



November 2025

Welcome back to school after the October half term break. As the nights draw in we enter the exciting term leading up to the Christmas festivities. As always at St Mary's there is so much to celebrate as we progress through the Liturgical year.

Pupil Chaplains Commissioning

Congratulations to our pupil chaplains who were commissioned into their important role to lead the school in prayer and worship. Canon Michael presented them with a beautiful book of prayers to support them in their role.



Year 4 Harvest Assembly

Huge congratulations to our fantastic children in Year 4 on their Harvest Assembly on the last day of term. This assembly had it all! Singing, dancing and jokes combined with a social message about sharing what we have. All donations will go to Cornerstones and the St Mary's Church Pantry. We want to continue supporting others with our Friday Foodbank, which will be set out in our school entrance each Friday and supervised by our Caritas Ambassadors. Please give what you can.



World Mental Health Day

Our well being ambassadors led our assembly on World Mental Health Day helping all our children by providing tips to keep our minds healthy. The children all contributed by wearing yellow to promote awareness of mental well being.



Year 1 Trips to Manchester City Centre

Our children in Year 1 have taken the tram into the centre of Manchester as part of their Geography fieldwork. They were able to identify key features of a city such as skyscrapers and, buildings and offices. Congratulations on your impeccable behaviour – you did St Mary's proud!



Catering News

We were sad to see our Head Cook Mrs Fish retire at the end of this half term. She has been replaced by Ms Lowe, a fantastic cook, who just this week was awarded 5 stars in our Food Standards Agency Inspection so school is in safe hands! Thanks so much Kath for all your service over many years. We'll miss your pies and famous cookies but wish you well in your retirement. Good luck, God Bless and enjoy your new adventure!



Parking Reminder

Our school gets very busy both in the morning and at collection time. Can we gently remind you not to park across residents driveways or on the zig zags outside school which are there to keep our children safe. Remember you can use the church car park at these busy times.



Parents' Day Reminder

Our autumn parent's day will take place on Wednesday 12th November. Please book your face-to-face appointment with your class teacher by using the online booking system <https://stmarysoldham.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. Mrs Clerkin will be available in the KS2 Hall for any parent that would like a chat. Please come and say hello.

Poppy Appeal

Our pupil leaders will be busy selling poppies this week for a donation to the Royal British Legion. We have lots to offer this year including different types of poppy and the ever popular poppy snap bands. Please do donate to such an important cause.



Secret Room Donations

Our PTA's very successful secret room will open for our KS2 children on Wednesday 4th December. For this to continue to be successful we require your gift donations. You can donate or re-gift any unwanted present to our PTA and they will open the secret room to provide all of our KS2 children with a specially wrapped Christmas gift for their families to open on Christmas morning. This is one of the children's favourite events in the school year and we appreciate your generosity in donating to help this happen. Please donate before Tuesday 3rd December so that our PTA secret elves can wrap all presents.



Parents' Survey

At this time of year, we would like to hear your views that you may have on school life. Please follow the link to complete our survey. Your opinions and views matter to us.

<https://forms.office.com/e/4Ncd90B0HE>

Wrap Around Care Provision

Our wrap around care provision has started offering a school led breakfast and after school care facility for our working families from 7.45am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday for a reasonable charge. We still have places so please do contact our office if you feel that you would benefit from the provision.

Key Dates for Your Diary: Autumn Term 2025

	Autumn 2 2025
06.11.25	New to school EYFS open evening
07.11.25	Y3 Trip to Castleshaw
07.11.25	Reception Class Mass 9.30am in church
10.11.25	Odd Sock Day for Anti-Bullying Week
11.11.25	Remembrance Day Silence Observed
12.11.25	Reception to Y5 Parents Day
13.11.25	Nursery Parents Sessions – 3.30pm, 4.30pm or 5.30p
14.11.25	Y3 Presentation Mass 9.30am in church
14.11.25	Y5 Poetry Trip to Aviva Studios
18.11.25/ 20.11.25	Y6 Parents Day
21.11.25	Y1 Class Mass PTA Own Clothes Day (Chocolate Donation)
25.11.25	KS1 Pantomime Middleton Arena
27.11.25	KS2 Pantomime Middleton Arena
28.11.25	Y2 Own Clothes Day/Toy Drive
28.11.25	Y5 Class Mass in 9.30am in Church
29.11.25	Parish Christmas Fair 12.00pm-3.00pm in School
03.12.25	EYFS Pantomime in School
05.12.25	Parish Feast Day Mass and Celebrations
09.12.25	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
10.12.25	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
11.12.25	KS1 Nativity - Y1 Parents: Details to Follow
11.12.25	KS2 Carol Concert in Church 7.00pm
12.12.25	KS1 Nativity – Y2 Parents: Details to Follow
15.12.25	KS1 Christmas Jumper Day

15.12.25	KS2 Secret Room
15.12.25	Nursery Craft Morning 9.00am
16.12.25	KS2 Christmas Jumper Day
17.12.25	Nursery/Reception Year 5/6 Christmas Parties
18.12.25	Reception Craft Morning 9.00am
18.12.25	Year 1/2/3/4 Christmas Parties
19.12.25	School Closes 1.30pm

We strive to keep parents/carers informed about school events as early as possible. If a new event is added to the list, we will inform through text message and included in the next newsletter.

Class Assemblies

Please see our remaining class assembly dates. Assemblies start at approximately 9.15am to allow time for the children to be registered and ready for the performance.

Year 3	30.01.26
Year 5	27.03.26
Year 2	22.05.26
Year 1	26.06.26
Year 6B	15.07.26
Year 6M	16.07.26

In November, We Remember



On All Saint's Day - we remember all those ordinary people who have followed Jesus throughout their lives and now rest with Him in Heaven.

On All Soul's Day - we remember and pray for all who have died.

On 11th November, Remembrance Day, we pray for people who have died in wars. We will mark this in school by observing the two minutes silence at 11.00am

The month of November can be a good opportunity for families to remember and pray for their own departed loved ones. You may like to pray with your child using the following traditional prayer for those who have died, you might like to name any family and friends who have died and ask that they would rest in peace.

Prayer for Those Who Have Died

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.***

May they rest in peace.

Amen

Our School Prayer

Please use our school prayer in your family prayer time at home.

Father in Heaven,

***We are called to love in all we do,
To learn with joy and to follow You.
To care and share in unity,
And grow in faith as a family.***

***Help us forgive and speak what's true,
Respect each one like You would do.
With honest hearts, we work and play,
Please bless our school each happy day.***

Amen.

St Mary, our Mother....Pray for Us



School Website/Twitter (X)

Remember to check in on our school website and our Twitter (X) account to keep up to date with the many lessons, events and activities that take place weekly here at St Mary's

Twitter (X) - @StMarysRCFW School Website -
<https://stmarysrc-primaryschool.co.uk/>

**CHRISTMAS
HELP HUB**

Practical support and festive cheer
for families this Christmas

- ✓ Swap shop for toys, jumpers, and festive clothing
- ✓ Community wardrobe & stocking fillers
- ✓ Crafts and family fun
- ✓ Money advice, wellbeing and support from local services
- ✓ Warm drinks and festive cheer to share together

**FAILSWORTH TOWN HALL
SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
11AM-2PM**

For more information, please email
Jodie.Rix@oldham.gov.uk

Parents' Guide to Safer Gaming. This month Roblox

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://en.roblox.com/parents/>

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