

Parental Comments

Questionnaires October 2021 (88 responses)

Things I like about St Mary's	I would like to see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reception ● Staff know children by name ● High expectations of behaviour ● Dedicated, caring staff ● Woodland area ● Buddy systems ● Pastoral/nurture support ● Easy to communicate via telephone and email ● Excellent school structure ● Fantastic teachers ● Informative website ● Useful Twitter page ● Weekly newsletter ● Regular emails and texts ● Catholic education ● Supports wider personal development ● I like how the older children know x and always say hello to him on a morning ● I like how all teaches know the names of the new children ● I like how confident x has been starting school and making friends ● The happy environment it provides for my child ● The teachers are all approachable ● The school has made a lot of effort to know all pupils personally and also impressed with the buddy system to settle the children into school ● Good values, high expectations ● The care and school family ethos is evident immediately as a new parent ● The staff are friendly, approachable and caring and are keen to understand and support the whole child ● Communication is excellent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More regular communication on progress ● More home learning – the return of home learning journals in Reception ● Teaching a language earlier ● Opportunities to learn a musical instrument ● Greater promotion/celebration of diversity/ gender neutral uniform, recognition of black history month etc ● Separate assemblies for Reception, KS1 and KS2 ● School crossing patrol ● Reception parents to receive update after children start because they cannot tell you much information ● The opportunity (hopefully as the year progresses) to be invited into the school for parent meetings etc ● I will look forward to seeing how X continues to progress across the curriculum and in particular with his writing, reading and maths.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The thought that goes into ensuring young children settle and that transition is smooth • High expectations and high standards of behaviour and uniform • Leadership presence around the school • How quick our child was provided with home reading books, accurately matched to his ability • The nurturing through spiritual development. X is so keen to join in with collective worship 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 • My child has settled so well and as a parent needing support in their first year – the school really helped and it was easier knowing x was at school • School community (smaller school so has a friendlier atmosphere) • Head teacher knows all pupils by first name and is always greeting them on a morning • Great support during lockdown • Award system for behaviour (gold book and traffic light system) • Friendly, supportive atmosphere • High quality building and facilities • Focus on virtues • Flexible breakfast and after school club • Hard working staff • The children are happy, supported and cared for • Children feel loved and part of St Mary's family • The teachers are outstanding • The Tas are also outstanding • The outdoor areas • The morals instilled into the children • Caring, nurturing, and outstanding school with my children's happiness, safety and achievement at its heart! • School is well run 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school provision extended to 4.30pm • One method of communication (I don't get texts as my husband is set up on school money) • As parents we don't always get to see each other to pass messages on • Differentiated homework • 2 books given again – harder books • More feedback on progress • Maths homework ideas • Trip for children • More challenge • A wider variety of after school clubs • An online learning platform to increase links and communication between home and school. Google Classroom is great for setting work but maybe Dojo in class • Like more updates rather than waiting for parents' evenings

