

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 15th May 2026

Edition 31

"In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you."

John 14:20

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week's Gospel reminds us of Jesus' deep and loving connection with God the Father and shows us that, through Jesus, we too are invited to build a close and trusting relationship with God in our daily lives.

It encourages us to live with faith, compassion and kindness, following the example that Jesus gave to us through His words and actions. Throughout the week, we have seen these values reflected so beautifully within our school community through the caring attitudes, thoughtful actions and respectful behaviour shown by the children towards one another.



Congratulations to Year 6



A huge well done to all of our Year 6 children for completing their SATs this week! We are incredibly proud of the hard work, determination and positive attitude you have shown throughout. You have all worked so hard and should feel very proud of yourselves.

Now it's time to relax and enjoy doing some of your favourite things! Spend time playing with friends, watching a good film, getting outside, having fun and, of course, treating yourselves to some well-deserved ice cream!

Thank you also to our families and staff for all of their support and encouragement during the week.

Well done, Year 6 — you are amazing!

Holy Communion

We would like to wish all of the children making their First Holy Communion this weekend the very best of luck on this very special occasion. We are so proud of them and look forward to celebrating with them and their families on Saturday.

A huge thank you also goes to all of the staff who have helped to organise and prepare for the event. Your hard work, support and dedication are greatly appreciated and help to make the day so special for our children and families.

Dear Lord,

We pray for all of the children making their First Holy Communion this weekend. Bless them on this very special day and fill their hearts with love, joy and peace as they welcome you into their lives in a new way.

Guide them as they continue to grow in faith, kindness and friendship with you. Bless their families, teachers and all those who have supported them on their journey.

May this be a day filled with happiness, celebration and wonderful memories.

Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Mia	For settling in really well to Nursery
	Amber	For always having lovely manners
Reception	Scarlett	For writing excellent sentences about Doctorsaurus
	Autumn	For being a kind and considerate friend
Year 1	Konrad	For great work writing a fact file in English
	Eva	For always offering to help her classmates
Year 2	Sofia	For always working hard and setting an example
	Tilly	For focus and determination in PE
Year 3	Ewan	For fantastic effort in his final piece of writing
	Demi	For always showing respect and kindness to others
Year 4	Cianna	For showing incredible courage, positivity and kindness as you have joined Year 4
	Reggie	For showing resilience during group work
Year 5	Erin	For great work in our end of unit writing and supporting others when peer-editing
	Nila	For a beautiful piece of work about Mary
Year 6	All Y6	For excellent work during SATs week
	Charlie	For fantastic perseverance during SATs

Dojo winners

Year 6



EYFS Church visit

Thank you to the GIFT team for helping with Nursery and Reception visit to St Mary's Church on Thursday morning.

Thank you to Fr Francis for his time too.



Understanding Attendance

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

The School Day Consists of 2 Sessions
AM - Morning PM - Afternoon

Arriving after the AM register means you will miss your morning mark!

Why Do Sessions Matter?

Attendance is not counted by hours, but by sessions

Attendance is based on sessions, just one day off school is 2 missed sessions!

For further information, contact Natalie McNulty - Education Welfare Officer at DEL
E-Mail: N.McNulty@del.org.uk Tel: 01782 457273

Attendance

We strive for excellent attendance at Saint Mary's.

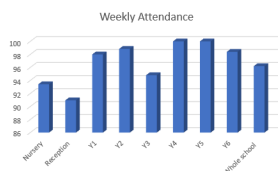
If your child is unwell and they are need to rest and recover at home we completely understand, but the table below shows the impact of a lower attendance.

Children will miss valuable learning time and typically will not as much progress as their peers who are in school every day.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons

Attendance

Nursery	93.42%	Year 3	94.81%
Reception	90.95%	Year 4	100%
Year 1	98%	Year 5	100%
Year 2	98.85%	Year 6	98.4%



Whole School
96.2%

CLASS DOJO

WHOLE SCHOOL TT ROCKSTARS DAY!

TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026

DRESS UP!
Dress up! As your favourite rock star or avatar! Rockstar outfits and accessories allowed!

PLAY TT ROCKSTARS!
Improve multiplication speeds! Plenty of time on the app!

COMPETITIONS & PRIZES!
Highest Earner, Top Rocker, Class Battles and **GOLDEN PICKS!**

BATTLE OF THE BANDS!
A whole school competition for maximum ROCK!

PRACTISE YOUR TIMES TABLES AND GET READY TO ROCK!



Disco

Thank you to the PTA and all the staff who organised and helped at the school disco. We hope that everyone enjoyed themselves.

May Procession

We are really looking forward to our May Procession on Wednesday 20th May at 9am to celebrate Our Lady, Mary. Parents are invited to join this assembly.

We invite all children to bring a posy of flowers with them on this day. Children taking part in their First Holy Communion will be able to wear their communion clothes.



Month of Mary

During the Month of Mary, Miss Small has encouraged the children to spend time reflecting on the importance of Mary and her role as the mother of Jesus.

As part of this special time, the children have been creating beautiful drawings and writing thoughtful prayers dedicated to Mary. It has been wonderful to see the care, creativity and reflection that the children have put into their work.



The children's artwork and prayers have truly shown their understanding of Mary's kindness, love and faithfulness.

Walk to School Week

Next week is Walk to School Week and we would like to encourage as many families as possible to walk or cycle to school where they can.

With the weather becoming warmer and brighter, it is a great opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and exercise at the start and end of the school day. Walking or cycling to school also helps to reduce traffic, parking congestion and engine idling outside our school gates, helping to keep our children safer and improving the environment for everyone in our community.

Thank you for your continued support — we look forward to seeing lots of children travelling to school in active and healthy ways next week!



Dates for the Diary

Mon 18th —Parent Book Look after school
 Tues 19th —Nursery - Reception Stay & Play and Rock Stars Day—children to dress up
 Wed 20th—May Procession 9am, Y6 cricket
 Wed 20th—Fri 22nd—Y5 Alton Castle Residential
 Thurs 21st—Y4 Forest school
 Fri 22nd—Finish for Half Term
 Mon 1st June—INSET day
 Tues 2nd —Back to School
 Wed 3rd—Fri 5th—Y6 Min-Y-Don Residential
 Thurs 4th—Y3 Forest School
 Thurs 11th—Y2 Forest School
 Wed 17th—New Reception parents and children stay and play
 Thurs 18th—Y1 Forest school

Prayer

Dear Mary,

During this special Month of Mary, we thank you for your love, kindness and gentle care. Help us to follow your example by showing compassion, patience and love to everyone around us.

Guide our school family to grow closer to Jesus each day and help us to be people of peace, hope and faith. Watch over our children, families and staff and keep us safe in your care.

May we always remember to trust in God as you did and bring joy and kindness to others in all that we do.

Amen.

