

30th January 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

We are continuing our exciting fundraising effort with Tesco blue tokens. Our goal is to gather enough tokens to help furnish our new sensory nest space. I would be incredibly grateful if you could spread the word to friends and family - every token counts! Please encourage everyone to drop their blue tokens in our collection tube.

A truly remarkable experience happened this week; some of our pupils from the GIFT team, accompanied by Mrs Wolfenden, had an extraordinary opportunity to venerate the relics of St Carlo Acutis. They were blessed with the rare chance to hold the relics and hear his inspiring story. Upon returning to school, these enthusiastic pupils delivered a broadcast to all classes, sharing their learnings and reciting a special prayer for St Carlo. What a meaningful and memorable moment - truly a once in a lifetime opportunity!

We also celebrated NSPCC Number Day with incredible creativity across the school. Our pupils engaged in fantastic mathematical activities while raising money for an important cause. A massive thank you to everyone who donated - your support makes such a difference!

Looking ahead, next week will be slightly different as 40 of our Year 5 and 6 pupils will be departing for Paris in the early hours of Monday. We wish them an absolutely fantastic trip and can't wait to hear all about their adventures and see their photographs!

This month's worship newsletter for families:

This newsletter gives a great overview of what our school assemblies will cover this January and prayers for you to say together at home:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

This week's Bible Scripture:

Matthew 5: 1-12

**'Blessed are the poor
in spirit.'**



30th January 2026

Attendance

Meerkats- 92%
Ladybirds 96%
Wallabies- 95%
Rhinos- 96%
Wolf Cubs- 98%
Eagles- 95%
Dolphins- 100%
Quackers- 92%
Lobsters- 96%
Whole School- 96%



Stars of the Week- for being respectful by always being honest

Meerkats- Gabriel
Ladybirds- Laura
Wallabies- Harry
Rhinos- Ava S
Wolf Cubs- Ada-Lily
Eagles- Taha
Dolphins- Malachi
Quackers- Mustafa
Lobsters- Simas



Team Points


Arrowsmith

5230

5300


Campion


Barlow

5650

5420


Southworth

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Wraparound Care

We now have full wrap around care led by Play and Learn Scheme.

Times are as follows:

- Breakfast Club 7.30am-8.35am £7 per day including breakfast
 - Breakfast Club 8am- 8.35am £4 per day including breakfast
 - Afterschool Club 3.15-5.30pm £11 per day including a snack
 - Afterschool Club 3.15-4.30pm £7 per day including a snack
 - Afterschool Club 4.30-5.30pm (if pupils have already been in a club e.g. choir and wish to join afterschool club after this) £7 per day including a snack
- To book, please click the link: <http://www.pals.schoolipal.co.uk/>

For any questions, please email playandlearnscheme@gmail.com or call 07930924993

Play and Learn Scheme have begun the running of the breakfast and after school club provision in school and this is going really well! Pupils who have attended this week have thoroughly enjoyed their sessions. 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 below). 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.

30th January 2026

**PE Days
5th Jan- 12th Feb**



**Meerkats- Wed and Thurs
Ladybirds- Tues and Thurs
Wallabies- Wed and Thurs
Rhinos- Mon and Tues
Wolf Cubs- Wed and Fri
Eagles- Tues and Wed
Dolphins- Tues and Fri
(swimming)
Quackers- Mon and Fri
(swimming)
Lobsters-Friday**

Upcoming Dates

**2-6th February- PGL Trip
to Paris**

**12th February- Meerkats
Stay and Learn (letter to
follow)**

**THURSDAY 12th February-
School Closes for half
term**

**23rd February- School
reopens after half term**

**26th February- GIFT Team
Family Worship for Lent**

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**



SCHOOL ADMISSION 2027/2028

The Governing Body are in consultation in relation to the school admission categories for September 2027-2028 admission.

