

Half Term

Today we finish for the Autumn half term break – all of the staff in school have worked tirelessly over the past eight weeks and are definitely all ready for the break! I wish you all a very restful half-term, and hope you have the opportunity to spend some quality family time together. During half-term you may be celebrating Halloween or Bonfire Night with your families. Please be mindful of any dangers – especially around the safe use of fireworks. We all want every child to return on the 3rd November full of stories of laughter and fun.

Parents' Evening

Parents' evening has been planned for Monday 17th November and Thursday 20th November. Booking will be done via the online system as in previous years. Links will be sent out after half term.

24th Oct	End of Autumn 1
3rd Nov	Start of Autumn 2
4th Nov	Girls' Football tournament
6th Nov	Year 5 to work with RNCM
10th/11th/12th Nov	Year 6 Robinwood trip
11th Nov	Parents taster session.
14th Nov	Football tournament
17th Nov	Parents' Evening 1
20th Nov	Parents' Evening 2

Birthdays

A very happy birthday to Daisy, Febechi, Myron, Tristan, Amelia and Charlie who have all celebrated birthdays either today, or over the half term break.

I hope you all had/have a wonderful day.

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week: Kimberley, Nellie, Joseph, Ciara, Redd and Morgan who have received a star of the week award for learning.

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week: William, Baxter, Myla, Theo, Sofia and Florence who have been award star of the week for behaviour.

School Dinners – Parents' taster session

On Tuesday 11th November, parents are invited to come to the school hall to view and sample some of our new school lunches. The Dolce staff will be on hand to answer any questions or queries which you may have. More information will follow after half term.

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.

Over the half term break, you can still email your concerns to the school, but these may not be picked up instantly. Due to this, if you have any immediate concerns regarding the safety of a child you should contact the police on 999.

Building Work

I am sure you will have seen the school field turn into a building site over the past week. One of our aims this year is to improve the outdoor space surrounding the school. This is the first of several projects which will be taking place over the year. The work should be complete either at the end of half term, or the first week back. It is really important children are kept away from the area during school pick ups.

Reception intake 2026

In November the portal to apply for school places in our Reception class opens. On the 10th November we will be holding an open evening for prospective parents. It will take place between 3:45pm and 4:45pm. We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Attendance.

	F2	96%	
Year 1	84%	Year 2	96%
Year 3	93%	Year 4	100%
Year 5	99%	Year 6	92%

Congratulations to Year 4 who have the highest attendance this week with an amazing 100%. Well done

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.**



HAF Tameside

There are several opportunities via HAF (Holiday Activity and Food Fund) for children to access a range of interesting half-term activities. These are funded, or part funded for children in receipt of free school meals. If you wish to find out more information, or book sessions, [please click here.](#)

Fireworks Night Dinner

We will be holding a second themed lunch on Wednesday 5th November. Although it seems a long time away – it is during the first week back after the half term break so will soon be on us. Please book this school lunch through the online app.

Energy Advice Service

A new free service to help people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire to reduce their bills and improve energy efficiency.

- Have your utility bills been higher than expected this month?
- Don't understand where all these costs are coming from?
- Fed up with your energy supplier's tariff but don't know how to check or switch?

We can help...

Personalised advice from our energy experts:

- Arrange a one-to-one session with one of our advisors to discuss a range of energy-related issues.
- Our sessions can include interpretation into other spoken languages and British Sign Language on request.

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✉ **info@caritassalford.org.uk**

Charity number: 1125808



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Winterproof your home:

- Book a visit with our team who can advise on the best tips and tricks to help get your home ready for the winter.
- Depending on your needs, we can support with expert advice on your personal heating system, and provide some energy saving devices, too or similar



Energy debt advice:

- Our advisors can help create energy debt plans to reduce the impact of debt on households.



Find out more or get support now:

- Attend or host an energy-saving session. Find out more about the latest sessions on our website, including those with an interpreter and drop-in events for members of the local deaf community: www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport
- Get in touch if you have any questions, would like to find out more, or want to arrange an event in your local school, library, community centre or other location:

Get in touch: 0161 205 2754
energyadvice@caritassalford.org.uk

