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### **July 2025 Newsletter**

Through God's love and our Christian Values, we encourage each individual to love, respect and value God, themselves and others.

We encourage and nurture everyone to flourish and grow into the unique person God made them to be, ready to go out into the world to love others.

This is rooted in Jesus' words: Love one another as Jesus loved us.  
(John 13 v 34-35)

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

We are fast approaching the end of term and this academic year.

#### **SAT's RESULTS:**

We are so proud of all our Year 6 pupils who received their SATS results and have performed brilliantly and well above national averages in all areas. In fact, we are celebrating some great achievements across the whole school this summer and feeling proud that our children are well prepared and equipped for their next class.

Year 6 have grown to be fantastic learners and have worked hard, showing determination and resilience. So, well done to Year 6 - carry these qualities with you as you begin your next stage of your education.

Year 2, who have also shown great resilience, have had a huge learning journey. They have also done brilliantly in the non-statutory Key Stage 1 SATS.

Well done to Year 1 for performing wonderfully in their phonics screening check and to Year 4 for their fantastic performance in their Multiplication Tables Check.

Well done to every class, we are very proud of each and every one of you.

Year 6				
	% of pupils attaining expected at St Mary's	National Data - % of pupils attaining expected 2025	% of pupils attaining Greater Depth at St Mary's	National Data - % of pupils attaining greater depth tbc
Reading	93%	75%	47%	%
Writing	83%	72%	23%	%
SPaG	93%	73%	50%	%
Maths	83%	74%	37%	%

Combined: Reading, Writing, Maths at Expected 77%, National 62%

Combined: Reading, Writing, Maths at Greater Depth 13%, National tbc

### **SAYING GOODBYE TO YEAR 6 and STAFF:**

As we prepare to say goodbye to our fabulous Year 6 pupils our Year 6 Leavers' Service will take place on Friday 18 July at 9:30am in church. Church will be open from 8:45am where tea, coffee and biscuits will be available and the end of year raffle.

A huge thank you to St Mary's Church for kindly paying for the bibles which will be presented to Year 6 during the service.

The staff and Governors at St Mary's School wish Year 6 the very best for their futures as they embark on the next stage of their journey. They have been a fantastic cohort, who we are confident will go on to achieve great things in their secondary schools and beyond! We hope they will come back and let us know how they have settled into their new secondary schools.

We will also say goodbye to a number of staff:

- Mrs Booth after 13 years of service, begins new adventures but will still work on supply with St Mary's School.
- Mr Chapman as he retires after 14 years of service.
- Mrs Boardman - Reception Midday for 12 years and is now taking time to care for family members.
- Miss Elder - Whilst having only worked with St Mary's School for 12 months has been a great asset to our team.
- Miss Snape - As her temporary contract comes to an end but who has also made a great impact on the Year 2 class, in particular.

The staff and Governors thank the above staff for all their hard work, years of service and contributions to St Mary's School and wish each of them every success and happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

### **PARKING COMPLAINT**

**Please read the complaint received in school and politely request all parents, grandparents please note and help keep our pupil safe.**

*I am writing to raise a matter of urgent concern regarding parking behaviour outside the school during pick-up times. Specifically, I have observed multiple instances of cars stopping and waiting to pick up on the yellow zigzag lines directly outside the school entrance. In some cases, vehicles are also parked on the opposite side of the road, effectively blocking access and making the area extremely dangerous for children, parents, and road users alike.*

*As you are aware, parking or waiting on zigzag lines is both illegal and intended to prevent precisely this kind of safety hazard. The current situation poses a significant risk, and I fear it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs if nothing changes.*

*I kindly urge the school to contact parents and carers as soon as possible to remind them of the law and the reasons behind it, and to reinforce that such behaviour is not acceptable under any circumstances. I am not seeking to identify or single out individual drivers, but rather to encourage a collective sense of responsibility in keeping our children and community safe.*

*Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing the school take action to improve safety in our community.*

## SCHOOL POLICY FOR DOGS IN SCHOOL

Please note we have a no dogs policy on the school ground. This includes being carried or on a lead.

## SUMMER READING CHALLENGE:



Prevent a dip in your child's reading ability and find lots of free activities over the summer with Oldham Libraries and the Gadgeteers Summer Reading Challenge. Children are invited to sign up for free at their local library where they will be **encouraged to read six books of their choice. They will be able to collect incentives along the way, and if they complete the challenge, they will receive a medal and certificate at their local library.** There will also be plenty of free activities at all Oldham Libraries throughout the summer. **The event starts with a summer sign up Saturday on 12 July at Oldham Library** For more information <https://hla.oldham.gov.uk/children-families/summer-reading-challenge/>

## YEAR 5 APPLICATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

How you apply for a place at secondary school depends on where you live. The application has to be made to the Local Authority in which you live. Please see below for further details.

### **Oldham Residents:**

Your child is due to start secondary school in September 2026. This is a very exciting and important time. I am writing to make you aware of how and when you need to apply and where to access information to guide you through this process.

**You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website.** It's quick and easy and ensures school offers can be made efficiently via e-mail. Applying on-line is the only form of application, as Oldham Council no longer provides paper application forms.

The online system will open on 1 August 2025 and close at 5pm on 31 October 2025.

It is recommended that a **minimum** of three preferences are made for any application.

If you don't have access to the internet, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, these are very easy to set up and staff will be happy to help.

Some voluntary aided schools may want you to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation in addition to the application. Supplementary forms are available from, and returned to, the relevant school.

