

Newsletter September 2024



Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God made them to be, ready to go out into the world to love others.

This is rooted in Jesus' words: Love one another as Jesus loved us.
(John 13 v 34-35)

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

Welcome back to the brand-new school year and a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families, I am sure they will settle quickly into school life and enjoy their time at St Mary's School. Pupils across the school have already got off to an excellent start in their new classes and have become absorbed in their new learning and topics. Please check class newsletters for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

Please remember to inform our school office if you have changed your address or phone number. Please also ensure that you telephone our school office at the start of the school day to report your child absent or unwell.

YEAR 6 APPLICATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

How you apply for a place at secondary school depends on where you live. The application has to be made to the Local Authority in which you live. Please see below for further details.

Oldham Residents:

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2025, we know that this is a very exciting and important time. Please note how and when you need to apply and where to access information to guide you through this process.

You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website. www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions. It's quick and easy and ensures school offers can be made efficiently via e-mail. Applying on line is **the only form of application** as Oldham Council no longer provides paper application forms.

The closing date for all applications is 31 October 2024 at 5pm. Any application received after this time will be classed as late and will not be processed until all the on-time applications have been allocated a school place.


St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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For faith schools you will need to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation in addition to the application. Supplementary forms are available from, and returned to, the relevant school.

To enable you to have a look at what is on offer, all Oldham secondary schools will be holding open evenings during the Autumn term.

Rochdale Residents:

Parents of children who live in Rochdale should check the 'School Places' section of the Rochdale council website for details of the application process and deadlines (www.rochdale.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can contact the Admissions Team on telephone 0300 303 0340 or email school.admissions@rochdale.gov.uk for further information.

NEW RECEPTION APPLICATION TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2025

You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions It's quick and easy and means you get the school offer directly via email. You can find more information, a guide, and links to school websites here too. The online system opened on 1 September 2024.

*In addition, any parent wishing to apply for a Reception place at St. Mary's CE Primary School **MUST** complete a supplementary form (available from the school office or download from the school website).*

If you don't have access to the internet at home, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, but these are very easy to set up and staff will be happy to help.

Deadlines for making an application: Primary 15th January 2025 at 5pm

If you have any further queries, regarding admissions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Mother Katy will be signing forms for Reception pupils 2025 after half term, more details to follow.

STAFFING:

A warm welcome to Mrs Bell as our Year 5 Teacher. We also welcome Mrs Elder to our Year 1 Team. A warm welcome to Miss Marsden who begins her apprenticeship with us, alongside Miss Ridings and Miss Rush who are both on college placements 2 days per week.

SEND:

Mr Day will lead SEND whilst Mrs Hepworth is on Maternity leave. The SEND reviews will take place, as usual, after half term and invites will be sent shortly. If there is anything urgent then please do contact school in the usual way through email or requesting an appointment.


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YEAR 6 LEAVERS:

A huge thank you to the Year 6 who have just left, for leading a wonderful leavers' service at the end of the Summer term. It has been lovely to see so many of them already looking smart in their secondary school uniforms. Please keep calling back to St Mary's to let us know how you are getting along ! The Staff and Governors of St. Mary's wish all our pupils well in their journeys at their secondary schools.

WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

Worship in school will be led by myself, Mr Day, Mother Katy and Father Paul. Our Christian Value for this half term is Wisdom, Mother Katy and Father Paul will also continue to lead a reflective circle time with each of the classes.

We continue each Friday to celebrate pupils' achievements. Please encourage your son/daughter to share their achievements, by bringing their certificates and trophies into school and placing on the piano. We will celebrate these achievements in school.



SIAM's

As you are aware school had their SIAM's inspection on Monday 23rd September. The Inspector was extremely complimentary about the school and I look forward to sharing the report with you once it becomes available. This should be in the next 15 working days.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

As a school we have supported this charity over many years raising over **£13,442.08** for this cause.

This year we will once again be supporting Macmillan with a short assembly led by Year 2 on Friday 27th September at 9:10am.