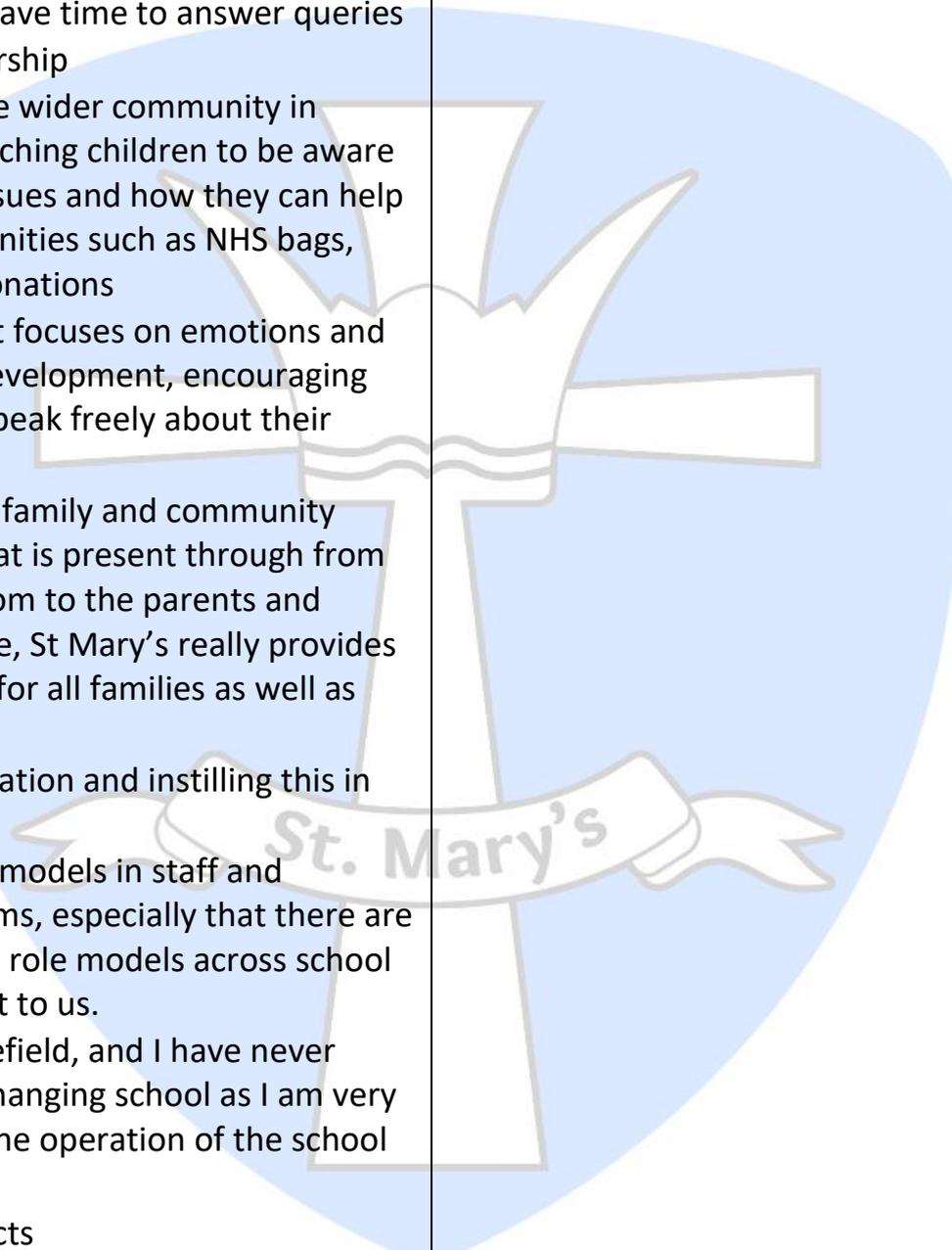
- High expectations of behaviour
- Caring teachers
- Fantastic support staff who go over and above
- High expectations from the head teacher
- Excellent live lessons during lockdown
- Lots of positive changes
- Family feel
- Nurturing environment
- Wide variety of opportunities for the children and lots of different learning experiences offered through a broad curriculum
- The school has high standards and expectations for e.g. uniform
- The teachers and staff
- The ethos and values

