

**15th May 2026**

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



## **Our week...**

This week, our wonderful Year 6 pupils have given their all in their SATs tests. They really focused and concentrated across the whole four mornings and even an LCC Advisor commented on their conduct. We know they all tried their bests and whatever the outcomes in the results we are so proud of their efforts! The ice cream van has paid school a visit this afternoon and they've enjoyed an afternoon of downtime.

Children in Wolf Cubs, Eagles and Quackers attended Mass on Thursday to celebrate the feast of the Ascension. Father O'Brien praised the children on their behaviour and participation during the Mass.

On Wednesday next week we will be crowning the statue of Our Lady in school in a special liturgy. Please send your child with a donation of a plant or flowers.

Don't forget, we have one space for a Parent Governor. If you feel you'd like to be more involved with school and you have skills to share then please submit your nomination form to Mrs Wolstenholme by 12pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

### **This month's worship newsletter for families:**

This newsletter gives a great overview of what our school assemblies will cover this May 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 17: 1-11**

**"Father, glorify your  
Son"**



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## Attendance

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



## Stars of the Week- for being respectful by taking turns

Meerkats- Gabriel  
Ladybirds- Theo  
Wallabies- Lamaisah  
Rhinos- Princess  
Wolf Cubs- Jack  
Eagles- Madeleine  
Dolphins- Noah  
Quackers- Paisley  
Lobsters- Maya



## Team Points

  
Arrowsmith

3700

3640

  
Campion

  
Barlow

3560

3140

  
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.

**15th May 2026**

**PE Days**  
**13<sup>th</sup> April- 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> May- School  
closes for half term**

**1<sup>st</sup> June- School re-  
opens**

**24<sup>th</sup> 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**

## 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

*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**