

**13th March 2026**

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



## **Our week...**

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening this week. It was wonderful to see so many of you in school, and the 85% attendance really demonstrates the commitment you have to your child's education – a commitment that mirrors our own here at Saint Mary's. These conversations between parents, carers and teachers are so valuable, and we appreciate you taking the time to meet with us. If you weren't able to make it along, please don't worry. Do have a chat with your child's class teacher and we'll be happy to arrange a suitable time that works better for you.

This week has also been a busy and exciting one for our Eco Reps. On Tuesday, Mrs Fenn took four of our pupils up to Mont Carmel for the Eco Champions Day, and they represented our school brilliantly. It was fantastic to hear how much they enjoyed the day, exploring energy and getting hands-on with some brilliant activities – including making electricity pass through fruit! These kinds of experiences really bring learning to life and we're so proud of how our Eco Reps engage with these important environmental initiatives.

Looking ahead, we have some wonderful events coming up that we'd love you to be part of. Our Science Fair will take place on Wednesday next week, and this is a brilliant opportunity to celebrate all the fantastic investigations and experiments our pupils have been working on. If your child is taking part, please bring their project in on the morning of the fair, and we'll display everything beautifully in the school hall. We'd really encourage you to pop in after school to have a look around – it's a lovely way to see all the children's hard work on display and celebrate their scientific curiosity.

We're also excited to let you know that Easter Raffle tickets have been sent home! This year's raffle will have at least four prizes for each class, so there's plenty to play for. Tickets are £1 per strip and we're asking for cash for these, please. If you'd like to purchase more tickets than those included in your child's pack, just speak to the office and they'll be able to help you out.

### **This month's worship newsletter for families:**

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

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

### **This week's Bible**

**Scripture:**

**John 9: 1-41**

**"He went and washed and received his sight"**



13th March 2026

## Attendance

Meerkats- 97%  
Ladybirds- 92%  
Wallabies-96%  
Rhinos- 93%  
Wolf Cubs-98%  
Eagles- 99%  
Dolphins- 95%  
Quackers- 92%  
Lobsters- 97%  
Whole School- 96%



## Stars of the Week- for being ready by showing good focus in class

Meerkats- Malgorzata  
Ladybirds- Raees  
Wallabies- Elijah  
Rhinos- Isabella L  
Wolf Cubs- Ada-Lily  
Eagles- Adele  
Dolphins-Malachi  
Quackers- Maddy O-W  
Lobsters- Bella



## Team Points

  
Arrowsmith

4775

4780

  
Campion

  
Barlow

4890

4905

  
Southworth

**13th March 2026**

## **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](mailto: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.

**13th March 2026**

**PE Days**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb- 27<sup>th</sup> March**



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

## **Upcoming Dates**

**16<sup>th</sup> March- Whole school, individual and sibling photos**

**18th March- Science Fair**

**24<sup>th</sup> March- GIFT Team Family Worship (letter to follow)**

**25th March- Heart to Heart Coffee Morning 9.30-10.30am**

**27<sup>th</sup> March- Easter Raffle**

**27<sup>th</sup> March- School closes for Easter at 3.15pm**

**13<sup>th</sup> April- School Re-opens for the summer term**



## **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**

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.



## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VC247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipalapp/about/privacy.html>

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

# Good Friday

Stations of the Cross  
Walk at  
The Coppice,  
Accrington



Pupil readers from  
Mount Carmel R.C. High and  
St. Christopher's CofE High  
schools

**3rd April 2026 - 11.15am**  
Meet at the top of Avenue Parade



An interdenominational event, everyone is welcome

*We love, learn and grow together with Jesus*

## **HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026**

### **AUTUMN TERM 2025**

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

### **OPENINGS 73**

### **SPRING TERM 2026**

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

### **OPENINGS 54**

### **SUMMER TERM 2026**

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

### **OPENINGS 63**

**Total openings 190**