



September 2026

Welcome back to school and to a new school year!

A very special welcome to all our new families, especially those joining us in our Early Years Department. I am sure that you will settle in well with our thriving school and church community. Welcome also Ms Tollen, who is joining our Reception Class, teaching alongside Mrs Ward. We wish her well as she embarks on her teaching career at St Mary's.

A special welcome back to our pupils in Y6. We rely on our Y6 children as role models and pupil leaders. Special congratulations to Felix and Zoe – our new Head Boy and Girl! This year our Y6 children bring with them many special talents and we know they will support all our children to flourish. **You will smash it!**

School GIFT Team

This year we are working hard to further embed our already **outstanding** chaplaincy **leadership**. Our Pupil Chaplains, Laudato Si, and Caritas Ambassadors will work closely together to model and support **children's spiritual development, caring for our common home and Catholic social teaching through** the formation of the GIFT team. Our young leaders will be supported by Mrs McFee, Ms Rowan, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Peck through regular meetings, an action plan and an after-school club. As in previous years, they will report back to me on their progress and further ideas and initiatives to reach out and respond to **community, local and global issues**.



Spotlight on Catholic Social Teaching

This year, we are weaving CST as a golden thread through the curriculum and celebrating

pupils who live out these values with weekly CST assembly certificates. CAFOD's Catholic Social Teaching principles are: **Human Dignity, The Common Good, Participation, Subsidiarity, Stewardship, Solidarity, Preferential Option for the Poor, Distributive Justice, and Promoting Peace**. By highlighting these principles across learning and worship, we aim to help every child grow in faith, compassion, and responsibility. Our CST animal mascots are Luc the deer, Chikandi the giraffe, Patariki the penguin, Sid the sheep, Sofia the sloth, Shristi the Sun Bear, Poppy the Popokotea, DJ the Dolphin and Daisy the Dove. Each mascot will represent a CST principle to support our children's understanding.



This Year's School Priorities

This academic year school will focus on the new Ofsted Framework. A focus to further embed adaptations to our curriculum so that **all our pupils are included and can flourish**. Through consistent assessment for learning, we will support children to grasp the foundational skills of reading, writing, and maths before moving on. We will further embed our sensory curriculum for our children with complex needs in our Hive and our Nest SEND provision areas.



School Uniform

It was so lovely to see the children arrive looking so smart in their school uniforms. Remember earrings need to be small studs and sensible black school shoes for both girls and boys. Girls, remember that acrylic nails are not allowed at school and cause health and safety risks in PE.

Changes to the Pupil Premium Grant

From September 2026, more families will qualify for Pupil Premium, including those on Universal Credit below the new income threshold and children who have been in care within the last two years. If you think your child may now be eligible, please apply via the Oldham Council Free School Meals portal or contact the school office for support with the quick online form.



PTA News

A big thank you to our fantastic PTA who have raised funds which have made huge improvements to our KS1 playground. They are now busy planning fund-raising activities to support our school this year. If you have unwanted gifts that you would like to donate to the PTA as they start to collect for the 'Secret Room' in December, please send them in with your child. All donations are much appreciated!

Wrap Around Care Provision

Our wrap-around care provision continues to thrive, 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.

Y6 High School Applications

If your child is due to start high school in September 2027. You need to complete the online application at www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions. If you do not live in Oldham, you will need to make your application to the LA where you pay your council tax. The closing date for all applications is **31st October 2026 at 5pm**

Primary School Applications

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2027, everybody needs to apply even if your child is in a school nursery, you will need to complete the online application at www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions. If you do not live in Oldham, you will need to make your application to the LA where you pay your council tax. The closing date for all applications is **15th January 2027 at 5pm**.

Parking Reminder

We have received complaints from residents regarding parents parking and blocking driveways. Please remember our neighbours need to access their driveways at all times.

Also, please do not park on the zig zags outside the school gates. After several 'near misses' with children last year we will be sending emails to those families who continue this. **Remember safety first!**

Our church car park is available for parking.

Key dates for Your Diary: Autumn Term 2026

	Autumn 1 2026-27
11.09.26	Whole School Start of Year Mass in Church at 9.30am
15.09.26	Pupil Leadership Voting Day
22.09.26	School Photograph Day
23.09.26	Reception Phonics Parents Meeting - details to Follow
25.09.26	McMillan Coffee Morning and Y3 Performance Poetry Day
30.09.26	Y6 Robinwood Residential Trip
01.10.26	Black History Month begins
02.10.26	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
02.10.26	Y5 Class Mass 9.30am in Church
09.10.26	Hello Yellow Mental Health Day
09.10.26	Y6 Class Mass 9.30am in Church
14.10.26	Flu Vaccinations in School
16.10.26	Y3 Class Mass at 9.30am in Church
23.10.26	Reception Traditional Tales Day
23.10.26	Y4 Harvest Assembly for Parents
23.10.26	School Closes for Half Term

	Autumn 2 2026-7
02.11.26	Day of the Dead and PTA Discos for KS1/KS2: Details to follow
03.11.26	New to school EYFS open evening
06.11.26	Y2 Class Mass in Church 9.30am
11.11.26	Remembrance Day Silence Observed at 11.00am
12.11.26	Parents Evening - TBC
13.11.26	PTA Own Clothes Day (Chocolate Donation)
16.11.26	Anti-bullying week – Odd sock day
20.11.26	Y1 Class Mass in Church 9.30am
21.11.26	Parish Christmas Fair
26.11.26	KS1/KS2 Pantomime at Middleton Arena
27.11.26	Y4 Class Mass in Church 9.30am
02.12.26	EYFS Pantomime in School - TBC
08.12.26	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
09.12.26	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
10.12.26	KS1 Nativity: Details to Follow
11.12.26	KS1 Nativity: Details to Follow
14.12.26	KS2 Christmas Jumper Day
15.12.26	KS2 Secret Room
15.12.26	Nursery Craft Morning 9.00am
15.12.26	Nursery/KS1 Christmas Jumper Day
16.12.26	Nursery, Reception, Years 5 and 6 Christmas Parties
17.12.26	Reception Craft Morning 9.00am
17.12.26	Reception Christmas Jumper Day
17.12.26	Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 Christmas Parties
17.12.26	Afternoon Nursery finishes at 3.00pm for Christmas
18.12.26	School Closes at 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 you through Arbor In-App messages and include them in the next newsletter.

Class Assemblies

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

Year 4	23.10.26
Year 3	29.01.27
Year 5	19.03.27

Year 2	21.05.27
Year 1	25.06.27
Year 6B	14.07.27
Year 6M	15.07.27

Spotlight on our School Mission Statement, School Values and School Prayer ***'We Are Called to Love as God Loves'***

Our **Catholic Life and Mission** make our school so unique and special. Our children will live out our school core values of **faith, love Joy, honesty, forgiveness, dignity and community**. Our prayer will be shared with your children every morning in class and at times of assembly and whole school worship. Our in-school prayer stations will be tended to by our GIFT team, and you as parents and carers will be invited in to stay and pray sessions throughout the year. As parents/carers, you are an integral part of our worshipping community, and we would like to invite you to share our prayers in your family 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

Don't Forget!

Keep up to date with events in the new school year by checking in on our school website and Instagram account!

School Website - <https://stmarysrc-primaryschool.co.uk/>

