



## St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School June Newsletter 2026

Dear parents and carers,

As we enter the final half-term of the year, school filled with activities and events as the pupils move towards the end of their time in their current year groups. We have statutory assessments in different year groups with Y1 phonics screening check, Y2 KS1 SATS and Y4 multiplication check all taking place this week. Y6 completed their KS2 SATS last half-term, we are all so proud of their commitment and dedication in the build up to their SATS and they have been fantastic role models as other pupils in school now follow their lead as they complete their own assessments. Assessments will also be taking place in all other year groups as pupils push to meet their goals in all subjects.

As well as that, our external sports timetable is in full swing now, with lots of children participating in friendly and competitive events, as well as our fantastic school sports day which we are all praying for some sunshine! Looking back to last month, we also celebrated the Y4 Holy Communion. A huge thank you to Mrs Kearsley and Mr Orrell for their support in preparing the children to participate in this step in their journey of faith.

Thank you to all families for their support for the children in school and supporting our school.  
Mr Atherton

### Check out the diary dates for the last half-term!

Monday 8th– Friday 12th June—Y1 Phonics Check / Y4 Multiplication Check / Y2 SATS week  
Tuesday 9th June—Y6 visit to Wigan Museum  
Wednesday 10th June—Y4 library visit  
Wednesday 10th June—Share the Learning at 2:30pm.  
Thursday 11th June—Haighfield Care Home visit—choir, DT champions, chaplains visiting.  
Monday 15th June—New Reception visits after school. Please contact the office if you have not booked a slot.  
Thursday 18th June—Sports Day at Wigan Sports Club  
Friday 19th June—Staff INSET day—School closed  
Tuesday 23rd June—Y5/6 Town Sports at Robin park—3:30pm-5pm  
Wednesday 24th June—Y6 Transition Day at Standish High School  
Thursday 25th June—Reserve Sports Day  
Thursday 25th June—Y6 Transition Day at Standish High School  
Friday 26th June—Y6 Transition Day at St John Fisher  
Friday 26th June—Transition Morning for all classes.  
Monday 29th June – Y6 Transition Day at Dean Trust Wigan  
Tuesday 30th June—Y3 trip to Liverpool Museum  
Friday 3rd July—Reports out for Reception to Year 5 (Year 6—7th July)  
Monday 6th July—Y1/Y2 trip to Sealife Centre  
Tuesday 7th July—Y6 Leaver's Play in school at 6pm in school.  
Wednesday 8th July—Y1 Summer Song Share  
Wednesday 8th July-Friday 10th July—Y6 Transition Days to St Edmund Arrowsmith  
Wednesday 8th July—New Reception Welcome evening—4-5pm  
Thursday 9th July—Wear something purple for Wigan and Leigh Hospice— donation £1  
Thursday 9th July—PTA Summer Fayre—2pm  
Monday 13th July—Y6 trip to Hollywood Bowl  
Wednesday 15th July—Y6 Leavers Mass at St John's Church—6pm  
Friday 17th July—Finish for the summer holidays!!

### STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Mitchell has successfully secured the position of our new Assistant Headteacher. She will be leading in school on SEND and inclusion. A lot of families will already know the hard work that she always puts into her role and we are very lucky to have her as part of our school senior leadership team.

### Communications

As well as our updates on Class Dojo through our school stories and class stories, we are also launching our new Facebook page. Head to [Facebook](#) for updates on class and school events throughout the school.

### Parking

A reminder to all families that parents cannot park on the school car park or St Mary's Church car park during the day. If it is necessary to park, please use the main road or Tesco car park at the beginning and end of the day .

## Catholic Life and Mission

### Planting Day



A huge thank you to all families who supported school with our 'Planting Day'. It was lovely to see children from different families coming together to support our school grounds and caring for the world. We successfully planted new flowers and herbs in our KS2 area as well as planting lots of lovely new plants in our outdoor prayer area to support a calm and reflective environment for all pupils to have access to.



### Cultural Diversity Day

Also, our 'Cultural Diversity Day' was a huge success as school was filled with colour from clothing worn proudly by all pupils to showcase their heritage and our diversity as a school. It was fantastic to see so many pupils excited to share information from their culture and heritage to others and highlight just what an amazing school we have.



Please follow the link to this month's 'pray with the Pope' as he focuses on 'For the values of Sport' as we enter the Football World Cup! [Pray with the Pope - For the values of sports](#)

Please find the link to the TenTen Parent Newsletter for this month:  
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>



### Turn Wigan Purple Day Thursday 9th July 2026

To support Wigan and Leigh Hospice we are taking part in the 'Turn Wigan Purple Day' on Thursday 9th July. Pupils can wear an item of clothing, or accessory on this day. It is also PE for most classes so purple t-shirts, leggings etc are all good! We are asking pupils to bring £1 contribution to support this worthy cause. It costs £12,000 a day to maintain support and care at the hospice! Please support us and our community.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We continue to monitor pupil, class and school attendance each half-term. In assembly we share which classes have the highest score for attendance and punctuality each week and the best classes win extra playtime!

It is great to see excellent attendance throughout school. Here are the figures for the current half-term

Our whole school attendance is 95.9%.

Keep up the good work everyone!

<b>Year</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Punctuality</b>
<b>Whole School</b>	96.3%	99.07%
<b>YR</b>	99.8%	99.08%
<b>Y1</b>	96.2%	99.59%
<b>Y2</b>	96.1%	98.96%
<b>Y3</b>	95.8%	99.13%
<b>Y4</b>	94.3%	99.59%
<b>Y5</b>	97.4%	99.39%
<b>Y6</b>	94.1%	97.82%

### **SUMMER TERM 2 CLUBS**

Clubs available for Summer 2:

KS1 Languages Club—Monday 11:30-12pm  
KS1 Tag Rugby— Monday 3:15-4:15pm  
KS2 Choir Club- Tuesday 12:45-1:15pm  
KS2 Procreate—Wednesday 12:45-1.15pm  
KS2 Judo club— Wednesday 3:15-4:15pm  
KS2 Recorder Club—Thursday 12:45-1:15pm  
KS1 Football— Thursday 3:15-4:15pm



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TIKTOK

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-synching and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

18

CENSORED

## EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-synching and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

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## TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



## HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media platforms, TikTok can be extremely addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next means it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

## IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

### MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts is 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

### LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something *does* slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

### USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

### MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

## Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: [www.tiktok.com](http://www.tiktok.com)