Firstly, a very warm welcome if you are new to our school. We look forward to getting to know your family and working with you.

The following information relates to the St Mary’s Catholic School Gala.

- **What is the St Mary’s Catholic School Gala?**
  Our school is well known for the annual gala which is our major fundraiser. It is traditionally held in Term One of each year. There are a variety of stalls and activities for everyone including food stalls, raffles, an auction, quick fire raffles, mystery envelopes, crafts, games, rides and so much more!

- **Who runs the Gala?**
  We have a committee of parent volunteers who organise the gala each year. This committee requires the support of our school families through the various gate collections throughout the year, gala set up the day before and helping on stalls etc on the day. We are always keen to have new members join the committee so if you are interested please ask for the contact details at the school office. Helping out with our gala is a lot of fun and a great way to meet other school families.

- **What are the gate collections?**
  Throughout the year we have special gate collections where each child is asked to bring along items for the gala. The children are allowed to wear mufti clothes on these days. These gate collections are spread out over the year.
  Term 3 – Lucky Dip Items (stationery, games, balls, toys, hair ties etc)
  Term 4 – Mystery Bottles (juice, fizzy, oil, sauces, moisturisers etc)
    - Cans (canned food such as soups, sauces, fruit, fish etc)
    - Mystery Envelopes (items for gift baskets and hampers)
  Term 1 – Sweets (lollies, chocolate bars etc to be used for prizes)
    - Grocery Items (to be used in hampers or on the wheel)
• **What are the drop off days?**
Throughout the year we collect donated items for our various stalls and the auction. We happily accept second hand items in good condition such as furniture, electrical appliances, clothing, linen, household goods, books, games and toys. There is a box in the school hall foyer where items can be left and we also open the hall on various Saturdays for drop offs as well. If there are any larger items one of our committee members can arrange to pick them up if required. Please tell your family, friends and especially anyone who is moving house that we will gratefully receive any items that they no longer require. We do have to pay to dispose of items which we cannot sell so please be aware of this when considering what to donate.

• **What can we do to help out?**
We need at least one member per family to help make our gala run smoothly as it takes approximately 160 people to run the gala on the day. We also need people to help with the set up on the day before and many hands make light work! During Term One there is a “Parent Power” board on display in the school hall foyer with the details of all the stalls and other areas where help is required. Please add your name to the lists or speak to one of the gala committee members. We are always looking for items which could be used as prizes on our various stalls. Does your workplace or those of your family and friends have items they could donate to our gala? Please keep us in mind as no items are too big or too small. We also require many tents and gazebos for our stalls. Do you, your company or someone you know have one that we could use? There will be many flyers and copies of the “Gala News” which your child will bring home over the year in the school newsletter. Please take time to read these flyers and help out wherever you can.

*Together we can make our school gala a great success for the benefit of all our children. Your support is much appreciated!* 😊

*Thanks for getting behind your children’s school!*