

1st May 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

This week we have taken part in a Reading Robin around school! As part of the National Year of Reading we devised a plan so that classes would be read to, every day this week, by a different teacher. Each class have had a teacher visit them at 11am for 20 minutes to share a book; it's been great for pupils to experience different genres of books and different styles of reading.

Don't forget, next Friday we will be celebrating the 100th birthday of David Attenborough! We are inviting pupils to come to school dressed as an explorer or even as David Attenborough himself! Non-uniform is also fine! All classes will be learning about the work David has done throughout his amazing life so far.

The library is really taking shape now and the roof will start to go on next week! We are looking for any donations of good quality books suitable for children ages 4-11. If you or anyone you know could donate we'd be really grateful!

Don't forget that this Monday school will be closed for Bank Holiday. School will re-open as usual on Tuesday.

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:

John 14: 1-12

**"I am the way, and
the truth and the life"**



1st May 2026

Attendance

Meerkats- 96%
Ladybirds- 89%
Wallabies-98%
Rhinos- 93%
Wolf Cubs-98%
Eagles- 94%
Dolphins- 94%
Quackers- 96%
Lobsters- 93%
Whole School- 95%



Stars of the Week- for being safe by working well with others in a group

Meerkats- Andy
Ladybirds- Laura
Wallabies Ethan
Rhinos- Martha
Wolf Cubs- Sanha
Eagles- Sienna
Dolphins- Hadiqa
Quackers- Felicity
Lobsters- Aaliyah



Team Points


Arrowsmith

4065

4680


Campion


Barlow

4116

4765


Southworth

1st May 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 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.

1st May 2026

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

**4th May- BANK
HOLIDAY (school
closed)**

**8th May- David
Attenborough Day**

**11-14th May- KS2 SATs
Week**

**12th May- Dolphins'
Stay and Learn
(letter to follow)**

**20th May- Crowning
Our Lady (letter to
follow)**

**24th June- Sports Day
(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**



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍂 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.



CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.



ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.



PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.



EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

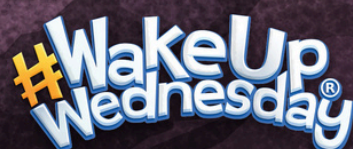
- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 😇 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 😬 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 🙄 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🌽 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College®

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH DAY

CELEBRATING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY 8TH MAY

CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO DRESS UP AS
AN EXPLORER, AN ANIMAL OR EVEN
DAVID ATTENBOROUGH HIMSELF!



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