

Newsletter November 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)

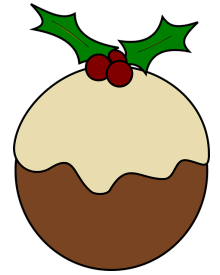
Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

THEMED LUNCH DAYS

The next themed lunch will be our Christmas Dinner. This will take place on Wednesday 18th December this will be combined with our Christmas Jumper Day

This will be a non-uniform day with **optional festive jumpers** (please do not go out and buy jumpers, simply decorate a tee shirt or wear a festive colour).

Further information will be sent in due course.



School meals are proving to be a popular choice in school, with the pre-ordering and improved choice. Meals cost £2.70 per day, £13:50 per week. Please contact the school office for more details or look on our school website for the current school lunch menu.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

Another huge well done to our Year 2 pupils, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Williams for the class assembly they presented in support of Macmillan Cancer. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the World's Largest Coffee Morning. The amount raised this year was a staggering £946.68. To date St. Mary's School has raised a fabulous £14,421.68 for this cause !

MUSICAL EVENTS:

The School Band, Choir and Woodwind Groups, will perform at the School Carol Service Friday 20th December at 9:15 am



The School Choir have been asked to:

perform at The United Reform Church on Sat 7th December at 11:15am

perform at St James Church, Huddersfield Road on Sat 7th December at 6:30pm **together with woodwind groups.**


St Mary's Church of England Primary School

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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr S Day BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL

FRIENDSHIP WEEK:

During the week commencing the 11th November we celebrated Friendship Week with the theme 'Show Respect' and followed this up in RSHE Lessons. After Christmas the pupils' work which include: poems, posters, recipes and potions for friendship, will be displayed in school.

LINKS WITH ST. MARY'S CHURCH:

This half term we are focusing on the Christian Value Joy. Please follow the link

https://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk/serve_file/25479672 or look on our school website for more activities and ideas.

On Wednesday 4th December pupils from Year 2 - Year 6 will be visiting St Mary's Church for **An Experience Advent** day. Pupils will visit a variety of stations and explore advent and its meaning.

Reception pupils will soon be bringing home the Posada as Mary and Joseph begin their journey around the homes of Reception pupils. We will then welcome Mary and Joseph back during our school carol service.

SERVICES IN SCHOOL AND CHURCH:

Christmas

The next service will be our Christmas Carol Service on Friday 20th December in St Mary's Church at 9:15am.

Please note there will be no assembly on Friday 6th December or Friday 20th December.

CITIZENSHIP CHALLENGE:

Thank you to all those participating in St Mary's Citizenship challenges - there has been a great response so far and some wonderful replies. These challenges ask the children to perform a simple, but effective task that will make a difference to our community in a positive way. The December challenge, set by our School Councilors, is to make a Christmas Card and give it to someone who may feel lonely this Christmas.

I look forward to congratulating all those who take part and reading where you have sent your cards.

A reminder those pupils completing 8 of the challenges will receive a prestigious Citizenship Award at the end of the academic year in recognition of the difference they have made to others.

Thank you for supporting St Mary's in making our world a little bit better and making a difference.

GOVERNOR NEWS:

There have been some changes to the Governing Body at St Mary's following 2 Parental Vacancies. A very warm welcome to Mrs Sweeting, who has a daughter in Year 1 and Mrs Deakin, who has a son in Year 2.

Mrs Croston remains on our Full Governing Body but as a representative from the Church Foundation. At the last Full Governing Body Meeting, Mr Benson was re-elected as the Chair of Governors of St. Mary's School and Mr. Green as the Vice Chair of Governors.

A full list of Governors can be found in school on the Governor notice board and on the school website.



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Social Media Etiquette: A Request for Kindness and Collaboration

In today's digital age, social networking platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter have become a common space for sharing opinions, airing grievances, and discussing school and community matters. Sadly, St Mary's CE Primary School is no different and we are increasingly aware of posts about school-related concerns or complaints that appear on social media, often without these matters being raised directly with the school first.

While we understand the allure of instant communication, addressing issues this way is neither productive nor in the best interests of our children or the broader school community. Social media is not an appropriate platform to resolve concerns, and it can often exacerbate misunderstandings rather than bring about resolution.

Setting the Right Example for Our Children

One of our key responsibilities as adults is to model positive and respectful behaviour for our children. When concerns arise, it's important to address them thoughtfully and constructively. Social media can sometimes encourage impulsive reactions or harsh words that might not be shared in a face-to-face conversation. The anonymity and immediacy of online posts can make it easier to act without considering the potential impact on others. Once a post is shared, it's in the public domain and may be impossible to fully retract.