Year 2

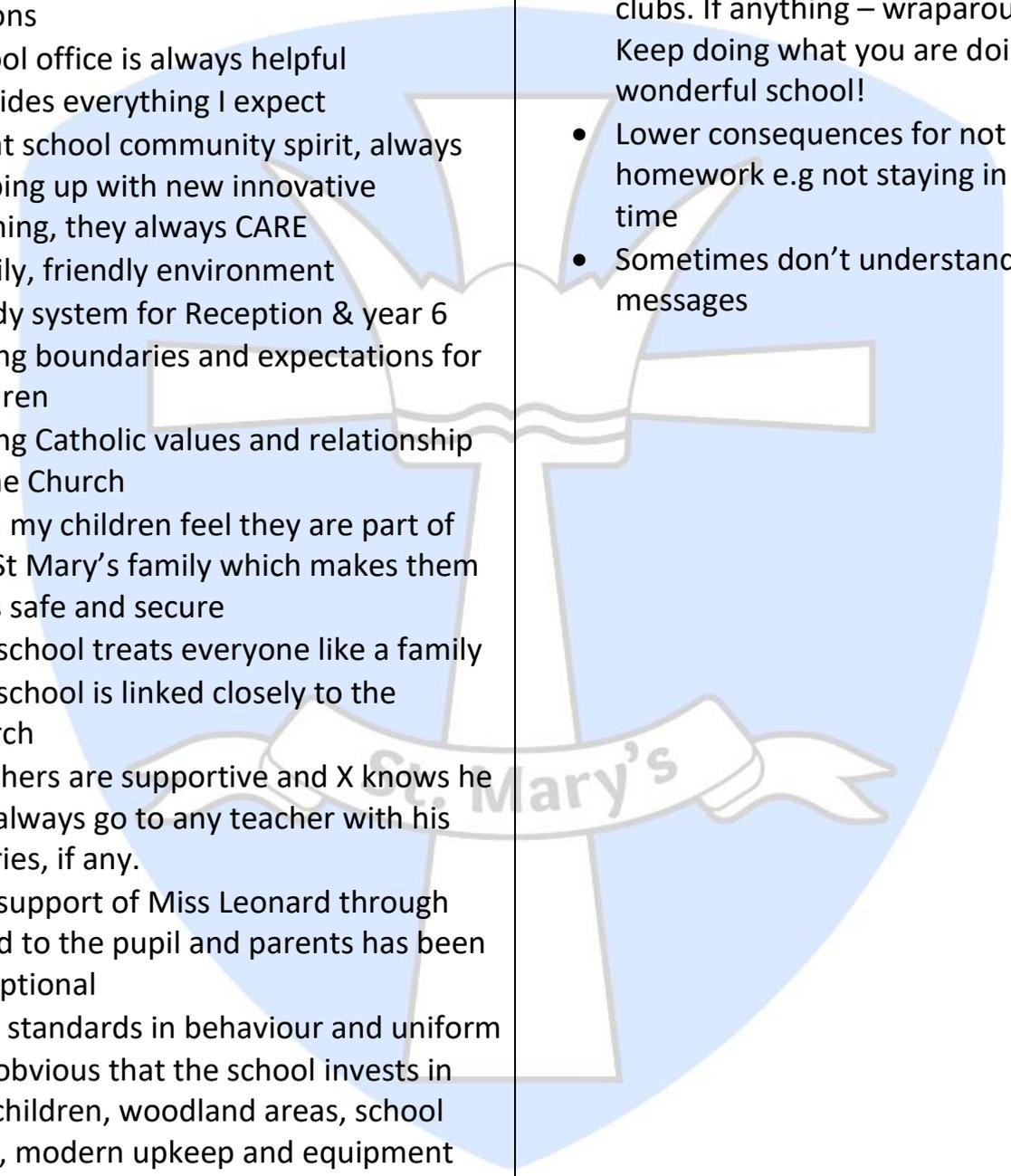
- Strong leadership
 - Child focused
 - Regular communication with parents
 - Inclusive
 - Teach catholic values
 - Adaptive / quick to respond to Covid 19
 - PSHE delivery is excellent
 - Small school community
 - Friendly
 - Safe
 - Location
 - Teachers and staff
 - Outside space
 - Children are valued and cared for
 - Sense of community
 - A nurturing environment for each child
 - Teachers always concentrate on the positive things. In areas where X needs more support, he is encouraged, which boosts his confidence. No child would ever be made to feel like they are failing.
 - Love the investment in the natural outdoor space and the Muga
- School crossing or traffic lights on Royds Lane
 - Face to face parents evening
 - After school club until 5pm
 - Parents to be able to attend school events
 - More practical life skills e.g. cookery, woodwork – these could be after school clubs
 - Like to see less plastic and sweets
 - Teacher of the month – So many of you go above and beyond for our children and deserve to be recognised
 - A lollypop lady on the road outside or more regulation with cars dropping off
 - Encourage more families to walk
 - Traffic monitor
 - Stop parents using double yellow lines
 - More after school clubs
 - A lot of schools I know do free after school activities for all years
 - More after school clubs
 - Late school bus for after school clubs
 - Better parking

