

**18th September 2026**

# **Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter**



## **Our week...**

We've had a great week in school! Pupils have all settled in beautifully and are working hard! Don't forget to sign up to the class SeeSaw page; this means you can see your child's work and any messages from the class teacher.

Pupils in some KS2 classes have been working with a Lancashire Cricket coach; they're learning all the basic crickets skills and developing team work too!

Heart Health Day is on Wednesday next week and pupils will be learning all about keeping ourselves healthy to raise money for a new school defib. We'd be so grateful for any £1 donations online.

We'll also be celebrating European Day of Languages next Thursday! Each class will be taking part and holding activities relating to other languages. Don't forget the poster competition which you have been emailed about- we can't wait to see the entries!

Thank you for being patient with our ICT systems which we have had huge issues with since returning. We are now mostly back up and running! Any issues regarding paying for trips or lunches please contact the school office where they will support you.



## **Stay and Pray**

**This week's Stay and Pray  
is CHIPMUNKS  
Please enter through the  
main entrance by 8.45am**

## **This week's Bible Scripture:**

**Matthew 20: 1-16  
"Do you begrudge  
my generosity?"**



**18th September 2026**

## Attendance

Meerkats-90%  
Butterflies- 99%  
Wallabies-95%  
Rhinos-98%  
Wolf Cubs-98%  
Quackers- 95%  
Dolphins-97%  
Chipmunks-94%  
Lobsters- 97%  
Whole School- 96%



## Stars of the Week- for being ready, by starting my work straight away

Meerkats- Jack  
Butterflies- Jane  
Wallabies-Lennon  
Rhinos-Ayesha  
Wolf Cubs- Harlow  
Quackers-Ezra  
Dolphins-Theo  
Chipmunks-Isobel  
Lobsters- Ieva



## Team Points

  
Arrowsmith

**6170**

**6195**

  
Campion

  
Barlow

**5670**

**6020**

  
Southworth

**18th September 2026**



## **Wraparound Care**

We now have full wrap around care led by Progressive Sports.

Times are as follows:

- Breakfast Club 7.30am-8.35am £6 per day including breakfast
- Breakfast Club 8am- 8.35am £4 per day including breakfast
- Afterschool Club 3.15-4.30pm £6.50 per day including a snack
- Afterschool Club 3.15-6pm £9 per day including a snack
- Afterschool Club 4.30-6pm (if pupils have already been in a club e.g. choir and wish to join afterschool club after this) £6.50 per day including a snack

To book, please click the link:

[https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/94-Progressive\\_Breakfast\\_Afterschool\\_club\\_St\\_Marys\\_RC\\_Primary](https://enrolmy.com/progressive-sports-south-lancashire/activity/94-Progressive_Breakfast_Afterschool_club_St_Marys_RC_Primary)

For any questions, please email [Wraparoundsl@progressive-sports.co.uk](mailto:Wraparoundsl@progressive-sports.co.uk) or call 01254403046

Progressive Sports have begun the running of the breakfast and after school club provision in school and this is going really well! . Don't forget to register to use the service using the link so that you can book your child on at any time (more details above). If you are dropping pupils off at breakfast club or collecting from after school club please ring the black doorbell rather than the school doorbell.

## **School Uniform**

At Saint Mary's we take pride in our appearance and know that first impressions count. We strive for all pupils to look smart and tidy when in school.

Our uniform policy can be found here:

Any pupil not wearing correct uniform will be asked to wear spare uniform from school until this can be rectified. Parents and carers will also be informed.



## **Safe Parking**

Please respect that 260 children must enter and exit school safely each day. This partly relies upon everyone parking safely and with due regard for others, including our neighbours. Please do not park across drives or in restricted areas.

Please can we ask that the staff car park is kept clear for staff cars ONLY. Some parents/Carers are pulling into the entrance to the carpark, especially in a morning and this is preventing staff from parking and is causing traffic on Mayfield Avenue.

**18th September 2026**

**PE Days**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sept- 23<sup>rd</sup> October**



**Meerkats- Tues and Wed**  
**Butterflies- Mon and Thurs**  
**Wallabies- Thur and Fri**  
**Rhinos- Tues and Thurs**  
**Wolf Cubs- Wed and Fri**  
**(swimming)**  
**Chipmunks- Wed and Fri**  
**Dolphins- Tues and Wed**  
**Quackers- Mon and Wed**  
**Lobsters- Thur and Fri**

**Church News**

**Saturday Mass 6.30pm**

**Sunday Mass 10am**

**Baptisms by appointment**

**If you have a child wishing  
to make their First Holy  
Communion please speak  
to Father O'Brien**



**Upcoming Dates**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September- Heart  
Health day**

**24<sup>th</sup> September- European  
Day of Languages**

**25<sup>th</sup> September- Macmillan  
Coffee Afternoon 2.30pm-  
3.45pm in hall**

**7<sup>th</sup> October- Smartphone  
Safety Parent Talk 9am  
(letter to follow)**

**8<sup>th</sup> October- School Open  
Day for Reception 2027**

**19<sup>th</sup> October- Parents'  
Evening (letter to follow)**

**12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Nov- Book  
Fair in School (letter to  
follow)**

**27<sup>th</sup> November- Christmas  
Fair (letter to follow)**

**1<sup>st</sup> December- Whole school  
trip to watch Aladdin**



**Have a  
wonderful  
weekend**

# Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

## 1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.



## 2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.



## 3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.



## 4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.



## 5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.



# WELCOME BACK!

## 6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.



## 7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.



## 8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.



## 9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.



## 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.



## Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.



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See full reference list on our website



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*We love, learn and grow together with Jesus*

## HOLIDAY LIST 2026/2027

### AUTUMN TERM 2026

|                         |                                                                  |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open                 | Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2026                          |
| Closure after school on | Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026                             |
| Mid-term closure        | Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October- Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October |
| Closure after school on | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026                            |

### OPENINGS 72

### SPRING TERM 2027

|                         |                                                                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open                 | Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2027                                 |
| Closure after school on | Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2027                               |
| Mid-term closure        | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February |
| Closure after school    | Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027                                |

### OPENINGS 54

### SUMMER TERM 2027

|                         |                                                           |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open                 | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027                        |
| May Day closure         | Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027                           |
| Closure after school on | Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2027                          |
| Mid-term closure        | Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June |
| Closure after school on | Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2027                         |

### OPENINGS 64

**Total openings 190**