



October

October 2026

Can we congratulate our children and families on such a successful start to the school year! We are so proud of how the children have taken to the new softer start to the day which has eliminated lining up allowing children to enter their classes on entry from the gate. This has created such a calm beginning to the school day. Also, well done children on your transition to the shorter lunchtimes and afternoon breaks. This change has really supported our most vulnerable children who can struggle during unstructured times. Very well done!

Pupil Leadership Teams

On the International Day of Democracy, our pupil leadership teams were elected. They are now busy creating their action plans and planning how they want to support the school over the year. We will keep you informed of their progress through our newsletter



Laudato Si Team

Our Laudato Si team has already been busy hosting an assembly this week to remind us of **caring for our common home**. Their message had been heard! As a result of their assembly, we have had numerous litter picks on all the playgrounds. Our new Laudato Si trophies have been revealed in assembly and will be rewarded to the classes with the most milk bottle tops for recycling in class each week



Pupil Chaplain Commissioning

Our fantastic pupil chaplains were commissioned by Fr Celestine at the whole school mass. Their role within school is vital to support the formation of all our children. They will lead all church services and share prayers during the whole school Wednesday Word broadcast to the whole school. They also provide support during our Friday celebration assembly.

During the month of October – the month of the Holy Rosary, our pupil chaplains will support the formation of our younger pupils by running a weekly rosary session at lunchtime in the school's meeting room. Rosary packs have been prepared for children to take home and share during family prayer time.

Food Donations

Our Caritas leaders have met and are keen to support both the family foodbank here at school, the St Mary's Pantry over at church and donations to the. If you can support this by bringing in tins or non-perishable items from your cupboards, it would be greatly appreciated.

Macmillan Coffee Morning and Y3 Performance Poetry

On Friday 25th September our fantastic PTA hosted a coffee morning to support the Macmillan Charity. Once again, your generosity was magnificent. School raised £230 for the charity, and the morning was made extra special when our Y3 children performed the poem that they have been learning in class. They did this with such confidence and clarity. Well done, Y3!

Remember, the next PTA fundraising event will be the Day of the Dead Disco which will take place after the half term. Details will follow soon!



Hello Yellow Day

On Friday 9th October our Well-being Ambassadors will lead an assembly to remind us all about mental health issues and provide us with tips on how we can keep our minds healthy. Remember to wear a yellow item of clothing on this day to highlight the importance of healthy young minds.

The Year of St Francis of Assisi

The year of St Francis of Assisi as decreed by Pope Leo, continues. As we approach his **Feast Day (4th October)**, our children will be taking part in a special novena dedicated to this inspirational saint. A novena is nine days of prayer where we ask, say thank you, or pray for someone special. It helps us remember St Francis of Assisi and his love of all animals during these nine days

School Uniform

A quick reminder about acrylic nails. They are not part of our school uniform. They can cause a risk to the wearer and other children in the playground and in PE lessons.

PTA News

If you have unwanted gifts that you would like to donate to the PTA as they start collecting for the 'Secret Room' in December, please send them in with your child. All donations are much appreciated. Don't forget to come to the PTA Day of the Dead Disco!

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 have a limited number of spaces left so please do contact our office if you feel that you would benefit from the provision.

REMINDER! 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**.

Key dates for Your Diary: Autumn Term 2026

	Autumn 1 2026-7
01.10.26	Black History Month begins
06.10.26	Laudato Si Committee Trip
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
19.10.26	Y1 EG Geography Trip to Manchester
20.10.26	Y1 BT/MM Geography Trip to Manchester
23.10.26	Y1 Coronation Party
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 KS1/2: Details to follow
03.11.26	New to school EYFS open evening 3.45pm to 4.30pm
04.11.26	Y3 Sacramental Programme Meeting with Canon Michael KS2 Hall at 3.30pm
04.11.26	Y5/Y6 Football Team Match
06.11.26	Y3 Sacrament Presentation Mass in Church at 9.30am.
11.11.26	Remembrance Day Silence Observed at 11.00am
12.11.26	Y1-Y6 Parents Day – Details to follow

13.11.26	PTA Own Clothes Day (Chocolate Donation) – Details to follow
16.11.26	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Sock Day
20.11.26	Y1 Class Mass in Church 9.30am
21.11.26	Christmas Fair
26.11.26	KS1/KS2 Pantomime Middleton Arena
27.11.26	Y4 Class Mass in Church 9.30am
02.12.26	EYFS Pantomime in School
04.12.26	Parish Feast Day Mass in Church 9.30am and Celebrations in School: Details to Follow
08.12.26	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
09.12.26	EYFS Nativity: Details to Follow
10.12.26	KS1 Nativity: Details to Follow
10.12.26	KS2 Carol Concert in Church at 7.00pm
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 Year 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 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 via email, Arbor In-App messages and include the event 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	26.03.27
Year 2	21.05.27
Year 1	25.06.27

Year 6B	14.07.27
Year 6M	15.07.27

October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

The Rosary is a prayer that reflects upon the life, ministry, and death of Jesus and on his Mother, Mary. We repeat the familiar prayers, and allow our minds to think about the lives of Jesus and Mary here on earth. There are four parts to the rosary, known as '**mysteries**':

The Luminous Mysteries
The Sorrowful Mysteries
The Glorious Mysteries
The Joyful Mysteries

Each mystery represents a 'snapshot' of the lives of Jesus and Mary. Each snapshot taken from Scripture is an opportunity to reflect and pray. To respond, we pray a set of prayers, which together with the reflection is called a 'decade'. The prayers we say as part of this set begin with one **Our Father**, followed by ten **Hail Marys** and one **Gloria Be** to finish. We use the beads of the Rosary to keep track of our Prayers! During October, we invite our children to bring in their own rosary beads to place on their class altars and to lead class prayers.



Don't Forget!

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

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

