

## Welcome Back

We hope you and your families enjoyed a peaceful and joyful Christmas together.

We had a lovely end to the Autumn term. Lots of children had the opportunity to perform in the lead up to Christmas. Our EYFS and KS1 classes had the opportunity to share their nativity concerts with their friends and parents and the whole school came together to perform a range of Christmas songs at two very busy concerts. Thank you to all of you who attended and supported these events. A big thank you to all the staff and pupils for their preparations and hard work to make the productions so successful.

Thank you so much for the lovely cards, gifts and well wishes shared with the staff over the festive period. These are never expected, but are very much appreciated by all staff.

## Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our donations for the foodbank in the run up to Christmas. All of the donations were taken to the foodbank who very appreciative of St. Mary's help and support.

## Parish News

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

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week: Tito, Jodi, John, Joseph, Tolulope, Frankie and Keeston who have received a star of the week award for learning.

Congratulations to each of our stars of the week: Keanna, Connor, Jackson, Aria, Poppy, Lucy and Logan who have been award star of the week for behaviour.

Well done to all of you – keep up the good work.

## Merit Badges

Congratulations to Kate, Amelia, Toby, Brody, Pearl, Alex, Harry, Fia, Ben, Ethan, Lewis, Alyson, Esme and Hadley who have been awarded merit badges for sustained effort through the month of December. Well done.

<b>6<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	School opens for Spring 1
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	RNCM to work with Y5
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y5/6 football @ The Cliff
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Jan</b>	Y5/6 dodgeball
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	Y3/4 dodgeball
<b>27<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Y5/6 boys football @ STM
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	In school theatre – EYFS
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	Greater Manchester football finals
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	National storytelling week
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Young Voices @ COOP Arena
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Sports hall athletics
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	Close for Spring 1 – 3:30pm
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Feb</b>	Open for Spring 2
<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	RNCM to work with Y5
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	Close for Spring 2 – 3:20pm

## Winter Weather

This week we have had a couple of cold days, although we have been lucky to have missed the worst of the snowy weather.

Next week we are due some wet weather. Please ensure that your children bring suitable clothing to school – coats, hats, gloves etc. We always endeavour to allow the children outside at playtimes – but this is made more difficult if they do not have appropriate clothing.

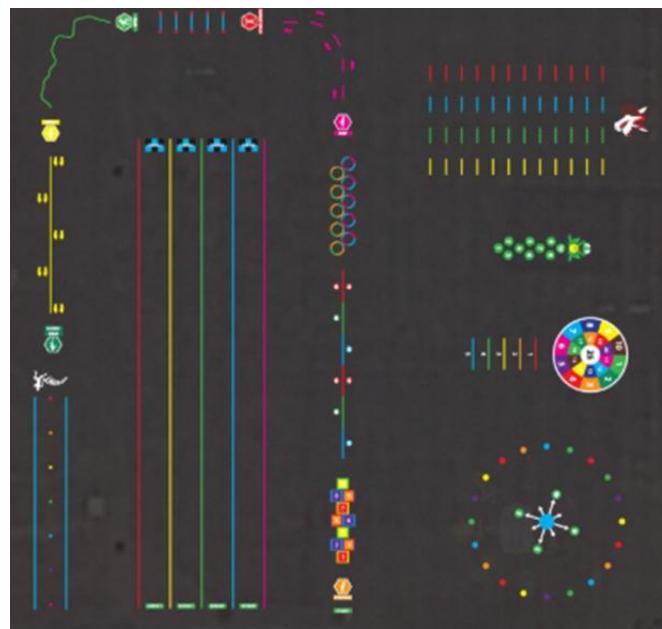
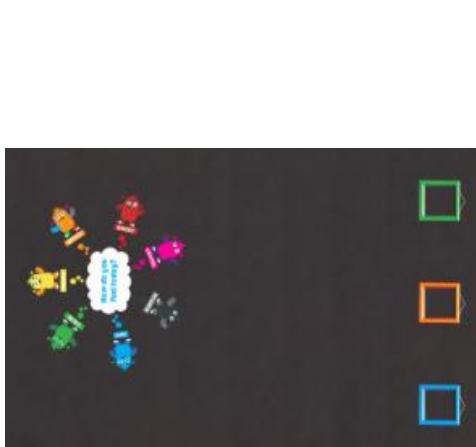
Mon 12th	10° 6°	Tue 13th	10° 5°	Wed 14th	8° 6°	Thu 15th	8° 5°	Fri 16th	8° 4°
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## Punctuality

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 8:50am. 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 off 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.

## Playground Marking

I am sure most of you will have noticed that this week lots of playground markings have appeared around school. The markings are part of our drive to enhance the playtime opportunities for all of the children. Over the next few weeks, the children will start to see other changes taking place as well. At the end of last year, the all of the children had the opportunity to design their ideal playground – hopefully they will see some of these ideas becoming a reality. Unfortunately, our school budget doesn't stretch to the swimming pool which was one popular suggestion!



## 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.**

If you have applied, and your child is baptised Catholic, please share your baptism certificate with the office staff. This will ensure your child is in the correct category when all the applications are ranked against our admissions criteria.

## Chinese New Year Lunch

On the 24<sup>th</sup> Feb we will be celebrating Chinese New Year with a special Chinese inspired lunch. The menu will be available soon

## 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.

# **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 28 days

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.

# STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

SHOW  
RESPECT  
TO OTHERS

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT  
IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T  
CHAT WITH  
STRANGERS

ASK PERMISSION  
before  
downloading  
anything

AVOID SHARING  
PRIVATE PHOTOS

Stick to  
trusted  
apps

*Don't give away  
personal  
information*

TAKE NOTICE  
OF AGE  
RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK  
YOUR NEWS  
SOURCES

National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Be suspicious of new information