

12th December 2025

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

What a wonderful week we've had! Our KS2 pupils have truly been the stars of the show, entertaining and amazing us all with their incredible nativity productions. It has been an absolute joy to witness their confidence and talents shine so brightly. The performances were a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and pupils, and I know families and friends who watched were equally impressed.

Our school choir has been spreading Christmas cheer far and wide this week. They have performed beautifully at Asda, delighted the residents at Springhill Care Home, and delivered a memorable performance at the Mount Carmel Partnership carol service. Their lovely voices have truly captured the spirit of the season.

It was also great to see our Lobsters class showcase their musical talents with a fantastic ukulele performance on Thursday. This was the culmination of their hard work throughout the half term, and they should be incredibly proud of their achievement.

On Tuesday 16th December, our EYFS and KS1 pupils will be leading the Carol Service in Church at 2pm. After the service, children will return to school and can be collected at the usual time.

Wednesday 17th December is our Christmas Dinner Day! Pupils are invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform to join in the festive celebrations.

Please note that school will close on Friday 19th December at the usual time for the Christmas holidays.

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 11: 2-11 "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"



12th December 2025

Attendance

Meerkats- 97%
Ladybirds 98%
Wallabies- 93%
Rhinos- 96%
Wolf Cubs- 95%
Eagles- 91%
Dolphins- 91%
Quackers- 97%
Lobsters- 98%
Whole School- 95%



Stars of the Week- for being safe by following the rules at break and lunch time

Meerkats- Jasper
Ladybirds- Douglas
Wallabies- Naveyah
Rhinos- Brody
Wolf Cubs- Eliza
Eagles- Jessica
Dolphins- Isobel
Quackers- Ammara
Lobsters- Riley Cr



Team Points


Arrowsmith

5660

5490


Campion


Barlow

5210

5370


Southworth

12th 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.

12th December 2025

PE Days
3rd Nov- 19th Dec



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

Upcoming Dates

**15th Dec- Lobsters Stay
and Learn**

**16th Dec- EYFS/KS1 Carol
Service in Church 2pm**

**17th Dec- Christmas
Dinner Day- Wear
Christmas jumpers**

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

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

**9th January- Baby Bank
donations (letter to
follow)**

Church News

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

Christmas Day Mass 10am



**H a v e a
w o n d e r f u l
w e e k e n d**

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

NAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION



Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION



Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+



Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY



Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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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