

22nd May 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

What a lovely week we have had to end the first half of summer term! On Wednesday we crowned the statue of Our Lady in school. Thank you to each and everyone of you who donated plants and flowers; the plants will be planted in the school garden by pupils and the flowers have been placed on prayer tables in classrooms.

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of Pentecost this weekend (the birth of the Catholic Church), pupils have been writing Pentecost Prayers and have delivered these to houses local to school to spread God's word just as the disciples did.

We welcomed parents and families of our new Reception cohort on Thursday evening. It was great to meet everyone and see some familiar faces returning with siblings! We can't wait for the children to begin their school journey with us.

Amy Edmondson has taken up the role of Parent Governor and attended her first meeting on Thursday. We hope Amy enjoys the role!

School closes for half term today at 3.15pm. We wish you all a very relaxing break with the chance of some sunshine too! School will re-open on Monday 1st June at the usual times.

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 20: 19-23

"Receive the Holy Spirit"



22nd May 2026

Attendance

Meerkats- 92%
Ladybirds-94%
Wallabies-89%
Rhinos-92%
Wolf Cubs-90%
Eagles- 97%
Dolphins-92%
Quackers-92%
Lobsters- 88%
Whole School- 92%



Stars of the Week- for being safe by being a good role model to others

Meerkats- Isla
Ladybirds- Mustafa
Wallabies- Bella
Rhinos- Anara
Wolf Cubs- Oghosa
Eagles- Indie
Dolphins- Ellie
Quackers- Muhammad
Lobsters- Amelia M



Team Points


Arrowsmith

4775

4365


Campion


Barlow

3845

3430


Southworth

22nd 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.

22nd May 2026

**PE Days
1st June- 16th July**



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

Upcoming Dates

**22nd May- School closes for
half term**

1st June- School re-opens

**10,11,12th June- Book Fair
after school**

**19th June- Musical Theatre
Day (letter to follow)**

24th June- Sports Day

**30th June- Sports Day Back
Up (letter to follow)**

**2nd July- Quacker's Stay and
Learn (letter to follow)**

3rd July- Transition Morning

**7th July- SATs results to
parents**

**13th July- Reports sent
home**

**16th July- School closes for
summer**

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**



HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health – so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people you know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while using technology and just when you've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying do take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

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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.



FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.
Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/
National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html
The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0800 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on), by allowing your child to choose the path that they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

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SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

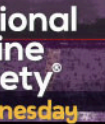
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We love, learn and grow together with Jesus

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