- Love Kathy's music
- Links with SALT and early intervention
- Staff willingness to use strategies to meet the needs of the individual child
- High quality teaching
- Friendly school with great office staff, who provide brilliant first impressions and always have time to answer queries
- Strong leadership
- Considers the wider community in everyday teaching children to be aware of real-life issues and how they can help their communities such as NHS bags, food bank donations
- Learning that focuses on emotions and emotional development, encouraging children to speak freely about their feelings
- The sense of family and community belonging that is present through from each classroom to the parents and teachers alike, St Mary's really provides a safe space for all families as well as children.
- Valuing education and instilling this in children
- Positive role models in staff and teaching teams, especially that there are many female role models across school – v important to us.
- I live in Wakefield, and I have never thought of changing school as I am very happy with the operation of the school
- Pe lessons
- Varied subjects
- Children are taught respect and staff care
- School grounds are well looked after and the woodland is fabulous
- Good communication
- The staff
- The environment

- Clubs that don't cost



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community feel of the school • The school is fantastic and this is because of the hard working staff members, I cannot stress how much I love the school 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 3 • The environment is kind and caring • Teachers are very dedicated, and go above and beyond to focus on the wellbeing and development of the child • They really know the children well • St Mary's children flourish, and we can see this with X confidence, and we know he will have high aspirations at St Mary's • Incredibly supportive with SEN • Staff • Values • My children thrive here • Excellent communication and teachers • Sense of belonging and a family approach to learning and wellbeing • Smaller classes than other local schools • Focus on Catholic community • Caring • Interesting subjects and trips • Staff • Curriculum / education • Community feel • Focus on outdoor activities • Improved sports facilities • Teaching staff • The facilities • Extra support given when needed • Small school • Friendly staff • Approachable • Welcoming • Supportive • Good values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More music facilities • Air conditioning • Updated uniform – polo shirts for all • Texts received not always clear • Inaccuracies in the newsletter or letters mean having to call for clarification • Longer after school club
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 4 • Discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lower the cost of after school club • wraparound care

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- The background of the page features a large, light blue watermark of the St. Mary's school crest. The crest is a shield-shaped emblem with a white cross in the center. A white banner across the middle of the cross contains the text "St. Mary's" in a stylized font. The shield is surrounded by a blue circular border.
- Excellent communication and teaching
 - Great teaching
 - Family atmosphere
 - Good community spirit
 - Lots of science experiments
 - Pupils are well behaved
 - Teachers try their best to teach fun lessons
 - School office is always helpful
 - Provides everything I expect
 - Great school community spirit, always keeping up with new innovative learning, they always CARE
 - Family, friendly environment
 - Buddy system for Reception & year 6
 - Strong boundaries and expectations for children
 - Strong Catholic values and relationship to the Church
 - Both my children feel they are part of the St Mary's family which makes them feels safe and secure
 - The school treats everyone like a family
 - The school is linked closely to the Church
 - Teachers are supportive and X knows he can always go to any teacher with his worries, if any.
 - The support of Miss Leonard through Covid to the pupil and parents has been exceptional
 - High standards in behaviour and uniform
 - It is obvious that the school invests in the children, woodland areas, school trips, modern upkeep and equipment
 - Communication – emails, texts, newsletters
 - The support and guidance for new starters (reception) and leavers (Year 6) is excellent
 - It is pretty close to perfect!
- trips etc have been impacted by the pandemic. We look forward to more extracurricular activities again
 - perhaps some before/after school clubs for maths etc
 - Breakfast and ASC is fantastic but due to childminder it is difficult to access other clubs. If anything – wraparound care. Keep doing what you are doing – a wonderful school!
 - Lower consequences for not completing homework e.g not staying in a break time
 - Sometimes don't understand text messages

