

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you have all had a lovely summer and managed to spend some quality family time together, either on holiday or at home.

A warm welcome to all of the new children and families who have joined our school this September. We welcome our new Reception and Nursery intakes as well as all those children who have started in our expanded SEN Unit. There are also a number of children who have joined us in KS1 and KS2. We also welcome Miss Horoszczak who has joined St. Mary's as our new Year 5 teacher and Miss Waite who has joined the EYFS team. I hope all your journeys through St. Mary's will be a fruitful one and each and every day you feel part of our school family.

We have had some big changes over the summer. We were very fortunate to have had some funding from Salford Diocese to improve our school building. Our new Year 2 have a brand-new classroom and our SEN Unit now has a purpose-built area complete with hygiene facilities and direct access to outdoor provision. Thank you to all the staff who spent a considerable amount of the summer ensuring that the building work could run smoothly and be ready for our Sept start.

We have also changed our school meals provider. I hope the switch over to Dolce will be a positive one and that as parents you can now have a greater knowledge of, and control of, what your children are eating in school, while also knowing that the options available are generally prepared fresh in school each day. Thank you to all those who have downloaded the app or accessed your account online (<https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login>). We have made some slight changes to how packed lunches are stored. With this in mind, if you wish your child to have a drink with their packed lunch please ensure this is in their packed lunch bag, not left in their school bag. Children do have access to water at the dinner tables.

It has been wonderful to see all the children returning to school in their smart uniforms. As a lot of you will have purchased new uniforms, please ensure your child's name is clearly visible inside each piece of uniform. It really is heartbreaking when we have piles of lost property left in school and we cannot identify who it belongs to, so it is left unclaimed.

Mr Price

15th Sept	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows – Mass at St. Mary's Church
17th Sept	Sacramental Programme Meeting 7pm Church Hall
25th Sept	Year 5/6 boys football – Curzon Ashton
26th Sept	Flu immunisations
26th Sept	Girls' football – Astley Sports Village
2nd Oct	National Poetry Day
16th Oct	Individual school photos
17th Oct	Strung, Sung, Supper – school / parish event. School Hall
24th Oct	End of Autumn 1
3rd Nov	Start of Autumn 2

Dates will continue to be added.

Please check regularly.

Parish News

The parish newsletter can be viewed by clicking the link below.

[Newsletters](#)

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week: Ahmed, Sophie, and Arabella. I hope you have all had a wonderful day.

School Attendance and Term Time Holidays

The government changes around attendance at schools have now been implemented. Please note that only absences categorised as urgent and exceptional will be authorised. No term time holidays will be authorised. A copy of the school absence request form is on the school website and copies are available from the school office. Please provide adequate time for school to process the request.

It is worth noting that if your child arrives after 9:30am without valid reason (eg a medical appointment) this is classed as an unauthorised absence.

Penalty notices will be issued for any 10 unauthorised absences within a 10 week period. (this is equivalent to 5 schools days)

Penalty notices will rise to £160, per child, per parent. If paid within 21 days, this will be reduced to £80. If a second penalty notice is issued, this will be at £160 but will not have the option of being reduced.

A 3rd penalty notice cannot be issued within 3 years of the first one. If the threshold (10 sessions) is met for a 3rd time, this will result in prosecution.

Our attendance and punctuality at St. Mary's is good and for the vast majority of our families these changes will have no impact at all but one of our biggest issues is around holidays in school time – and following guidelines, I am never allowed to authorise holidays in school time.

Please note that if your child is ill prior to or directly after a school holiday, or a planned holiday of 4 days or less, school may ask for evidence of illness or flight details. This is to comply with government guidelines and also from a welfare point of view.

Nursery Places

We still have a few places available in our school nursery. If you wish your child to start in Nursery please contact the school office. Spaces are capped at 26. Once we reach this number we will no longer be able to admit more children.

Sacramental Programme

For pupils at St. Mary's who are Year 3 or above who would like to enrol on the sacramental programme for 2025-26, there is a meeting on Tuesday 17th September in the church hall. If you require any more information, Sr Delores is on the main school gate most mornings or Fr Joe is available after parish masses at weekend.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding team at St. Mary's consists of Miss Johnson, Mr Knapper and myself. If you wish to discuss any concerns with us, please ask and at least one of us will be available. All of our staff are safeguard trained, and we are here to keep your children safe and happy at all times.

Don't Miss Out...

It may seem very early, but each year we have children who miss out on their first choice school because they miss the deadlines for applying for school places.

For children in Year 6 – the application window for high schools opens in early September and closes on the 31st October. More information will follow shortly.

For children in Nursery – The window for applications to Primary school opens in November and closes on the 15th January 2026. This year we had close to 70 applications for our 30 places. **If your child attends St. Mary's Nursery – this does not automatically entitle you to a place in our Reception class. You must still apply via Tameside.**

School Uniform and PE Kits

During Wednesday's assembly I spoke to all of the children about having pride in their uniform and how a school uniform lets everybody know that every child is on the same team. The children at St. Mary's have always looked smart in their uniforms and we need that to continue. The school uniform at St. Mary's is as follows:

Navy blue jumper or cardigan (with or without logo),

White shirt or blouse,

Grey trousers or skirt,

School tie, Black shoes

If your child has PE, they should come into school wearing their full PE kit: **White t shirt or polo shirt, navy blue shorts, trainers.** To keep warm, your child may also wear navy blue jogging pants and their school jumper / cardigan.

PE days are as follows:

SEN Unit	Tuesday	Reception	Friday
Year 1	Tuesday and Friday	Year 2	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 3	Monday and Thursday	Year 4	Monday and Thursday
Year 5	Monday and Wednesday	Year 6	Wednesday and Thursday (swimming)

School Meals

The Autumn Term menu can be found at the end of the newsletter. We now have 4 options available for each day – a meat option, a vegetarian option, jacket potato or a sandwich. We also have a salad bar which children can help themselves to with a range of vegetables and fresh bread.

