



St Mary's News

This week's news...

Hello everyone!

I hope your summer was filled with sunshine, adventure, and perhaps a bit of well-deserved laziness (because let's be honest, you earned it!). My name is Mrs Bushell and I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining St Mary's family as your Associate Head Teacher.

This school is already buzzing with energy, laughter, and a bit of new-shoe squeak—just how I like it!

I've spent many, many years in classrooms, corridors, assemblies, and even the odd potato-sack race, and I've loved every moment. I'm passionate about learning, building community, and helping every child shine in their own unique way. I also make a mean cup of tea and have an unhealthy obsession with colourful stationery.

We're hitting the ground running—with smiles on our faces and big dreams in our backpacks. Here's what you can expect this term:

🌟 Fun-Focused Learning: Because learning should feel like an adventure, not a chore.

🌟 Kindness Everywhere: Let's make our school the kindest place in town.

🌟 A Dash of Surprise: Keep an eye out for fun challenges, dress-up days and a new mission team!

To all children, staff, and families—you're the magic of this school. Whether you're starting fresh in Reception or leading the way in Year 6, this is your year to grow, explore, and make memories. Let's celebrate progress, not perfection.

Thank you for the warm welcome so far—I already feel at home. I can't wait to meet more of you in the coming days (and yes, I will try to learn every single name... wish me luck!). My door is always open—whether you've got a brilliant idea, a big question, or just want to say hello.

Let's make this year one to remember!

Mrs Bushell

Information for Parents



St. Mary's R.C. Primary School **A Voluntary Academy**

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Head teacher: Mr Ian Jones



Dear Parents/Carers

Due to a child in our school with a severe nut allergy we are now a nut free school.

Please ensure that any snack or packed lunch your child brings to school does not contain any nuts.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

School Office

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are asking parent/families to have a look in their kitchens to see if they have any pots, pans or baking trays that could have a new life here at St Marys in our soon to be mud kitchen!

Along with pots and pans we would also love some wooden pallets if you or your workplace have any that we could give a new home!

Thank you!





Please see below the link for any applications for a space at the Girls World Cup event at Burnley Rugby Club

<https://forms.gle/BcF1C4NFnDeWcwzF8>

Online Safety

Please find below some information on how to help keep children safe on social media and some guidance on how to set parental restrictions on devices and accounts.

Social Media



Facebook (13+)

Included in Facebook's settings are the ability to set who can see your posts, who can contact you and the ability to review all posts before appearing on your timeline.

Unfriend: go to their profile, click on the three dots, click on Following and tap Unfollow.

Blocking: go to their profile, click on the three dots and select Block.

Facebook Privacy Check up: this tool helps you review your settings: <https://www.facebook.com/help/1297502253597210>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) on Messenger: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/help/messenger.app/182587384506653>



Instagram (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set as public (except if you are under 18 and it is set to private as default, although you can change it to public).

Remove a follower: Go to their profile and tap 'Following' and select Unfollow.

Blocking/Reporting: To do this, tap their username, tap on the 3 dots in the top right and select Block or Report.

Turn off commenting on a post: Tap the 3 dots above your post and select Turn Off Commenting.

Find out more here: <https://help.instagram.com/196883487377501>

You can also set up Family Centre (supervision) to give you access to tools such as see who your child follows and screen time: <https://help.instagram.com/4549867563184597>
[helpfaq_content](https://help.instagram.com/4549867563184597/helpfaq_content)



WhatsApp (13+)

By default, WhatsApp sets your privacy settings to allow any WhatsApp user to see your read receipts, last seen, about and profile photos. To change any of these settings, go to Settings and then select Privacy.

Blocking/Reporting: You can block and report a user by clicking on their name and selecting Block or Report. You can report any issues direct to WhatsApp within the app by going to Settings, Help, Help Center and Contact Us.

Find out more here: https://faq.whatsapp.com/1313491802751163?locale=en_US



TikTok (13+)

You can choose to have a public or private account. If you set your account to private, then only those you accept as friends can see your videos. To do this, go to your profile, tap the 3 line icon, tap Settings and Privacy, go to Privacy and turn on Private account (by default accounts for people under 16 are set to private).

Report inappropriate content: you can report an account, video, comment and message. Follow the instructions here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety/faq/report-a-problem>

Family Pairing

You can use Family Pairing to link your own TikTok account to your child's account. This will give you access to additional controls such as:

- **Screen Time Management:** Control how long your child can spend on TikTok.
- **Direct Messages:** Limit who can send messages to them or turn off direct messaging completely. Direct messaging is automatically disabled for registered accounts between the ages of 13 and 15.
- **Restricted Mode:** Restrict the appearance of inappropriate content.
- **Search** - Option to disable.

