

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 4th September 2026

Edition 1

Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our children and their families back to Saint Mary's as we begin another exciting school year together. The school has quickly come back to life with the sound of laughter, chatter and busy classrooms and it has been lovely to see our children settling back into school routines and reconnecting with their friends.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all of our new families who have joined the Saint Mary's community this year. We are really excited to have you with us and hope that you and your children already feel a valued part of our school family. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing many happy and memorable experiences together over the coming year.

Our first week has been a wonderful opportunity to begin thinking about the year ahead and the kind of school community we want to be. The Gospel shared with the children on our first day back gave us a particularly meaningful starting point. It invited us to reflect on what makes a good leader and why Jesus is our perfect leader. Through prayer and quiet reflection, our children have been encouraged to think about how they can trust and follow Jesus in the year ahead.

As a school community, we pray that we can all look to Jesus as our example and allow His teachings to guide the way we live, learn and care for one another. As we begin this new school year, we look forward to all that lies ahead – new learning, new experiences, new friendships and opportunities for every child to grow in confidence and faith.

Above all, we want every member of our Saint Mary's family to know that they are safe, valued and loved. Here's to a happy, successful and faith-filled year ahead!

Saint Mary's Video

It was wonderful to share our new promotional video on social media this week, giving families a glimpse into the life of our school and what makes Saint Mary's such a special place to learn and grow.

If you haven't seen it yet, you can watch it using link :

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Bho4BpWJf/>

Meet the Teacher Meetings

A big thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions on Thursday.

It was lovely to see so many of you and we hope you found the information shared useful as we begin the new school year.

During the sessions, teachers shared information about what learning your children will cover this year, important dates and the importance of regular attendance and our exciting new KS2 reading scheme.

If you were unable to attend, please don't worry! The PowerPoint presentation for each class will be uploaded on our school website, so you will be able to access all the information shared.

Communication

We recognise that parents and carers have different preferences when it comes to communication. What works well for one family may not be the preferred method for another, so we try to use a range of ways to keep everyone informed.

Important messages are shared via email and where appropriate, we also share these through ClassDojo and our weekly newsletter to ensure information is accessible in different ways.

Class teachers regularly use ClassDojo to share class-specific reminders and updates too. We also keep our Facebook page regularly updated with photographs and news from school, giving families a lovely opportunity to see some of the learning, activities and special moments taking place across our school community.

We hope that by using a range of communication methods, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to stay informed and connected with life at Saint Mary's.

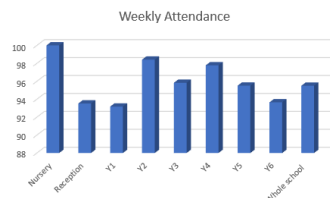
Uniform Policy

The children look very smart as they have come back into school after the long holidays. Thank you for adhering to our uniform policy, if you have any questions relating to our uniform, our policy can be found on the school website or do not hesitate to make contact with the office.

Please remember that children are not permitted to wear jewellery, including earrings. We also ask that children bring water to school rather than juice—thank you for your support.

Attendance

Nursery	100%	Year 3	95.83%
Reception	93.52%	Year 4	97.78%
Year 1	93.18%	Year 5	95.51%
Year 2	98.41%	Year 6	93.65%



**Whole school
95.5%**

Key dates

Thursday 10th—Nursery and Reception Forest School
 Wednesday 16th—Welcome Mass in school hall 9.15am
 Monday 14th—Y5 swimming and New Reception parents meeting after school
 Thursday 17th—Y1 Forest School
 Monday 21st—Y5 swimming and Fire Service visiting school for Early Years
 Tuesday 22nd—Trip to Clonter Opera for Y4/5/6
 Thursday 24th—Y2 Forest School
 Monday 28th—Y5 swimming
 Monday 28th—Police visiting school for Early Years
 Thursday 1st October —Y3 Forest School
 Monday 5th —Y5 swimming
 Thursday 8th—Y4 Forest School
 Wednesday 14th —Harvest Mass in school hall 9.15am
 Thursday 15th—Y6 Forest School
 Friday 16th—EYFS Stay and Play session
 Monday 19th —Y5 swimming
 Tuesday 20th—Whole school Flu Vaccine
 Wednesday 21st—Friday 23rd—Y6 Residential Culmington Manor
 Thursday 22nd—Y5 Forest School
 Friday 23rd—EYFS Autumn Welly Walk at Congleton Park

Parent Survey

We would really value your views on Religious Education, Catholic Life and Prayer at St Mary's.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short questionnaire using the link below.

Your feedback will help us to celebrate what we do well and identify ways in which we can continue to develop and strengthen the Catholic life of our school.

[Parent Survey Catholic Schools – Fill in form](#)

Holidays in term time

Please remember that taking your child out of school without the school's authorisation may result in the school requesting the Local Authority to issue a fixed penalty notice to each parent/carer for each child.

The penalties are shown below. Please be aware that only a few days of absence can impact significantly on a child's attendance percentage and consequently the child's education and learning.

Penalties for unauthorised absence

Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£80 per parent	£80 per child = £160 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£160 per parent	£160 per child = £320 per parent
After 28 days	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance

Safeguarding

At Saint Mary's, safeguarding our pupils is always our highest priority. We are committed to creating a school community where every child feels safe, valued and loved and where children know that there are trusted adults who will listen to them and support them.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, our recent INSET day provided an important opportunity for all staff to update their safeguarding and child protection training. This ensures that our whole team remains up to date with the latest guidance and is confident in recognising, responding to and reporting any concerns about the welfare of our pupils. Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy has also been reviewed and updated in line with the new *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026* (KCSIE) guidance. The updated policy is available to view on our school website.

We are also proud to be a school committed to Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is a police and education early information-sharing partnership which enables schools to provide immediate support to children who have experienced domestic abuse. Through Operation Encompass, Mrs Butterfield is notified about all police-attended incidents of domestic abuse involving our pupils before the start of the next school day. This allows us to respond quickly and sensitively, ensuring that children receive the support and care they may need when they arrive at school.

We understand that families can sometimes face difficult circumstances and we want all our parents and carers to know that you do not have to face things alone. If, at any time, you feel that you or your family needs support, advice or simply someone to talk to, our doors are always open.

Please speak to a member of our team and we will do our very best to listen, support and help you access any further support that may be needed.

Together, we can continue to make Saint Mary's a place where every child feels safe, valued and loved. Here is a link to the policy :

[Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)



OPERATION
ENCOMPASS



Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for bringing us together at the beginning of another school year.
Thank you for our school, our families, our teachers and all those who help us to learn and grow.

Help us to follow your example and to be kind, patient, caring and courageous.

Guide us in all that we do and help us to trust you, especially when things feel new or challenging.

May our school be a place where everyone feels safe, valued and loved, where we celebrate our successes, learn from our mistakes and support one another.



Walk with us throughout this year, Lord and help us to listen to your voice, follow your example and let your light shine through all that we say and do.

Amen.

Dojo winners

Year 1



ClassDojo

Stay and Pray sessions

We will offering a Stay and Pray session at Saint Mary's, after drop off until 9am.

KS2—Wednesday 4th November

EYFS & KS1—
Thursday 5th
November

