

Newsletter December 2025

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 the chatter about mischievous elves is lovely to hear - we already have a lot of excited children in school! We still have lots of parties, christmas dinners and festive events planned for this final week of term and learning still continues. We look forward to seeing you at the final Carol Service, as the whole community come together and prepare to celebrate this important Christian festival.



CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES:

Christmas Nativities Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

The Christmas nativities are always a wonderful way to start Christmas and this year was no exception. Reception pupils were outstanding with their presentation of A Nursery Rhyme Nativity - a beautifully sung and a well performed Nativity which delighted and entertained all audiences.

Year 1 and Year 2 presented Sugar Plum where a naughty elf particularly delighted audience. Amazing dancing, acting and singing from all involved.





Well done to all our Infant children and staff for their hard work and excellent performances.

ELFRIDGES - Mon 15th December

This year, this will take place in the school hall with festive music and maybe an elf or two! For those taking part, please can parents send in a bag to take the gifts home.

This event has become a firm favourite with our pupils and is a lovely way for children to buy and give a gift to special members of their family.

My thanks to the Parent Support Group for organising.

Key Stage 1 Christmas Party - Monday 15th December

Children should come dressed in their own clothes but suitable for the cold weather also. School will provide the food and drinks. This has kindly been paid for by The Parent Support Group.

Key stage 2 Christmas Party - Thursday 18th December

Children should come dressed in their own clothes but suitable for the cold weather also. School will provide the food and drinks. This has kindly been paid for by The Parent Support Group.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch Wednesday 17th December

Please note this is a Non - Uniform Day.

Pupils are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper or anything Red and Green and small donations are suggested to help this important charity - Save the Children.



**Save the
Children**

The Carol Service - Friday 19th December

The Christmas Carol Service will take place on **Friday 19th December at 9:30am** in St Mary's Church. All parents are welcome to join us for the church service which Year 5 will lead. The school band, woodwind groups and choir will also be performing and promises to be another lovely service where the whole school comes together to celebrate.

Please note there will be no further Friday assembly on the 19th December. Instead, in what is now a very long-standing tradition at St Mary's - pupils and staff will gather around the Christmas tree to sing carols.

Musical Performances





Our school choir have already completed a stunning performance at The United Reform Church and then again with our fabulous Woodwind Group at the Rotary Concert held in St James Church, Barry Street. All pupils were a credit to the school and their parents.

NEW RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

If you have a son or daughter who is looking for a Reception place in September 2026, then information about how to apply to schools is now available.

If you reside in Oldham please go to: www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions

If you reside in Rochdale please go to: www.rochdale.gov.uk/admissions

Please Note: If you are applying to voluntary aided schools (eg Church Schools) they may require you to fill in a supplementary form or provide documentation, in addition to the application you make to the Local Authority. Supplementary forms are available from the relevant school.

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).

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 2026 at 5pm

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

The next draw for the 150 club will be on Friday 19th December when we have the bonus draw of £500. We will also draw the winners of the four Christmas Hampers.

The next Support Group meeting is on 14th January at 7:00pm at the North Star.

My sincere thanks to everyone who supports the events provided by the Parent Support Group and to those who organise and run the events. This half term this has enabled the Support Group


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HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH *DEPUTY HEAD:* Mr S Day BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL
to purchase physical reading books for all of Key Stage 1. They have also funded the transport for the whole school to attend the Pantomime and paid for all the food and drinks for the Christmas Parties. Thank you! We could not do these things without your support!

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Monday: tbc

***Tuesday:* Curling * Brand New Activity Year 3 and Year 4 - 3:30 - 4:30**

- Should this prove to be popular then we will repeat for other year groups

Wednesday: Choir Y3 - Y6 - 3:30 - 4:30

Thursday: School Band - Y4 - Y6 by invite 8:30 - 9:00

Anna's Dance Y1- Y3 3:30 - 4:15

Friday: Gymnastics - 3:30 - 5:00

Dates for your Diary:

Wed 14th Jan Year 5 Viking Day

Wed 14th Jan PSG meeting 7:00pm

w/c 9^d Feb Children's Mental Health Week

w/c 9th Feb E Safety Week

Tues 10th Feb Parents Evening (details tbc)

Wed 11th Feb Parents Evening (details tbc)

Thurs 12th Feb Y3 Visit to the Castleshaw Centre

Thurs 12th Feb School Disco (details tbc)

Fri 13th Feb Non-Uniform day (details tbc)

School is closed from Mon 22nd December until Monday 5th January inclusive and

reopens on TUESDAY 6th Jan 2026

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's newsletter.
On behalf of all the Staff, Pupils and Governors at St. Mary's CE Primary School, may
I wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Kind regards,

P.A Hartley
Headteacher