



St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School May Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a whirlwind two weeks since we came back after Easter and everyone in school is enjoying this amazing weather that has arrived! The Summer Term is always a packed time full of trips, visitors, sporting tournaments, masses, Holy Communions, plays and enrichment opportunities and we cannot wait for them all.

As well as this, on Friday 22nd May, school will be holding a 'Cultural Diversity Day'. We are lucky in school to have such a plethora of cultures coming together as a school family and we love celebrating our heritage. So whether your family are born and bred in Wigan, or you have roots elsewhere, come to school wearing something that celebrates where you are from. We will celebrate all of our different backgrounds in class and around school. We are looking forward to celebrating all of our different backgrounds together.

The Summer term is also one of assessments, both statutory and in-house, in all classes and the staff and pupils are working hard to prepare. A special well done goes to Year 6 who have been working extremely hard with Mr Gilbertson to prepare for their upcoming SATS, all of your hard work will pay off!

As always, a humble thank you from all staff to our school families for their continued support,
Mr Atherton

Diary Dates (so far)

Friday 1st May—Marathon final day for KS2 pupils
 Tuesday 5th May—Y1—History Alive visitor
 Wednesday 6th May—Y6 Stay and Pray
 Wednesday 6th May—Reception Stay and Pray
 Thursday 7th May—Y2 Stay and Pray
 Friday 8th May—Y1 Stay and Pray
 Saturday 9th May—Year 4 First Holy Communion Celebration Mass at St Johns Church, 10.30am
 Sunday 10th March—Communicants will lead the May Procession at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm
 Monday 11th—Thursday 11th May—Year 6 SATs Week
 Monday 11th May—Y3 Stay and Pray
 Wednesday 13th May—Reception trip to Smithills Farm
 Wednesday 13th May—Y4 History Alive visitor
 Thursday 21st May -Y6 Road Safety sessions
 Friday 22nd May—Cultural Diversity Day
 Monday 25th May—Friday 29th May—Half Term
 Tuesday 2nd June—Y6 trip to Animate
 Wednesday 3rd June—Class photographs
 Monday 8th June—Friday 12th June—Y1 phonics screening check and Y4 multiplication check
 Wednesday 10th June—Share the Learning—2:30pm
 Thursday 18th June—Sports Day at Wigan Sports Club (Wigan Cricket Club)
 Friday 19th June—Staff INSET day—School closed
 Monday 6th July—Y1/Y2 trip to Sea life Centre
 Thursday 9th July—PTA Summer Fair
 Friday 17th July - Finish for the Summer holidays



For upcoming events at St Mary's and St John's churches, please visit the website at [ST WILLIAM RC PARISH, WIGAN - Home](#)

Mini London Marathon

A huge well done to all of our Key Stage 2 children who have participated in the 'Mini London Marathon' to celebrate the London marathon taking place over the weekend. Pupils were required to run around our school playground as many times as possible throughout the week in the hope that, between their classmates, each class could run the equivalent of a marathon. The classes have all surpassed our expectations and completed well over a marathon distance each with Year 6 completing over 2,000 laps between them which is equivalent to over 4 marathons! We have been blown away by the donations sent in to sponsor and support the children. We have received a staggering £1,478 with more donations being brought in all of the time. What an amazing community we have!



Catholic Life and Mission

Each month Pope Leo invites us to enter into prayer with him and our global Church family.

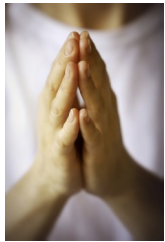


The Pope's prayer for May

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

Right now, millions of people still face hunger not because there isn't enough food, but because the global food system is broken. Climate change, inequality and waste mean that poorer families are often hit hardest.

On Saturday 9th May, at St Johns Church at 10.30am, the Year 4 pupils will be celebrating their First Holy Communion. We send them our best wishes. Please keep them in your prayers.



On Sunday 10th May, at St Marys Church, at 6:30pm, the communicants will lead the May Procession and Crowning of Our Lady. All welcome.



Please find the link to the TenTen Parent Newsletter for this month:
[May 2026](#)

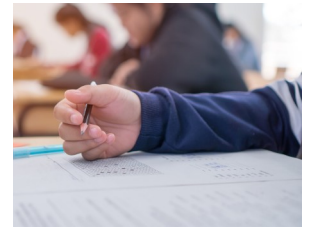
During the summer term, our pupils and staff are very busy with end of year assessments.

Year 6 have their KS2 SAT tests in a few weeks time ! GOOD LUCK!

Year 1 complete the Phonics Check, Year 2 will be completing KS1 SATs assessments to support teacher assessment.

Year 4 will complete the Multiplication Check.

All classes are involved in assessments so please make sure pupils have excellent attendance, plenty rest and complete their homework tasks!



School attendance for the Summer Term

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 has been a fantastic start to the Summer term for our attendance. Here are the figures for the first two weeks of Summer term.

Our whole school attendance has increased to 95.9%.

Year	Attendance	Punctuality
Whole School	97.53%	98.99%
YR	99.64%	99.46%
Y1	95.09%	100%
Y2	99.32%	98.98%
Y3	97.37%	98.6%
Y4	97.46%	99.09%
Y5	98.6%	99.82%
Y6	95.26%	97.02%

Volunteers

As we have got so many fantastic parents and grandparents within our school family, we are asking if anyone would be able to support us with our school grounds. We are particularly asking for anyone who with gardening skills to support with the improvement of our KS2 prayer areas and seated areas. As part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing a calm and reflective environment for all of our children, we would like to enhance these areas with some gardening, weeding, and planting of flowers.

These improvements will help create peaceful spaces for prayer, reflection and quiet time throughout school. We would be extremely grateful for any adult helpers who could spare some time to support us with: light gardening and weeding, planting and arranging potted plants, general tidying and care of outdoor areas.

If you are able to support us, please contact the school office. We will then share further details about dates and times.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE



Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS



Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES



App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN



Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

SIDLOADED BANNED APPS



'Sideloading' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS



Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

DO YOUR RESEARCH



If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS



App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD



Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about Internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®