

## Playtime Snacks

Over the past few weeks, there has been an increase in children bringing a range of unhealthy snacks into school to be eaten at playtime. We always have fresh fruit or vegetables available. If children wish to, they can bring an alternative piece of fruit from home to eat at playtime as a healthy break time snack if they would like to, this is optional. We ask that this is only a piece of fruit, no biscuits, nuts or fruit bars please. A small tub with chopped fruit ready to eat is also acceptable, children are encouraged to sit or stand until they have eaten their fruit to prevent any choking hazards when playing.

## Selection Box Raffle

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our selection box raffle. Tickets will be available from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December. For the raffle to be successful we require plenty of selection boxes. If you are able to donate a selection box, these can be left at the school office or handed to staff in the mornings. Thank you to all those families who have already sent in selection boxes.

## Birthdays

A very happy birthday to Myla, Tito, Imani, Mololuwa, Jackson, Malcolm and Max who have all celebrated birthdays this week, or over the weekend. I hope you all had/have a wonderful day.

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week: Luna, Lily, Ava, Tabitha, Taylor, Lewis and Joshua who have received a star of the week award for learning.

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week Alysha, Toby, Imaan, Juniper, Aoibhe, Indie and Logan who have been awarded star of the week for behaviour.

## Christmas Finishing Times

An early reminder, that at Christmas, school will be closing for the holidays at 1:30pm. This is a change to past years but may have an impact on working parents who may need to arrange childcare.

The holiday pattern for 2026-27 will be released as soon as it has been ratified by governors.

<b>27<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Mad Science Assembly
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	KS1 Nativity Performance 9:30am
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	KS1 Nativity Performance 9:30am
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	EYFS Nativity Performance 9:30am
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumpers
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Creative homework display
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Carols (Hall) 2pm
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Christmas Carols (Hall) 2pm
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Selection box raffle
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Close for Christmas 1:30pm

## Parish News

The parish newsletter can be viewed by clicking the link here: [Newsletters](#)

## 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.



## Attendance.

	<b>F2</b>	<b>93%</b>	
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>Year 6</b>	<b>99%</b>

**Congratulations to Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 who have the highest attendance this week with an 99%. Well done!**

## Punctuality

We have a number of children who are arriving at school late each morning. The school gates are open at 8:40am and registers are taken at 9:50am. We expect all children to be sat in class ready to start lessons at 8:50am. Please allow your children time to come into school, take of bags and coats and make their way into class. Even if the school gate is still open, your child will still get a late mark if they are not in class by 8:50am. If the gate is closed, children need to enter school via the main entrance.

## Christmas Dinner

Although we are still in November, Christmas will soon be here! Our school Christmas Dinner is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> December – this is also Christmas Jumper Day. School Christmas Dinner can be ordered, and paid for, via the School Grid app. Please do this as soon as possible as the food has to be ordered by the catering team in advance.

## Christmas Party Lunch

On December 19<sup>th</sup> the school kitchen will be cooking a party lunch instead of the usual meal selection. Lunch will consist of a selection of sandwiches, carrot and cucumber sticks, nachos, shortbread biscuits and fresh fruit. Lunch can be ordered via the school grid app or website in the usual way.

## Don't Miss Out...

**For children in Nursery** – The window for applications to Primary school is now open and closes on the 15<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## Nativity Concerts.

Next week, on Wednesday and Thursday, we will be holding our KS1 nativity concert in the school hall. The concert will start at 9:30am. Due to the way the hall is currently set out, parents entry is at the same side of the hall as the stage. Due to this, if you are late, you may be asked to wait until an appropriate time to enter the hall so you do not disturb the show. On the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our EYFS nativity concert. The children are looking forward to performing for you all.

## Caritas – Energy Advice Service

Caritas is Salford Diocese's own charity – one which we support as a school each year. They are currently offering advice around energy use at home – something which may be on your mind as the weather get colder and staying warm becomes more important. This free service helps people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to reduce their bills and improve their energy efficiency.

- Do you find your utility bills have been higher than expected?
- Do you struggle to understand where all those costs are coming from?
- Are you fed up with your energy supplier's tariff but don't know how to check it or switch?

If you wish to find out more information, please click here: [Energy Advice](#) | [Caritas Diocese Of Salford](#)

## **Holiday List**

The holiday list for 2026-27 has now been ratified by the governing body. We have tried to align as closely as we can with St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher to ensure that families with siblings at both schools are able to have the opportunity for family holidays together throughout the year. As is always the case, holidays in term time will not be authorised so it is wise to plan early and make bookings in advance where possible.

The holiday list can be seen below.

## **St Mary's RC Primary and Nursery School Holiday Pattern 2026/27**

### **Autumn Term**

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026 – Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2026	37 days
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2026 – Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2026	34 days

### **Spring Term**

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2027 – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2027	28 days
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027 – Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2027	24 days

### **Summer Term**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2027 – Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2027	39 days
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2027 – Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027	<u>28 days</u>

190 days

School will be closed on the following dates:

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2026	INSET Day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026	INSET Day
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027	INSET Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027	Bank Holiday

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2026 and 21<sup>st</sup> July 2027, the last days of Christmas and Summer Term, the school will close early to pupils at 1.30 pm.