School lunches need to be pre-booked using the schoolgrid app or webpage. While the vast majority of parents have already prebooked meals, we currently have a small number of parents who have not registered and completed their child's profile. The number of meals cooked each day is based on the number of meals ordered. Although we would not let you child go hungry, if not prebooked, they may be limited to food choices which they would not pick themselves. Meals can be booked in advance – so there is no reason why you could not choose a weeks' worth of meals with your child at the weekend if you so wish!

Toasty Friday

Next Friday will see the return of the school favourite, Toasty Friday. If you would like your child to have a piece of toast at Break each Friday, the cost is £7.00 and this can be paid online at parentmail.

Of course the success of Toasty Friday very much depends on our volunteer help to make the toast. If you would be able to assist, then please contact the school office, to ask to be included on our Toasty Friday rota.

Don't miss out...

...on a school place for your child



Primary School

If your child will be 4 before 1 September 2026

- ★ You should put your child's name down at any Tameside Primary School.
- ★ During October the school will send you the information you will need to make your application.
- ★ If your child attends a school nursery they are NOT guaranteed a place in Reception. You will need to make a new application for a Reception place.
- ★ You must apply for a Primary School Reception place online through the Tameside MBC website at **www.tameside.gov.uk**
- ★ The online application facility will open for new Reception applications **early November 2025.**
- ★ The closing date for Primary School applications is **15 January 2026.**
- ★ Any application received after 15th January 2026 will be dealt with as a 'LATE' application and considered after those received on time.



High School

If your child will be 11 before 1 September 2026

- ★ You should apply for a High School place through the Local Authority where you live.
- ★ Extra district residents will receive information on how to apply from their own Local Authority.
- ★ You must apply for a High School Year 7 place online through the Tameside MBC website at **www.tameside.gov.uk**
- ★ The online application facility will open for new Year 7 applications **early September 2025.**
- ★ The closing date for High School applications is **31 October 2025.**
- ★ Any application received after 31st October 2025 will be dealt with as a 'LATE' application and considered after those received on time.

Mega Monday



Tasty Tuesday



Roast Wednesday



Try It Thursday



Fishy Friday



WEEK 1

Weeks starting:

1st Sept, 22nd Sept, 13th Oct
3rd Nov, 24th Nov, 15th Dec

Margherita Pizza & Garlic Slice (V)
Chinese BBQ Noodles (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Green Beans, Sweetcorn
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Vanilla Ice Cream (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Crispy Chicken Dippers & Tomato Based Sauce
★ Quorn Dippers & Tomato Based Sauce (VG)
★ Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Steamed Rice, Sweetcorn, Broccoli
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
★ Marble Sponge & Custard (V) ★
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Roast Chicken (GF)
Plant Based Sausages (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Roast Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Raspberry Jelly & Peaches (VG)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

★ Homemade Beef & Vegetable Pie ★
Tomato & Herb Pasta Bake (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Mashed Potatoes, Savoy Cabbage, Carrots
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Winter Fruit Crumble & Custard (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Breaded Fish Fingers
Vegetable Grill (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Soft Roll with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Chips (VG) (GF), Peas
Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF)
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Lemon Cookie (VG)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

WEEK 2

Weeks starting:

8th Sept, 29th Sept
20th Oct, 10th Nov, 1st Dec

Margherita or Vegetable Supreme Pizza (V)
Authentic Vegetable Curry & Steamed Rice (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Baked Potato Wedges, Sweetcorn, Green Beans
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Ice Cream & Fruit (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Mild Fajita Chicken, with Nachos & Steamed Rice
Neapolitan Pasta (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Cabbage, Carrots
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Fruit Crunch & Custard (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Sausage Stuffed Yorkshire Pudding
Cauliflower Cheese Loaded Yorkshire Pudding (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Peas, Gravy
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Lemon Drizzle Cake (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Cheddar & Chicken Pasta Bake
Vegetable Burrito (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Broccoli, Sweetcorn
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
★ Jam Sponge & Custard (V) ★
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Breaded Fish Fingers or Salmon & Sweet Potato Fishcake
Cheese & Tomato Quiche (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Baguette with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Chips (VG) (GF), Peas
Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF)
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Chocolate Cookie (VG)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

WEEK 3

Weeks starting:

15th Sept, 6th Oct
27th Oct, 17th Nov, 8th Dec

Margherita or Sweetcorn Pizza with Pasta Salad (V)
Italian Tomato Pasta (VG)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Green Beans, Sweetcorn
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Crispy Cake (VG)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Macaroni Cheese (V)
★ Chicken Tikka Biryani & Naan Bread ★
★ Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF) ★
Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Cauliflower, Peas
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Apple Cake & Custard (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Roast Chicken (GF)
Baked Bean Cheesy Puff (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
New Potatoes, Carrots, Savoy Cabbage, Gravy
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Strawberry Mousse (V)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

The Dolce All Day Breakfast
The Dolce All Day Veggie Breakfast (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Hash Brown, Baked Beans, Peas
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
Fresh Fruit Salad (VG)
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt

Breaded Fish Fingers or Fishless Fingers (VG)
Cheese & Onion Gratin (V)
Jacket Potato & Fillings (V) (VG) (GF)
Sandwich with a Choice of Fillings (V) (VG)
Chips (VG) (GF), Peas
Baked Beans (VG) (GF), Ketchup (VG) (GF)
Fresh Daily Salad Selection, Homemade Bread
★ Hot Chocolate Fudge Pudding (V) ★
Dolce Homebake, Seasonal Fruit, Fruit Yoghurt