

Our Lady of Sorrows

On Monday we celebrated our school feast day – Our Lady of Sorrows. All of the children from Years 1 – 6 celebrated Mass with the parish and then all of the school celebrated with cake!

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.**

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.

Internet

Apologies for the disruption cause this week by the internet going down. AS is the case with some many things in a modern world, when the internet goes down, so does our phone line. Fortunately we are now back up and running. If it does happen again in the future, we will always find a way to inform you of the best way to be in contact with school.

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.

Parish News

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

[Newsletters](#)

22 nd Sept	Meet the teacher 3:20 – 4:20pm
24 th Sept	Cross country
25 th Sept	Year 5/6 boys football – Curzon Ashton
26 th Sept	Flu immunisations
26 th Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning
26 th Sept	Girls' football – Astley Sports Village
1 st Oct	Year 5/6 football
2 nd Oct	National Poetry Day
4 th Oct	Cross country (Saturday)
8 th Oct	Y5/6 girls' football
11 th Oct	Cross Country (Saturday)
14 th Oct	Year 5/6 tag rugby
16 th Oct	Individual school photos
17 th Oct	Strung, Sung, Supper – school / parish event. School Hall
18 th Oct	Cross Country (Saturday)
21 st Oct	Year 5/6 tag rugby
24 th Oct	End of Autumn 1
3 rd Nov	Start of Autumn 2

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays this week or will do so over the weekend: Noah, Aria, Brody and Nathan I hope you have/had a had a wonderful day filled with lots of joy.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday 26th September, we will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning at school. We have run a coffee morning in support of Macmillan for a number of years and are really grateful to all our families who continue to support the charity. Our coffee morning will run from 8.45 am until 10.00 am for all our parents/grandparents. After the coffee morning, we will be holding a cake sale for all of our children.

All monies raised will be donated to Macmillan. You can donate at the coffee morning, or by giving your child a small donation for the cake sale, or alternatively, you can donate via parentmail.

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 you 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.

School Meals

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!

Attendance.

	F2	94%	
Year 1	98%	Year 2	96%
Year 3	93%	Year 4	99%
Year 5	100%	Year 6	96%

Congratulations to Year 5 who have the highest attendance this week with an amazing 100%

Star of the Week

Congratulations to Denny, Rome, Roman, Tristan, Sophie, Aiden, Pearl, Daisy, Alfie, Ben, Lucas, Connor, Grace, Miller and Nathan who have been nominated as stars of the week for excellent work or excellent behaviour. Well done to all of them.

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.

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.