This will be followed by a coffee morning will be held in **St. Mary's school hall 10:00 am to 11:00 am.** We hope Parents, grandparents, friends of St Mary's and the Shaw community will join us.

Pupils are invited to bring £1.00 for a drink and biscuit.

There will be a raffle and other games held for adults, and cakes and tea/coffee will be sold for small donations.



RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 BUDDIES:

Year 6 and Reception Pupils have been enjoying their lunches together each Friday. Over the coming weeks they will have more planned opportunities to meet and 'work' together.

Our welcome to our new Reception pupils to St Mary's School, in a whole school worship for pupils and parents, will take place on Friday 25th October with Mother Katy.



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HARVEST SERVICE:



Year 3 are working on their Harvest Service which will be held at St Mary's church starting at 9:15am . Please come along and join us for our service. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served by the Parent Support Group before the service starts. This year we will be supporting Mary's Meals a global charity which supports families who are much less fortunate than ourselves. The charity by its name alone has a link with ourselves:

The vision of the charity fits with our school vision here at St Mary's: 'Love one another as Jesus loved us.' **Mary's Meals provides one good meal to some of the world's poorest children every school day.**

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/fundraising#/detail/701P500000H0IT5IAN>

If you feel you can support us in helping others less fortunate than ourselves, we are inviting pupils and their families to make a small donation to this charity rather than our usual donations of food. **It costs £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year, so even the smallest amounts can have a huge impact.**

You can donate directly on line under our own school project by scanning the QR code below:

Together We Can Make A Difference



Or

You can send in a donation with your child in a sealed envelope.

We look forward to sharing our service and updating you with the money we have raised and the difference we have made together.


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ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

St Mary's Support Group will meet, on Wednesday 16th October at 7:00pm, in the North Star. Everyone is welcome to attend, including new members.

The 150 club draw will take place in on Friday, 27th September. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, please e-mail the school office **we still have numbers available**.

MUSIC TUITION:

For those pupils who receive music tuition, or looking to start music tuition, our timetable is as follows;



Monday: Percussion tuition 1:00 – 1:30pm
Wednesday: Woodwind tuition 8:30 – 11:00am
Thursday: Band tuition 8:20 – 9:00am
Brass tuition 1:00 – 3:00pm

Last Night at the Proms

We are pleased to support St Mary's Church event, please come along and support.



SCHOOL LUNCHES:

Our school lunches continue to be popular with our pupils. Please remember to pre order your school meals with your child each day or week. The cost of school meals is £2.70 per day, £13:50 per week.

Our first Themed lunch is a Bonfire Lunch.

If your child wants to try a school meal, please just contact the school office and we can set children up very quickly.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



On Monday 14h October we have our school photograph day. We invite parents with pre-school children to come into school at the beginning of the school day (from 8:30am) if they wish to have a family portrait. In response to requests by parents, we allow children to be photographed either in school uniform or appropriate clothes of parents' choice. The majority of parents still choose to have pictures in uniform and this is **NOT** a non-uniform day. Children should change back into their school uniform once the photograph has been taken.

ALLERGIES IN SCHOOL:

A reminder: we do have children in school with a nut allergy and an apple allergy. It is very important that we share key messages with you. **Please do not send your child into school with nuts, apples or nut/apple-based products in their packed lunches or snacks.** We thank you in advance for supporting the school in this matter.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:

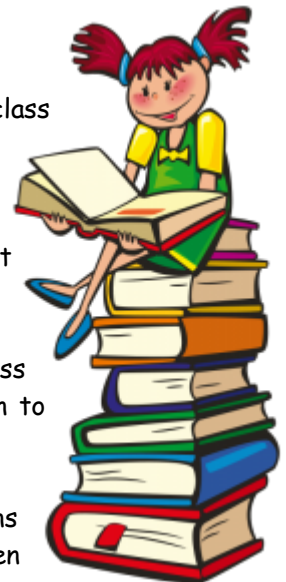
Once again, we are running the battle of the Books where we challenge pupils to read 12 books from their class list (available on the school website). Pupils who have been successful in previous years can take part once again with a new set of books for their class and a new challenge. Before Covid we had 25 pupils who successfully completed the challenge. It would be great if we could beat that record.