Our full admission policy for 2027/2028 can be found on our school's website:

<https://www.stmarysoswaldtwistle.co.uk/admissions/>



CONSULTATION

The consultation will take place from Friday 5th December until Friday 30th January 2026

HAVE YOUR SAY

Any objections are to be put in writing to the Chair of Governors, Mr David Joyce at the school address by 3.30pm on Friday 30th January 2026

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
MAYFIELD AVENUE
OSWALDTWISTLE
BB5 3AA

Top Tips for Adopting SAFE & HEALTHY ONLINE HABITS

Everyone has so much going on in their lives, and that includes children: from exams and deadlines to anxiety and mental health struggles. It's quite easy to send memes, make jokes and vent online about the things that irritate us, but when was the last time you – or your child – took a moment to share something kind or positive instead? In fact, when did you last stop and think about your family's online activities? To help keep them safe and teach them healthy online habits, we need to develop our children's digital resilience. There are lots of ways that children can become more digitally resilient, and we've pulled together some popular strategies here...

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?



Resilience doesn't mean being so tough that nothing gets to you, and it's not about "putting up with things" either. Instead, it's the ability to recover from setbacks. Everyone feels sad, worried, scared or upset at times: it's how we respond and adapt to those situations which is important. Digital resilience is about making choices that keep us safe and happy online, even when we're exposed to something negative or upsetting. Building your child's digital resilience will help reduce the impact of potential risks as they engage with and navigate around the online world.

MAKE POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES



- ✓ Make time for the people and things that make you happy.
- ✓ Monitor your screen time and stick to your limits.
- ✓ On social media, follow people that make you feel good about yourself – and unfollow the ones who don't.
- ✓ Spread some positivity: post good reviews, leave encouraging comments and share good news.

KEEP YOUR HEALTH IN MIND

- ✓ Try to factor in regular breaks offline and away from your screen – ideally, outdoors for some revitalising fresh air.
- ✓ Exercise is a brilliant stress-buster: even a walk around the block, a bike ride or a stroll to your local shop can really work wonders.
- ✓ Be strict with yourself about putting devices away in plenty of time before bed: they can interfere with a good night's sleep, which is essential for staying healthy.

REACH OUT FOR SUPPORT

- ✓ If you have a problem online, don't be afraid to reach out to specialist people or organisations that could help.
- ✓ Follow people on socials who have the same values and morals as you.
- ✓ You could always talk to a friend, or a trusted adult like a teacher or family member for some advice.

PUT SAFETY FIRST

- ✓ If you see something online that upsets or worries you, tell a trusted adult about it as soon as possible.
- ✓ You could also report the content that's making you feel uncomfortable to the site or app that you saw it on, so they can look into it.
- ✓ Another option is to block the person or the account that's causing you a problem – or you could go one step further by totally deleting the app you were using.

GET THINGS CLEAR IN YOUR HEAD



- ✓ Ask yourself what kindness online actually looks like. Can you remember the last time someone was kind or supportive towards you online? What did they do?
- ✓ Think about how it makes you feel when someone sends you a positive or funny message online.
- ✓ What about the opposite: has someone ever been deliberately unkind to you online? What did they do and how did it make you feel?
- ✓ If someone's behaviour online is causing you stress, try to remind yourself of all the steps you can take if a person's being unkind online.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a registered counsellor with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, working in private practice to offer counselling to children, teenagers and young adults. She is the founder of *Engage Support*, a mobile app focusing on mental health awareness with the goal of providing resources and solutions to schools worldwide.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

We love, learn and grow together with Jesus

HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Re-open | Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 |
| Closure after school on | Friday 24 th October 2025 |
| Mid-term closure | Monday 27 th October- Friday 31 st October |
| Closure after school on | Friday 19 th December 2025 |

OPENINGS 73

SPRING TERM 2026

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Re-open | Monday 5 th January 2026 |
| Closure after school on | Thursday 12 th February 2026 |
| Mid-term closure | Friday 13 th February – Friday 20 th February |
| Closure after school | Friday 27 th March 2026 |

OPENINGS 54

SUMMER TERM 2026

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Re-open | Monday 13 th April 2026 |
| May Day closure | Monday 4 th May 2026 |
| Closure after school on | Friday 22 nd May 2026 |
| Mid-term closure | Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May |
| Closure after school on | Thursday 16 th July 2026 |

OPENINGS 63

Total openings 190