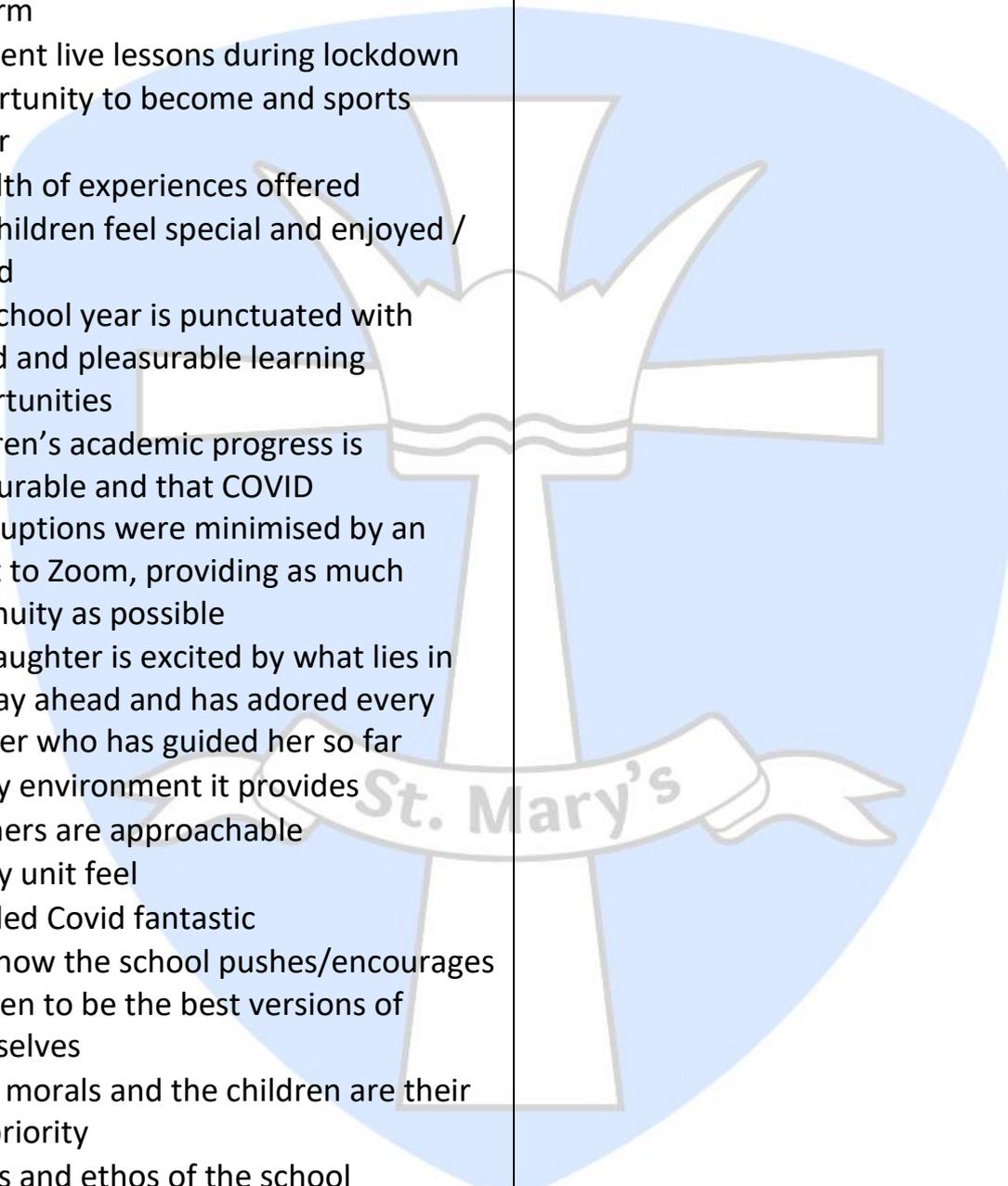
- The school community- huge care for children and also their families from ALL staff
- The high standards set for children
- PSHE subjects tackling difficult issues such as mental health
- Support charities, give children an understanding of society and areas of need
- Going the extra mile – running sports days, school council, etc enriches the school experience
- Dealt with home schooling incredibly well – we felt very well supported
- Excellent communication with parents – collaborative approach to supporting pupils
- Family feel and facilities
- X loves school dinners
- Teachers and staff
- My child feels safe to learn and the standards are very high
- Ethos and values
- Teachers genuinely care and have always been on our side
- Personal feel and X is happy

