

19th December 2025

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

What an end to the autumn term! The past week has been filled with such wonderful moments of joy, celebration, and community spirit that truly capture the essence of our school.

Rocksteady pupils kicked off the week with an amazing concert that left us all in awe. Seeing their confidence grow is just magic! Their performance was a testament to the incredible talent and potential of our pupils.

On Tuesday, our Early Years and Key Stage 1 pupils led a beautiful Carol Service in Church. They sang their hearts out, and the readers were so loud and clear! More importantly, they truly reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas, bringing warmth and spirit to our community.

Wednesday brought another highlight with our delicious Christmas Dinner, prepared by our wonderful kitchen team. The excitement reached new heights when Father Christmas himself paid a visit and gave everyone a treat! It was a day filled with festive cheer and smiles.

Our Choir and Guitar Club have been incredibly busy this Advent, spreading Christmas cheer far and wide. They've been on an impressive tour, performing at Mount Carmel, Springhill Care Home, Pendle Brook Care Home, Accrington Asda, and Oswaldtwistle Mills. A huge thank you to Miss Quinn and Mr Kimberley for supporting them on this wonderful community outreach.

Yesterday, we sadly said goodbye to Mr Egan, who has been with us for over 15 years. While we will miss him deeply, we wish him the very best of luck in his new venture.

School closes today at the usual time and will reopen on Monday 5th January. We wish you all a very happy and Holy Christmas and hope you enjoy the time together

This month's worship newsletter for families:

This newsletter gives a great overview of what our school assemblies will cover this December 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 1: 18-24 "
Jesus was born of
Mary, who was
betrothed to Joseph,
son of David"



19th December 2025

Attendance

Meerkats- 94%
Ladybirds 100%
Wallabies- 96%
Rhinos- 96%
Wolf Cubs- 96%
Eagles- 95%
Dolphins- 95%
Quackers- 95%
Lobsters- 94%
Whole School- 95%



Stars of the Week- for being ready by lining up sensibly

Meerkats- Hiba
Ladybirds- Delilah
Wallabies- Amayla
Rhinos- Krystiana
Wolf Cubs- Roman
Eagles- Ellie
Dolphins- Hallie
Quackers- Dylan
Lobsters- Simas



Team Points


Arrowsmith

0


Barlow

0


Campion

0


Southworth

0

19th December 2025

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.

19th December 2025

**PE Days
3rd Nov- 19th Dec**



**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 (Trident
Military)**

Upcoming Dates

**19th Dec- School closes for
Christmas at 3.15pm**

**5th January- School re-
opens at the usual times**

**9th January- Baby Bank
donations**

**30th January- NSPCC
Number Day (letter to
follow)**

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

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

Church News

**Christmas Eve Mass
5.30pm (with a visit from
Santa and a gift!)**

Christmas Day Mass 10am



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

SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and suitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you could use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own phone, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. Go to my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password is protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

Meet Our Expert

Andy Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need to set up the Chromebook with your own account first then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

The National College

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