

St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Address: Rushcroft Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7PP

Tel: 0161 770 8309

E-mail: info@stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk

HEADTEACHER: Mrs P A Hartley BEd (Hons), NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD: Mr S Day BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQSL

Newsletter September 2026



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,

Welcome back to the brand-new school year and a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families, who are already settling beautifully into St Mary's School and school life. Pupils across the school have also got off to an excellent start in their new classes and have become absorbed in their new learning and topics. Please check class newsletters for more information about what your child will be learning this term.

Please remember to inform our school office if you have changed your address or phone number. Please also ensure that you telephone our school office at the start of the school day to report your child absent or unwell.

ACADEMY UPDATE:

Towards the latter part of the summer term and throughout the summer holidays, we have been working closely with Crompton House, the Department for Education, the Diocese and the Local Authority to progress our plans to join the Crompton House Multi Academy Trust. I am pleased to share that this work has progressed well, and our conversion is now becoming increasingly imminent.

Later this month, we will begin staff consultations, with the majority of the legal documentation now well advanced and approaching completion. We are currently working towards a provisional conversion date of 1st November.

For our pupils and staff, the conversion will largely mean no immediate change, and St Mary's will continue to operate in the same way as it always has, with our values and Christian ethos remaining at the heart of school life. What we are already seeing, however, are the benefits of being part of the Trust. Our pupils are beginning to have greater opportunities to take part in collaborative projects across the Trust, with art, music and sport being just some of the areas where these opportunities are developing. Our staff will also benefit from increased opportunities to network and work alongside colleagues and subject leads from the other primary schools within the Trust.

I will continue to keep you updated as the conversion date approaches and, once the date is confirmed, will share further information with you.

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 2027, we know that 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. www.oldham.gov.uk/admissions. 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 closing date for all applications is **31 October 2026 at 5pm**. 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.

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.

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 2027

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 2026**.

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 2027 at 5pm

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

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STAFFING:

Later this half term, we will be saying a fond farewell to Miss Marsden, who has secured a new role closer to home. Miss Marsden has been a valued member of our school, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing her every happiness and success in her new role. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of the care, support and dedication she has given to our pupils during her time at St Mary's. She will certainly be missed. Looking ahead, the Governors have decided not to recruit a new member of staff to this role. Instead, we will be restructuring our existing support staff team.

Miss Wrigley will continue to complete her college placements with us for two days each week, and we are also delighted to welcome Miss Greer to the team.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS:

A huge thank you to the Year 6 who have just left, for leading a wonderful Leavers' Service at the end of the summer term. It has been lovely to see so many of them already looking smart in their secondary school uniforms. Please keep calling back to St Mary's to let us know how you are getting along! The Staff and Governors of St. Mary's wish all our pupils well in their journeys at their secondary schools.

WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

Worship in school will be led by myself, Mr Day, Mrs Hepworth and Rev Helen. Our Christian Value for this half term is Peace. Rev Helen will also continue to lead a reflective circle time with each of the classes.

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



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

As a school we have supported this charity over many years raising a fabulous £15,145.40 for this cause!

This year we will once again be supporting Macmillan with a short assembly led by Year 2 on Friday 25th September at 9:10am.

This will be followed by a coffee morning will be held in

St. Mary's school hall 10:00 am to 11:00 am. We hope parents, grandparents, friends of St Mary's and the Shaw community will join us.



Pupils are invited to bring £1.00 for a drink and biscuit.

There will be a raffle and other games held for adults, and cakes and tea/coffee will be sold for small donations.

RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 BUDDIES:

Year 6 and Reception Pupils have been enjoying their lunches together each Friday. Over the coming weeks they will have more planned opportunities to meet and 'work' together.

Our welcome to our new Reception pupils to St Mary's School, in a whole school worship for pupils and parents, will take place on Friday 23rd October with Rev Helen.



HARVEST SERVICE:

As a Church school, and as part of our Christian vision, we believe that Harvest is not only a time to give thanks to God for all we have, but also a time to share His love with others. Our vision calls us to show kindness, generosity and compassion, reaching out to those in need both near and far. This year we are continuing to focus locally by supporting Oldham Foodbank, helping families in our own community.

Year 3 will lead the Harvest Service which will be held at St Mary's church starting at 9:30am on Friday 9th October. Please come along and join us for our service. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served by the Parent Support Group before the service starts.

Children can bring items to offer as donations on the morning of the service. If you wish to donate food to Oldham Food Bank, please bring non-perishable items such as:

- Any long-life items
- Sugar
- UHT milk
- Tinned fish
- Noodles
- Rice
- Cooking sauces
- Toilet roll
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned rice pudding/custard



We look forward to sharing our service and continuing to make a difference together.

