



Newsletter September 2021

"Love one another as Jesus loved us" (John 13 v 34-35)

Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you.

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

We encourage and nurture the growth of every individual and their uniqueness so that all flourish and become all that they can be and all that God made them to be.

Dear Parents, Children & Friends,

Welcome back to the brand-new school year!

It has been a difficult return to school with the number of positive cases we have seen. My sincere thanks for all the support and co-operation you have shown over these difficult few weeks. This week the number of cases have certainly settled and we are currently seeing just isolated cases.

After speaking with Oldham Public Health today they are happy for St Mary's to attempt to return to some of their usual activities and procedures.

Therefore, from Monday 27th September Year 2 can join their friends on the playground and come into school and leave school in the usual way. Reception can also reintegrate with school once more.

We will slowly reintroduce whole school worship. This initially will be for pupils in school only. We will also slowly reintroduce some of our extra curricular activities. This will begin with our School Choir taster session on Wednesday 29th September 3:30 - 4:30pm and School Band Thursday 30th September 8:30 - 9:00am (Children to arrive at 8:20am using the infant entry please).

The current advice to all schools from Oldham Public Health is:

Although there are 3 main symptoms of COVID – 19, unfortunately, there is no definitive list of secondary symptoms which some people experience.

The advice given to schools is that if there is a change in how a person is feeling, or if they feel generally unwell, then taking a PCR test is advisable.

YEAR 6 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:

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2022. This is a very exciting and important time. Please note 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 2021** and close at **5pm on 31 October 2021**.

*There is a new secondary school opening for September 2022. If you wish to apply for the Brian Clarke CE Academy all applications for that academy **must** go directly to the academy, not via the council's processes. If you are subsequently offered a place at the new academy you will then have a choice as to whether to accept your offer from the council **OR** the offer from Brian Clarke CE Academy. The deadline to apply for this school is **10 December 2021**. Please visit [Brian Clarke CE Academy](#) for more details on the school and their admissions process.*

There is a recommendation that a **minimum** of three preferences are made for any application. Families can apply for Brian Clarke **and** still apply via the council website for all other schools.

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.

For faith schools you will need 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

The closing date for all Oldham Council applications is 5pm **31 October 2021**. 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). Alternatively you can contact the Admissions Team on telephone 0300 303 0340 or email school.admissions@rochdale.gov.uk for further information.

NEW RECEPTION APPLICATION TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2022

You will need to complete an application using the online application system available on the Oldham Council website 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 opened on **1 September 2021**.

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 15th January 2022 at 5pm

At St Mary's we are offering the face to face tours of our school by appointment. Alternatively, please visit the school website to view a selection of short videos of the different areas and classrooms in school. You will also find answers to some frequently asked questions.

<https://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk/virtual-tour/>

If you have any further queries, regarding admissions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

STAFFING:

A warm welcome to Miss Heron who has joined our staff as one of our Teaching Assistants and Midday Supervisors.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS:

A huge thank you to the Year 6 who have just left, for leading a wonderful, leavers' service. It was so pleasing that some of our pupils were able to join in the celebration in church and brought a brilliant close to the school year. The Staff and Governors of St. Mary's wish all our pupils well as they begin their journeys at their secondary schools.

WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

We hope to return to whole school Worship from next week and monitor how this is working. Initially, Worship will be for pupils and staff in school only. We will continue to review this and open the some Worship back to parents as soon as we are able to.



Worship in school will be led by myself, Mrs Hardman, Mother Katy and Father Paul. Our Christian Value for this half term is Perseverance.

