

17th April 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

Welcome back! We are now in our summer term and we are hoping that the weather gets the memo soon! We welcomed two new teachers this week; Miss Walmsley (covering Miss Roberts' maternity leave) and Mrs Brierley (Ladybirds Teacher). Both teachers are very enthusiastic and excited to begin their journey's at Saint Mary's. We know you will make them feel very at home here.

The library building work is well underway as you can see! The building team are very accommodating and are working around us as much as possible. The team from Rosslee Construction led an assembly for the pupils on Tuesday and spoke about the work and how pupils can ensure they are safe around the site. Thank you to you all for being patient and bearing with us whilst the work takes place- it will be worth it in the end!

As we are now in Summer Term we are hoping the weather may improve! Children may wear grey shorts or blue checked dresses as part of our uniform. On hot, sunny days, pupils may also bring a cap and suncream to apply themselves when they are outside.

This month's worship newsletter for families:

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

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

This week's Bible Scripture:

Luke 24: 13-35

"He was known to them in the breaking of the bread"



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Attendance

Meerkats- 100%
Ladybirds- 88%
Wallabies-98%
Rhinos- 97%
Wolf Cubs-95%
Eagles- 92%
Dolphins- 94%
Quackers- 94%
Lobsters- 94%
Whole School- 95%



Stars of the Week- for being ready by stopping straight away when I am asked

Meerkats- Hiba
Ladybirds- Harley
Wallabies-Posy
Rhinos-Haniya
Wolf Cubs- Harley
Eagles- Marcel
Dolphins- Oliver
Quackers- Mustafa
Lobsters- Emma



Team Points


Arrowsmith

4580

4705


Campion


Barlow

4695

4675


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.

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PE Days
13th April- 22nd May



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

Upcoming Dates

13th April- School Re-opens for the summer term

8th May- David Attenborough Day (letter to follow)

11-14th May- KS2 SATs Week

20th 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

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO RETURN TO ROUTINE

Most of us look forward to the school holidays as an opportunity to slow down and relax, stay up later, sleep in and generally approach life in a more leisurely fashion. However, this does mean that returning to normal school-day routines can feel like an uphill battle. Here are some practical tips to ease that transition, reduce stress and set children up for success.

1 START SMALL AND EARLY

Begin reintroducing elements of the school routine at least a few days before term starts. Gradually adjust bedtime, wake-up times and mealtimes to be more in line with school-day rhythms. Small changes can make a big difference in avoiding last-minute panic and helping children to readjust smoothly.

2 REVISIT THE SCHEDULE

Involve your child in mapping out their daily routine so they understand what's going to change. Visual tools like charts or calendars can help keeping to that schedule feel more engaging. When children understand and anticipate their personal timetable, they feel more secure and in control.

3 CREATE A SLEEP PLAN

Sleep can present one of the biggest challenges, as children can sometimes become night owls, prone to staying up late during the holidays. Limit screen time before bed and encourage winding-down activities like reading or listening to calming music. A restful night's sleep improves focus, mood and overall wellbeing, making mornings much smoother.

4 ENCOURAGE FRIENDSHIPS

Help your child to reconnect with school friends by organising playdates, catch-ups or arranging to go to after-school clubs. Re-establishing social bonds can make the return to school more exciting and less intimidating, allowing youngsters to focus on the positive aspects of the new term.

5 GRANT RESPONSIBILITY

Give children control over some aspects of the morning routine. Maybe they could be in charge of waking everyone up, serving breakfast or choosing the radio station that everyone listens to while getting ready. Something that gives them a sense of ownership over their morning schedule can help them view the task as one they've chosen to do, rather than being told to do it.

6 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Make sure children are receiving balanced meals (with regular healthy snacks to boost energy and concentration), putting them in the best possible state to return to education. A nutritious breakfast is particularly crucial for a positive start to the day. Involve children in meal planning to make it enjoyable and collaborative.

7 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk with your child about how they're feeling about returning to school: whether they're excited, anxious or a mix of both. Validating their emotions helps them feel supported and understood. Try asking them about the things they're looking forward to at school, such as seeing their friends again. Focusing on the positives can be useful for children struggling with change.

8 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING

Ease children back into a learning mindset by incorporating fun, educational activities into their home life. Reading a favourite book, playing games that involve maths or discussing an interesting topic can gently reawaken their focus and prime their minds to learn, which can have helpful impacts on their academic performance.

9 PREP TOGETHER

Turn preparation into a shared activity, to shoulder the responsibility together and provide support where needed. Pack school bags, lay out uniforms and plan lunch the night before. This not only reduces early morning stress but also gives children a sense of ownership over being ready for school.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Transitions take time, and every child adjusts differently: so, it's important to stay calm and supportive, especially if they're reacting adversely to the change in their daily life. Be ready to tweak routines as needed, and work with the child to make the return to education as easy as possible for them. Patience can go a long way to setting a positive tone for the new school year.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an education expert with a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Passionate about empowering adults who spend time with and care for young people, Becky specialises in creating practical strategies that promote wellbeing and resilience in children during life's transitions.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-to-return-to-routine>

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