ST. MARY'S SUPPORT GROUP NEWS:

St Mary's Support Group will meet, on Tuesday 22nd September at 7:00pm, in **St Mary's School**. Everyone is welcome to attend, including new members. This will be the AGM meeting

The next 150 club draw will take place on Friday, 2nd October. If you are not yet a member and would like to join, please e-mail the school office **we still have numbers available**.

Fund Raising:

The Parent Support Group has been instrumental in raising funds for exciting improvements to our school. Over the last couple of years, their fundraising has provided a brand-new tyre park and supported the upkeep of our trim trail.

They have also contributed to transforming a small space into our *Sunshine Room* — a calm, reflective area designed to support the mental health and wellbeing of both pupils and staff.

Following feedback from our school community, the group has funded reading books aligned with the Little Wandle Phonics programme. At the end of the summer term, they also extended this support by purchasing Little Wandle Fluency Books, helping to ensure that our reading programme can continue into Year 2 and Key Stage 2.

The group also funds all transport costs for our annual Pantomime visit in December, helping to make this much-loved trip more affordable for our families.

A huge thank you to all the members of the Parent Support Group, and to all our parents and carers, for your generous support and contributions. Your fundraising makes such a positive difference to our children's experience of school.

Inspiring Our Aspirations: Alfie Watts Visits St Mary's

What an incredible inspiration for our pupils!

St Mary's was thrilled to welcome Alfie Watts, winner of BBC's *Race Across the World*, as one of just 35 schools across the country selected to receive a visit from him. Alfie spoke openly about his journey as a travel content creator, his experiences with mental health and the importance of talking to others, as well as his amazing Tuk Tuk challenge raising money for YoungMinds.



Our pupils were captivated! They researched Alfie's journey, created fantastic artwork, wrote postcards sharing their dream destinations and the reasons they would love to visit, and asked lots of thoughtful questions during his visit.

Alfie's visit was a wonderful reminder that dreams can take you anywhere and that there are so many different paths to explore. It was the perfect way to inspire our pupils as we look ahead to our Aspirations and Careers Week - "Big Dreams, Big Ideas". Who knows where the dreams and ideas sparked at St Mary's might take our children in the future? 🦋🌍🌟

Alfie has also reflected on his visit to St Mary's — we're delighted to share his thoughts with you here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1JjG7sAJ3k/?mibextid=wwXIfr>



CAREERS AND ASPIRATIONS WEEK - Aspirations Week: Big Dreams, Big Ideas!

We're excited to launch Aspirations Week, taking place from Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October!

This week is all about encouraging our pupils to dream big, ask "What if?" and imagine the amazing things they could achieve in the future. ✨

Through exciting assemblies, worships and activities, we'll discover inspirational people, unusual careers and incredible ideas that have helped to change, build and improve our world — from engineering and medicine to technology, space and the creative industries.

Meet Our Special Guests!

We're delighted to welcome parents, carers and members of our local community to share their careers and journeys with our pupils.

And we have a particularly exciting visitor joining us — a real-life pilot! ✈️ They'll be sharing what it's like to fly an aircraft, how they got into aviation and the different career opportunities within the world of flying. We hope our guests will help children discover careers they may never have considered before and inspire them to think, "Maybe I could do that!"

Big Dreams Showcase

To finish the week, pupils will take part in our Big Dreams Showcase on Friday 2nd October. They can either:

 Option A: Bring in an artefact, model, prototype, blueprint or object representing a big dream or a problem they'd like to solve.

 Option B: Come dressed as a career or role linked to their dream for the future.

We can't wait to see the big ideas, creative inventions and ambitious dreams our pupils come up with!

There will also be a fun home-learning challenge and a special celebratory assembly to round off the week. Let's get our pupils dreaming big and thinking even bigger! 🌍 🚀 ✨

SCHOOL LUNCHES:

Our school lunches continue to be popular with our pupils. Please remember to pre-order your school meals with your child each day or week. The cost of school meals is £2.90 per day, £14.50 per week.

Our first Themed lunch is a Bonfire Lunch, where all pupils are invited to participate. This will be on Thursday 5th November.

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

ALLERGIES IN SCHOOL:

A reminder: we do have children in school with an apple allergy. It is very important that we share key messages with you. **Please do not send your child into school with apples or apple-based products in their packed lunches or snacks.** We thank you in advance for supporting the school in this matter.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:



On Monday 12th October we have our school photograph day. We invite parents with pre-school children to come into school at the beginning of the school day (from 8:30am) if they wish to have a family portrait. In response to requests by parents, we allow children to be photographed either in school uniform or appropriate clothes of parents' choice. The majority of parents still choose to have pictures in uniform and this is **NOT** a non-uniform day. Children should change back into their school uniform once the photograph has been taken.