Find out more here: <https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians/guide/>



X (13+)

When you set up your X account, you can choose whether you would like to keep your tweets public or protected (private). To check, go to Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety and then Audience and tagging and ensure Protect your posts is selected.

Unfollow somebody: Go to their profile, click on 'following' to then select 'unfollow'.

Blocking/Report: Go to their profile, click the three dots and select block or report. **Location:** To keep your location private (so followers can't see the location you are tweeting from), under Settings and Privacy, select Privacy and Safety, select Location Information and ensure Precise Location is disabled.

Find out more here: <https://help.x.com/en/safety-and-security/x-privacy-settings>



Snapchat (13+)

When you set up your account, it is automatically set so only friends you've added can contact you or view your story.

Unfriends: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Remove Friend'.

Block a friend: Go to the chat screen, tap and hold on a friend's name, tap 'Manage Friendship' and then tap 'Block'.

Location settings: This feature allows your friends to see where you are (including when you are at home) when you have the app open. **It is so important that you check your child's settings for this feature.** Your location won't be shared on the map until you open it for the first time, at which point you can choose (please note that snaps you submit to Snap Map can still show up on the Map, no matter what location setting you choose):

- **Ghost Mode (Only Me):** your location won't be visible to anyone else.
- **My Friends:** your location will be shared with all of your friends.
- **Select Friends, Except ...:** your location will be shared with your friends, except the friends on this list.
- **Only These Friends ...:** choose specific friends to share your location with.

Who Can Contact Me: in your privacy settings you can choose who can contact you directly with Snaps, Chats, calls, etc. Remember, if you're in a group, then anyone can communicate with you in that Group Chat regardless of your settings. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

Family Centre: this can be set up to provide parental control settings such as limit your child's ability to view certain content in the Stories and Spotlight tabs. Find out more here: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/712138494788-What-is-Family-Centre>

Mobile devices

You can set up free parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access.

iOS



Using Content & Privacy Restrictions in Screen Time, you can block or limit specific apps and features on your child's device. Find out more here: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>.

Apple have also created this support page for families: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>

Android



When you turn on parental controls, you can restrict what content can be downloaded or purchased from Google Play based on maturity level.

Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/10757387?hl=en-GB>

You can also set up Family Link, which lets you set digital ground rules as well as see where they are, receive notifications when they arrive or leave a certain location and set screen time limits. You will need to download Family Link onto your own device first and then link your child's account to it.

Find out more here: <https://families.google/familylink/>

Dates for your diary

Upcoming events:

September:

- Monday 8th - Year 2 Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Tuesday 9th - Year 3 Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Thursday 11th - Year 5 Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Friday 12th - Whole school watching Treasure Island production (in school)
- Monday 15th - Year 6 Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Tuesday 16th - Year 1 Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Thursday 18th - Year 6 Dynamic Day @ Blessed Trinity (During school hours)
- Monday 22nd - Reception Meet the Teacher @ 3:20PM
- Tuesday 23rd - Whole School Mass

Attendance



The national aim for attendance is 96% lets see what each classes attendance for this week was...

- Reception -
- Year 1 -
- Year 2 -
- Year 3 -
- Year 4 -
- Year 5 -
- Year 6 -

Every Day and Every Minute Counts

Research shows that children with good attendance perform better in their exams than those with poor attendance. When your child misses school, they are missing out on valuable learning. If they miss school regularly, they are missing out on learning that may never be caught up.

Friendships and social activities are a vital part of school life that enhances self-confidence and wellbeing. When children experience extended absence, they often struggle to integrate back into friendship groups and can experience social difficulties, alongside struggling with their academic studies.

0 days absent = 0 missed lessons	→	100%	→	Perfect
4 days absent = 20 missed lessons	→	98%	→	Very good
8 days absent = 40 missed lessons	→	96%	→	Good
10 days absent = 50 missed lessons	→	95%	→	Improvement needed
11 days absent = 55 missed lessons	→	94%	→	Concerned
19 days absent = 95 missed lessons	→	90%	→	Very concerned
29 days absent = 145 missed lessons	→	85%	→	Significant impact on learning

5 days absence over the whole school year 97-100% Your child has a good chance of success and progress	20 days absence over the whole school year 90% Your child has less chance of success and making progress is harder	20+ days absence over the whole school year Under 90% This is detrimental to your child's progress
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Minutes count – Being Late means Lost Learning

How late is your child to school?	How many lessons do they miss? Lessons are 1 hour
5 minutes late each day	16 lessons
10 minutes late each day	32 lessons
15 mins late each day	48 lessons
20 mins each day	63 lessons
30 mins each day	95 lessons