To enable you to have a look at what is on offer, all Oldham secondary schools will be holding open evenings during the Autumn term. You will be able to access further information, a guide and links to school websites by logging onto [www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions)

The closing date for all applications is **5pm 31 October 2025**. Any application received after this time will be classed as late and will not be processed until all the on-time applications have been allocated a school place. Should you have any initial queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions Team by telephone on 0161 770 4213.

#### **Rochdale Residents:**

Parents of children who live in Rochdale should check the 'School Places' section of the Rochdale council website for details of the application process and deadlines ([www.rochdale.gov.uk](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk)). Alternatively, you can contact the Admissions Team on telephone 0300 303 0340 or email [school.admissions@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@rochdale.gov.uk) for further information.

#### **RECEPTION APPLICATION TO ST MARY'S SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2026**

You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website [www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions) It's quick and easy and means you get the school offer directly via email. You can find more information, a guide, and links to school websites here too. The online system opens on **1 September 2025**.

*In addition, any parent wishing to apply for a Reception place at St. Mary's CE Primary School **MUST** complete a supplementary form (available from the school office or download from the school website).*

If you don't have access to the internet at home, there are computers in all Oldham's libraries. You will need an email address, but these are very easy to set up and staff will be happy to help.

**Deadlines for making an application: Primary 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 5pm**

At St Mary's we are offering individual tours, please call the school office to arrange a visit our amazing school.

**Remember there are lots of Church services you can attend to suit your family and it is not too late for this to be documented on supplementary forms.**

#### **LUNCHTIMES:**

Due to the increasing costs of food and fuel prices, there will be a very small increase in the cost of school meal. From September 2025 a school meal will cost £2.80 per day. Governors have worked very hard to keep any cost increase to a minimum to support parents as much as possible. Please take a look at the lunch menus on our school website.

#### **LINKS WITH ST MARY'S CHURCH:**

On Tuesday 1st July Father Paul led St. Mary's School Eucharist, alongside Year 6 pupils. The Eucharist was a very special service with Year 6 leading prayers and readings, choosing the hymns and taking up the offertory. My thanks to the parents and grandparents who joined us. Pupils and parents, throughout the school, commented positively about the service and what a lovely way it was to begin the school day.





It was so lovely to see so many of our pupils and families at St. Mary's Church and School Colour Run and Summer Fair. It was a fabulous fun day and very well supported. A huge and sincere thanks to all of the organisers for all their hard work and effort in making this such a successful event - a lot of time and effort behind the scenes took place, for many months, to ensure the event was enjoyable.

To the PSG, Church Members and friends - my sincere gratitude to you all, you were all incredible. The valuable time you gave, often away from your own families, is very much appreciated!

To the staff my sincere thanks for your participation and great sense of fun on the day!



### SPORTING NEWS

We are delighted to have been awarded the Platinum Sportsmark Award in recognition of all the fabulous PE and Sporting Activities. My thanks to Mrs Larder for ensuring we achieved this highest award.



### MUSIC NEWS:

St Mary's Pupils performed wonderfully at the Music Festival last week. Their performances, and behaviour were outstanding with lots of lovely comments from the adjudicator, organisers and parents. I am delighted to announce that we were also awarded 3 trophies

- ❖ The Eileen Bentley MBE Award for an outstanding performance given by a choir
- ❖ The Roger Meaden Award for an outstanding performance given by a Wind Band
- ❖ The Tindale Taylor Award for outstanding contribution to the festival



## **ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:**

### **150 Club**

The next draw will be on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July. This draw will include the end of term £500 draw. When we return in September we will complete the draws for August and September. **Please sign up for a number if you have not done so already. Contact the School Office or PSG for more information.**

### **School Disco**

Reminder the Summer Leavers' Disco for all pupils in school is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the Infant disco as well as the Junior disco to meet up with their Reception Buddies. As a thank you and leaving gift to pupils in Year 6, there is no charge for entry to the disco. All other pupils will be charged as usual. **Payment through School Spider please**

**Reception and KS 1 Disco: 6:15 – 7:15pm and KS 2 Disco: 7:30– 8:30pm.**

**Please note with the exception for the Year 6 pupils, at the summer disco only, there are no mobile phones permitted and Year 6 must use responsibly.**



### **Raffle**

Please do not forget to purchase your raffle tickets, details have been sent home; tickets also available in the school office, at the school disco and at the Leavers' service in church. There are 2 amazing prizes to be won.

### **IMPORTANT: Absence from school including holidays:**

**Schools are not able to authorise ANY Holidays in term time.**

**Please note the significant changes made in September 2024 and are required to be implemented.**

- **First Occasion-** The first time a Penalty Notice is issued the amount will be: £80 per parent, per child paid within 21 days. This increases to £160 per parent, per child if paid after day 21, until day 28. Any non-payment of the Penalty Notice may be referred to the Magistrates Court.
- **Second Occasion (within 3 years)** - the second time a Penalty Notice is issued the amount will be £160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Any non-payment of the Penalty Notice may be referred to the Magistrates Court.
- **Third Occasion and Any Further Occasion (within 3 years)** - the third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case may be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court under s.444 of the Education Act (1996) or other legal interventions considered. The Magistrates' Court can order fines up to £2500 per parent, per child.

**All requests for absence must now be requested through a leave of absence form available from the school office or the school website.**

### **Return to School In September:**

May I take this opportunity to remind parents that **school will re-open for pupils on *Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September***

**Kind Regards,**  
P.A Hartley  
**Headteacher**