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. Last year we had 12 pupils who successfully completed the challenge. It would be great if we could beat that record !

Please visit the School Website:

<https://www.stmaryscecrompton.oldham.sch.uk/page/battle-of-the-books/147465>

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.

NEW RECEPTION READING INFORMATION EVENING:

We will be hosting a reading evening in school on **Wednesday 30th September 2026** for all new Reception parents. The purpose of the evening is to explain how we teach reading at St Mary's School and how you can support and enjoy this wonderful experience with your child. An invitation will be sent out to you all shortly.

SAT's INFORMATION EVENING

We will be holding a Year 6 **SATs Information Evening** on **Wednesday 4th November at 6:00 PM** in the school hall.

This evening is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what we do in school to prepare pupils for their SATs, and how you can support them at home. There will be plenty of chances to:

- Explore past SATs papers
- Ask questions to our teaching staff
- Understand the structure and expectations of the SATs

While pupils are welcome to attend, their presence is not required

MUSIC TUITION:

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

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

Wednesday: Woodwind tuition 8:30 – 11:00am

Thursday: Band tuition 8:20 – 9:00am Brass tuition 9:15 – 11:15am



ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is of great importance for all our pupils. We are very proud at St Mary's that the vast majority of our pupils have excellent attendance and we will continue to celebrate this at the end of each term, with certificates presented to individual pupils who have 100% attendance. Each month on the school newsletters we will also celebrate great attendance by class.



Please Note:

Holidays in term time cannot be authorised and any holidays taken for 5 days or more will have a penalty fine issued by the Local Authority. Please see attached sheet or the school policy on the school website for further information. **Any requests must be made through the request for absence form - available from the school office or the school website.**

Any persistent absence (attendance below 90%) will continue to be followed up by school in the first instance. Continued persistence absence will be passed onto the Local Authority Attendance Officer

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR THIS HALF TERM:

Monday:	Musical Theatre	3:30 – 4:30pm	Years 3-6 with Anna Kirkpatrick
Tuesday:	Infant Fun Club:	12:00 – 12:30	with Mr Brierley (Sports Development Officer)
	Junior Fun Club:	12:30 -1:00	Yr3 – 4 with Mr Brierley
	Football Club:	3:30 – 4:30pm	Yr 4 with Mr Brierley
Wednesday:	Choir:	3:30 – 4:30pm	with Miss Davies
Thursday:	Anna's Dance	3:30 – 4:30pm	Years 1, 2, 3 and 4
Friday:	Gymnastics	3:30 – 5:00pm	with Mrs Oxley

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FORTHCOMING DATES:

22 nd September	Support Group AGM Meeting 7pm St Mary's School
25 th Sept	MacMillan Coffee Morning
W/c 28 th September	Book week (details to follow)
W/c 28 th September	Aspirations Week
30 th September	Reception Reading Evening 6pm - details to follow
2 nd October	Big Dreams Showcase: bring in a model, prototype, drawing or object linked to a big dream OR dress up as a career they'd love to explore in the future!
6 th October	Nasal Flu Vaccinations in school
9 th October	Harvest Service in church. 9:30 am led by Year 3.
12 th October	Family and Individual School Photographs
16 th October	Y2 Great Fire of London Workshop
20 th October	Parents Evenings 3:40 - 6:50 pm
21 st October	Parents Evenings 3:40 - 6:50 pm
22 nd October	Magistrate visit to Year 5
22 nd October	School Disco - more details to follow from PSG
23 rd October	Reception and Year 6 Buddy Assembly at 9:10am - all parents welcome to attend

Half term: Mon 26th October - Friday 30th October

School re opens on Monday 2nd November 2026

5 th November	Bonfire Lunch (details to follow)
6 th November	Chocolate Non-Uniform Day - chocolate donations to be used at the Christmas Fair.
14 th November	St Mary's Christmas Fair (more details to follow)
17 th November	Friendship Assembly / performance theatre company
4 th December	Whole School Pantomime Visit
7 th December	Reception and Y1 and Y2 Christmas Performance for the Community 1:45pm
8 th December	Reception Christmas Performance for parents and families 2:00pm
9 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance for parents and families 2:00pm
10 th December	Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas Performance for parents and families 10:00am
14 th December	KS 1 Christmas Party
16 th December	School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
17 th December	KS 2 Christmas Party
18 th December	Carol Service in church. 9:30 am led by Year 5.

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

Kind regards,

P.A Hartley

Headteacher