

**27th March 2026**

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



## **Our week...**

**What a busy final week of term we have had... ending with lots of successes!**

**Thank you to all those who attended our Heart to Heart Coffee Morning; this was such a lovely event and the conversations and feeling of togetherness that were present were lovely to witness. A group of pupils also attended the Hyndburn Swimming Gala on Wednesday evening; the children all performed incredibly well and our girls team came away as CHAMPIONS! Well done to Eva, Martha, Lottie and Emma!**

**On Thursday KS2 pupils took part in a Reconciliation service where we came together to say sorry for our sins; pupils were very respectful during this service.**

**Our legendary Easter Raffle took place this morning. We had over 50 prizes to give away and pupils who won are going home happy with their winnings! Thank you to all who bought tickets and donated- you raised £ which will be put towards the cost of transport for school trips.**

**We ended our Spring Term with our Lenten Read-around; staff told the events of Holy Week and the children joined in with hymns. This is always a lovely way to end our term and ensures our pupils leave with the importance of Lent in their hearts.**

**Thank you for all your support as always this term; have a lovely break and we will see you on 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

### **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:**

**Matthew 21: 1-11  
"Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of  
the Lord"**



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## Attendance

Meerkats- 96%  
Ladybirds- 85%  
Wallabies-98%  
Rhinos- 89%  
Wolf Cubs-97%  
Eagles- 100%  
Dolphins- 94%  
Quackers- 95%  
Lobsters- 96%  
Whole School- 95%



## Stars of the Week- for being safe by staying in my seat when I eat my lunch

Meerkats- Mustafa  
Ladybirds- George  
Wallabies- Sophia  
Rhinos-Eadie  
Wolf Cubs- Florrie  
Eagles- Daniel  
Dolphins- Zaynab  
Quackers- Haneya  
Lobsters- Renea



## Team Points

  
Arrowsmith

0

0

  
Campion

  
Barlow

0

0

  
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](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.

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**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**

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

**8<sup>th</sup> May- David Attenborough Day (letter to follow)**

**11-14<sup>th</sup>- KS2 SATs Week**

**20<sup>th</sup> May- Crowning Our Lady (letter to follow)**

## **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**

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

## 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

## 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

## 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

## 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

## 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

## 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

## 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

## 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

## 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

## 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices)

# 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**