

**2nd October 2026**

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



## **Our week...**

What a great week we have had! This week we have all had our class statues of Guardian Angels blessed by Father O'Brien in celebration of the feast day today. Pupils were so respectful and contributed wonderfully during this.

Thank you to everyone who has attended a Stay and pray session so far- they're a lovely calm way to begin a Tuesday morning.

Thank you so much for all your donations for the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon last week- we raised £298 which is amazing! Today, we have received all your foodbank donations- wow! We have been inundated and we know the difference this will make to the local community.

Please check your child's bag for a postcard containing a photo of their Christmas artwork. The postcard shows details of how to order any items and this must be done by 14<sup>th</sup> October at 12pm. School will receive a percentage of any orders which will help us partially fund trips for your children.

On Thursday next week we have an open day for any pupils wishing to start next September in Reception. If you know anyone, please invite them to come along!



### **Stay and Pray**

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

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

**Matthew 21: 33-43  
"He will let out the  
vineyard to other  
tenants"**



**2nd October 2026**

## **Attendance**

Meerkats-93%  
Butterflies- 84%  
Wallabies-95%  
Rhinos-96%  
Wolf Cubs-92%  
Quackers- 92%  
Dolphins-93%  
Chipmunks-90%  
Lobsters- 98%  
Whole School- %



## **Stars of the Week- for being safe by having kind hands and feet**

Meerkats- Erlin  
Butterflies- Elora  
Wallabies- Amelia  
Rhinos- Jacob  
Wolf Cubs- Amara  
Quackers- Augustus  
Dolphins- Harry  
Chipmunks- Joby  
Lobsters- Erin



## **Team Points**



**Arrowsmith**

**5730**

**5550**



**Campion**



**Barlow**

**5670**

**5660**



**Southworth**

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 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.

**2nd October 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**

**Upcoming Dates**

**7<sup>th</sup> October-**  
**Smartphone Safety**  
**Parent Talk 1.30pm**

**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**

**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**



**H a v e a**  
**w o n d e r f u l**  
**w e e k e n d**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.



## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.



## EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.



## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.



## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.



## SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.



### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.



### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.



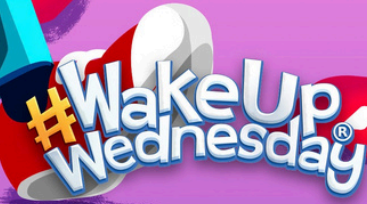
### WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.



### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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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