We will continue each Friday to celebrate pupils' achievements. Please encourage your son/daughter to share their achievements, by bringing their certificates and trophies into school and placing on the piano. We will celebrate these achievements in school. We will also continue to celebrate and present Birthday Books.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

Today we have supported the MacMillan Coffee Morning. We have supported this charity over many years raising over £11,000. Today we raised £300. Our sincere thanks for all your donations. The Year 2 pupils led a beautiful Worship for the school which we have recorded. Please take a look using the link below

<https://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk/category/worship/>



HARVEST SERVICE:

Year 3 are working on their Harvest Service which we hoping to host this in church. We are currently finalising arrangements and risk assessments with Mother Katy and the Clergy and will confirm more details with you once this work has been completed. If we are unable to invite all pupils and parents to the Worship we will share a recording.

RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 BUDDIES:

Due to the number of Covid cases in these year groups, Year 6 and Reception Pupils have not yet had the opportunity to meet. We are hopeful this will now begin to happen slowly in the coming weeks. Both year groups are very excited and eager to meet and play together.



We are also working towards formally welcoming our new Reception pupils to St Mary's School, in a whole school worship on Friday 22nd October alongside Mother Katy. We will update you with more details in due course.

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

St Mary's Support Group will meet virtually, on Tues 5th October at 6:30pm, to discuss creative ways of raising funds. If you would like to join this meeting, or any others in the future, please leave your details with the school office and Gill Buckley (Chair of the Support Group) will be in touch.

The 150 club draw will take place in one of the class bubbles this Friday, 1st October. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, please e-mail the school office or contact a member of the Support Group to collect a form; **we still have numbers available.**

MUSIC TUITION:

For those pupils who receive music tuition, or looking to start music tuition our timetable is as follows;



We still have woodwind places available, please contact the school office for more information to join this amazing opportunity.

Monday: Percussion tuition 1:00 - 1:30pm

Wednesday: Woodwind tuition 8:30 - 11:30am

**Thursday: Band tuition 8:20 - 9:00am
Brass tuition 1:00 - 3:00pm**

SCHOOL LUNCHES:

Our new school menu is now fully operational and pupils are enjoying the new meals. The pre ordering system is definitely an asset with all children guaranteed to have the meal they have chosen. Thank you to all parents for completing the pre ordering of school meals, it really has made a huge difference to the school lunchtime offer.

We will be looking to organise a special themed lunch day later in the term.

The cost of school meals is **£2.40 per day, £12.00 per week.**

If your child wants to try a school meal, please just contact the school office and we can set children up very quickly.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



On the 30th September we have our school photograph day, this is for individuals and siblings in school only. We are unable to invite preschool children into school at this time due to COVID restrictions.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

The newly elected school council:

Y2: Jacob Jolley	Cleo Selby
Y3: Finnley Jenkins	Jessica Downing
Y4: Teddy Kenyon	Amelia Chrisam
Y5: George Broadbent	Hollie Atkins
Y6: Thomas Prenton	Scarlett Hegarty

We look forward to their valuable contributions throughout the school year

ALLERGIES IN SCHOOL:

A reminder: we do have a child in school with a nut allergy and it is very important that we share key messages with you. Please do not send your child into school with nuts, nut based foods or anything with nuts in the ingredients in their packed lunches. We thank you in advance for supporting the school in this matter.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:

Once again we are running the battle of the Books where we challenge pupils to read 12 books from their class list (available on the school website). Pupils who have been successful in previous years can take part once again with a new set of books for their class and a new challenge. Before Covid we had 25 pupils who successfully completed the challenge. It would be great if we could beat that record this year.

Please visit the School Website under '*Learning*' - '*Reading*' to find out more about **Battle of The Books** reading challenge and the links to your child class reading list.

Please note if you feel the class list is too challenging, please see your child's class teacher and we can re direct to a more appropriate section as we want ALL children to experience an enjoyment of books.

Many of the books are available in school and many of you will have at home. On occasions parents very generously donate books to school for Birthdays or because their children have outgrown them. If any of these donations are linked to the books in the scheme we would be extremely grateful.

Good luck with the challenge and we will keep you updated over the coming months.

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter.

Kind regards,
P.A Hartley
Headteacher