Year 5

- Very caring and organised and takes every pupil issue seriously
- Appreciate the standard the school sets for itself
- Education second to none
- Teachers
- Care of the children
- Sense of community
- Improved sports facilities
- Safe and enjoyable learning environment
- Family attitude
- Feels safe for my child
- Staff are very welcoming

- More forms for parents to suggest changes
- Information about other secondary schools other than St Thomas a Becket
- More girls' sports teams
- More feedback on how we can challenge at home
- Maths homework sheets
- Feedback on reports on what a pupil needs to do to improve
- PE report feedback
- Earlier start to Breakfast Club 7.30am
- Debating at school / public speaking
- Be back as a community – Covid stopped this

- I believe that the children are loved and celebrated for the individuals they are
- Support from senior management and office staff
- Size and community feel about the school
- High expectations for attendance and uniform
- Excellent live lessons during lockdown
- Opportunity to become and sports leader
- Breadth of experiences offered
- The children feel special and enjoyed / valued
- The school year is punctuated with varied and pleasurable learning opportunities
- Children's academic progress is measurable and that COVID interruptions were minimised by an adapt to Zoom, providing as much continuity as possible
- My daughter is excited by what lies in the day ahead and has adored every teacher who has guided her so far
- Happy environment it provides
- Teachers are approachable
- Family unit feel
- Handled Covid fantastic
- Love how the school pushes/encourages children to be the best versions of themselves
- Good morals and the children are their first priority
- Values and ethos of the school
- Family atmosphere / small classes
- Nurturing staff
- School helps to build faith and self confidence in pupils
- RSM and whole staff team are amazing.
- Happy children and settled because of the way staff operate.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children behave impeccably and create a kind friendly environment • Children never feel pressured but understand there is an expectation to reach their own potential. • Homework is not used in a way where parents feel pressured but so the child can access and complete independently and embed classroom learning 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 6 • The teachers are excellent, and the sense of family is wonderful • Rothwell St Mary's is a great school, I like everything about it • It is an amazing school • My children love going to school • Faith, virtues, standards and caring environment • Mrs Sweeney and communication around SEND Support • Golden Book • Year 6 and Reception buddies • The grounds and inside the school is always clean and welcoming • Easy to get hold of someone when I need them • School dinners sound good • Love the weekly newsletter • Friendly and approachable staff • School keeps us well informed as parents • Welcoming atmosphere • Meets all my child's needs and the school is well run • Happy with everything especially the new woodland and MUGA • Small and personal • Everyone knows each other • Great teachers • Loads of activities • Great education • Family unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More preparation for high school • More information about certain SEN areas • Cheaper breakfast and After school club • More sport as a focus for those children who love it • Better school dinners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive school• Emphasise importance of good morals and values• Inviting school• Encourages children to learn• EVERYTHING! | |
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