A Collaborative Approach to Concerns

We kindly ask all parents and carers to raise any issues directly with the school through appropriate channels. Speaking with your child's Class Teacher or the Headteacher ensures that concerns are addressed fairly, accurately, and effectively. This approach allows everyone involved to have all the facts and work together towards a resolution.

By fostering open, respectful communication, we set a strong example for our young people, who are growing up in a world shaped by ever-changing technology. Let's show them how to use these tools responsibly and positively.

Thank you for your understanding and support in working together to create a harmonious and respectful school community.

ST. MARY'S PARENT SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

The winning numbers on the 150 club were 15, 117, 59, 94, 125, 10 The next draw will be on Friday 29th November.

Autumn Disco and Christmas Fair

A big thank you to our Parent Support Group and parents who volunteered to help at our disco and fair. Two great events which raised valuable money to provide enrichment activities and resources for our pupils. So far this term the Support Group are already funding all the transport to the pantomime to ensure we keep this cost down to its lowest price. They are funding all the party food for the pupils' Christmas Parties and have purchased some additional Space Role Play for Reception pupils. We are truly appreciative of your support - thank you !



Coming soon ... ELFRIDGES:

Back by popular demand! A chance for your child to independently choose a gift for a special adult and give as a surprise this Christmas. Last year we completely sold out so please order soon! The Elfridges Shop will be open on the 16th December for one morning only. Please order on school spider **BEFORE 11th DECEMBER**. The cost is **£3:00 per gift**

The next Support Group Meeting will be on the Tuesday 21st January at 7:00pm, in the North Star; everyone is welcome.

NEW RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

If you have a son or daughter who is looking for a Reception place in September 2025, then information about how to apply to schools is now available.

If you reside in Oldham please go to: www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

If you reside in Rochdale please go to: www.rochdale.gov.uk/admissions

Please Note: If you are applying to voluntary aided schools (eg Church Schools) they may require you to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation, in addition to the application you make to the Local Authority. Supplementary forms are available from the relevant school.

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).

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

SNOW POLICY:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the snow policy and arrangements for bad weather - although hoping we will not have to implement.



Snow Warnings: what school does:

During the winter, when bad weather can be expected, our first priority is to ensure that the school site is safe and the surrounding roads are passable.

The paths are cleared and gritted, and **for safety reasons we do not allow any form of snowballing.**

Closing the school due to adverse weather is always a difficult decision to make and is only made in extreme circumstances based on the following:

- There are insufficient staff in school because of unexpected snow/weather conditions.
- The weather makes it too dangerous for staff and children to travel to school.
- The school grounds are too dangerous.

- The heating/hot water is not working.
- School dinners are not available due to any of the above reasons.

A decision to close the school is made as soon as I am in receipt of all necessary information which then allows/enables me to make an informed and considered decision.

Communication with parents

Notices of early closure are posted:

- immediately on the school website (www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk)
- on Twitter.
- on School Spider.
- We also inform the Local Authority who update their website and we also inform local media including local radio stations <http://apps1.oldham.gov.uk/SchoolClosures/Schools.aspx>)

You can also check by telephoning school but this will only be available **AFTER 8am** when a member of staff is able to answer calls.

I hope we will have a pleasant, mild winter, but as always we should be prepared and we are.

SPORTING NEWS:

Netball

St Mary's won 5 out of 6 matches in their netball tournament . An excellent result for the team

The team worked hard together attacking and defending effectively. They were supportive of each other and there were plenty of wow moments throughout the afternoon.



CROSS COUNTRY:



All St Mary's children ran their hearts out giving 100% effort and all feeling exhausted, relieved and exhilarated once finishing. A sense of achievement and indeed a Wow moment on completion and some Ow moments within the race. St Mary's did incredibly well achieving 1st place and being presented with a wonderful trophy. There were some outstanding individual results with several pupils achieving a bronze, silver and gold position.


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MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wed 4 th Dec:	Experience Advent Y2-6
Fri 6 th Dec:	Pantomime Visit
Sat 7 th Dec:	School choir to perform at United Reform Church at 11:15am Choir and Woodwind Groups to perform at St James Church at 6:30pm
Mon 9 th Dec	Infant Dress Rehearsal to the school
Tues 10 th Dec	Community Party and Christmas Show 1:45pm
Wed 11 th Dec	Infant Christmas Performance 2:00pm
Thurs 12 th Dec	Infant Christmas Performance 10:00am
Fri 13 th Dec	Christmas biscuits for sale for pupils (please order in advance)
Mon 16 th Dec	Elfridge's
Tues 17 th Dec	Junior Christmas Party 1:00pm - (details to follow)
Wed 18 th Dec	Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 19 th Dec	Infant Christmas Party 1:30pm - (details to follow)
Fri 20 th Dec	Carol Service (led by Year 5) 9:15am in church.

Kind regards,

P.A Hartley
Headteacher