

20th March 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

What a week! We celebrated British Science Week by holding a Science Day. All pupils in classes looked at growing and planting. There is now a very competitive competition taking place between classes on which class can grow the best potatoes! Watch this space! We also invited pupils to bring in an investigation or science project for our science fair and we had some amazing entries! Thank you to all who entered!

On Wednesday a team of pupils attended a dance competition which they had been practising for a number of weeks. They performed amazingly and received a highly commended from the judges!

We are holding a Heart to Heart Coffee Morning next week on Wednesday 9.30-10.30am. We'd love to see you there as part of our school community. Come along!

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 11: 1-45

**"I am the resurrection
and the light"**



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Attendance

Meerkats- 94%
Ladybirds- 87%
Wallabies-95%
Rhinos- 90%
Wolf Cubs-94%
Eagles- 95%
Dolphins- 95%
Quackers- 88%
Lobsters- 92%
Whole School- 92%



Stars of the Week- for being respectful by waiting patiently for others

Meerkats- Roman
Ladybirds- Ophelia
Wallabies- Arianna
Rhinos- Tymon
Wolf Cubs- Percy
Eagles- Skylar
Dolphins- Arlo
Quackers- Pearl
Lobsters- Alicja



Team Points


Arrowsmith

4890

4820


Campion


Barlow

4825

5005


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.

20th March 2026

PE Days
23rd Feb- 27th 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

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

27th March- Easter Raffle

27th March- School closes for Easter at 3.15pm

13th 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



**Have a
wonderful
weekend**

Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy MILK

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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 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