, we started a second chess club, a coding club, a mad science club, a baking club, football training and more.

We will work on finalising after school clubs next half term and we will let you know what will be available for the new school year.

Please be patient with us while we embark on this new and exciting journey as we launch The Grove. Our ambition is to support our parent community after school while providing a caring environment for the children to spend time in, so that they continue to grow and flourish even after 3.30pm!

I'm really looking forward to seeing you all at May Day this afternoon.

Thereafter, I wish you all a wonderful half term.

*Maria Constantinou
Headteacher*

