

5th June 2026

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Weekly Newsletter



Our week...

We have started the final half term of the year with a bang with all pupils taking part in Sports Week! On Tuesday pupils in all classes had a session with martial arts experts and on Wednesday and Thursday all pupils took part in Tri-Kids sessions. Pupils across all sessions performed brilliantly and despite the weather they all got stuck in and gave it their best!

Next week pupils in Year 4 will sit their Multiplication Test Check. We know pupils have been working hard on this and will do their very bests. Pupils in Year 1 will also be sitting their Phonics Screening checks next week too- Mrs McGarry will be leading these and we know again that the pupils will all show that they are superstars! This half term is notoriously busy! Please make sure you make a note of the dates at the end of this newsletter and also keep an eye on our Facebook page and your emails to make sure you are up to date.

This month's worship newsletter for families:

This newsletter gives a great overview of what our school assemblies will cover this June 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 6: 51-58

**"My flesh is true food
and my blood is true
drink"**



5th June 2026

Attendance

Meerkats- 92%
Ladybirds-95%
Wallabies-96%
Rhinos-92%
Wolf Cubs-96%
Eagles- 98%
Dolphins-94%
Quackers-94%
Lobsters- 95%
Whole School- 95%



Stars of the Week- for being safe by being ready by arriving to school on time and settling quickly

Meerkats- Zahra
Ladybirds-George
Wallabies- Ben
Rhinos- Ave MT
Wolf Cubs- Harry
Eagles- Thea
Dolphins- Harley
Quackers- Julia
Lobsters- Ava



Team Points



Arrowsmith

4515



Barlow

3810

4495



Campion

3950



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.

5th June 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

**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**



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



**#WakeUp
Wednesday®**

**The
National
College®**

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