Please visit the School Website under 'Learning' - 'Reading' to find out more about **Battle of The Books** reading challenge and the links to your child class reading list.

Please note if you feel the class list is too challenging, please see your child's class teacher and we can re direct to a more appropriate section as we want ALL children to experience an enjoyment of books.

Many of the books are available in school and many of you will have at home. On occasions parents very generously donate books to school for Birthdays or because their children have outgrown them. If any of these donations are linked to the books in the scheme we would be extremely grateful.

Good luck with the challenge and we will keep you updated over the coming months.



SAT's INFORMATION EVENING

We will be holding a Year 6 SATs Information Evening on Thursday, 17th October at 6:00 PM in the school hall.

This evening is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what we do in school to prepare pupils for their SATs, and how you can support them at home. There will be plenty of chances to:

- Explore past SATs papers
- Ask questions to our teaching staff
- Understand the structure and expectations of the SATs



While pupils are welcome to attend, their presence is not required

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is of great importance for all our pupils. We are very proud at St Mary's that the vast majority of our pupils have excellent attendance and we will continue to celebrate this at the end of each term, with certificates presented to individual pupils who have 100% attendance. Each month on the school newsletters we will also celebrate great attendance by class.



Please Note:

Holidays in term time cannot be authorised and any holidays taken over 5 days will have a penalty fine issued by the Local Authority.

Any persistent absence (attendance below 90%) will continue to be followed up by school in the first instance. Continued persistence absence will be passed onto the Local Authority Attendance Officer.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR THIS HALF TERM:

Monday:	Badminton	3:30 - 4:30pm Yr 5 and 6 with Mr Kelly
Tuesday:	Infant Fun Club:	12:00 - 12:30 with Mr Brierley (Sports Development Officer)
	Junior Fun Club:	12:30 - 1:00 Yr3 - 4 with Mr Brierley
	Football Club:	3:30 - 4:30pm Yr 4 with Mr Brierley
Wednesday:	Choir:	3:30 - 4:30pm with Miss Davies
Thursday:	Anna's Dance	3:30 - 4:15pm Years 1, 2, 3, 4
	Netball	3:30 - 4:30pm with Mrs Larder Yr 5 and 6
Friday:	Gymnastics	3:30 - 5:00pm with Mrs Oxley


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FORTHCOMING DATES:

January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- W/c 30th September Book week (details to follow)
- 11th October Harvest Service in church. 9:15 am led by Year 3.
- 11th October Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school
- 14th October Family and Individual School Photographs
- 16th October Support Group Meeting 7pm North Star
- 17th October Year 6 parents SAT's Information Evening
- 22nd October Parents Evenings 3:40 - 6:50 pm
- 23rd October Parents Evenings 3:40 - 6:50 pm
- 24th October School Disco
- 25th October Reception and Year 6 Buddy Assembly at 9:10am**
Break for Half term

School re opens on Monday 4th November 2024

- 7th November Bonfire Lunch (details to follow)
- 7th November PSG meeting 7pm North Star
- 8th November Chocolate Non-Uniform Day - all chocolate donations to be used at the Christmas Fair.
- 16th November St Mary's Christmas Fair (more details to follow)
- 7th December Choir to perform at United Reform Church 11:15am
- 7th December Choir to perform at Oldham Rotary Carol Service at 6:30pm
- 10th December Infant Christmas Performance for the Community 1:45pm
- 11th December Infant Christmas Performance for parents and families 2:00pm
- 12th December Infant Christmas Performance for parents and families 10:00am
- 16th December PSG presents Elfridges (more details to follow)
- 17th December KS 2 Christmas Party
- 18th December School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- 19th December KS 1 Christmas Party
- 20th December Carol Service in church. 9:15 am led by Year 5.

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter.

Kind regards,
P.A Hartley
Headteacher