



St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School November 2025



Diary Dates—Another busy half-term!

- ◆ Friday 7th November—Reception 'Little Gems' PE sessions begin.
- ◆ Friday 7th November—Y5 to attend Mass at St John's Church
- ◆ Monday 10th November—Odd socks day to support diversity and difference to celebrate the start of Anti-Bullying week. (Note change of date)
- ◆ Monday 10th November—Altru Theatre visit—Anti Bullying assembly and workshop
- ◆ Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November—Parents Evening (please contact the school office to book your appointment)
- ◆ Thursday 13th November—Y5 Orienteering Competition
- ◆ Friday 14th November—Y4 to attend at Mass at St John's Church
- ◆ Monday 17th November—Electronics Workshop (Y5/Y6)
- ◆ Tuesday 18th November—School Photographs (younger siblings not currently in school are welcome to attend from 8.30am for any group photos)
- ◆ Wednesday 19th November—Share the Learning—2:30pm
- ◆ Wednesday 19th November—Christmas Jumper Swap Shop in the hall straight after school
- ◆ Thursday 20th November—Y6 children participating in Bikeability are able to bring their bikes in for servicing
- ◆ Friday 21st November—Y3 to attend Mass at St John's Church
- ◆ Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th November—Y6 Bikeability
- ◆ Tuesday 25th November—Reception Open Day and Evening for prospective Reception parents (please contact the office to book)
- ◆ Tuesday 25th November (am)—Reception heights and weights visit from school nursing team
- ◆ Thursday 27th November—'Just Join In' event—Y3/Y4
- ◆ Friday 28th November—Pupil flu vaccines
- ◆ Friday 28th November—Y3/Y4 football tournament
- ◆ Friday 28th November—Y6 to attend Mass at St John's Church 6.30pm
- ◆ Tuesday 2nd December—Year 4 Reconciliation Service—St Mary's Church—6.30pm
- ◆ Wednesday 3rd December—Carols and Choir at The Edge—School choir
- ◆ Thursday 4th December—Christmas Panto for Y5—The Edge (pm) -info to follow
- ◆ Friday 5th December—Y5 to attend mass at St John's Church
- ◆ Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th December—KS1 Advent Play
- ◆ Wednesday 10th December—CAFOD Carol service at St Theresa's Up Holland
- ◆ Thursday 11th December—Y4 Brass Concert (pm)
- ◆ Thursday 11th December—PTA Christmas Disco (info to follow)
- ◆ Friday 12th December—Y4 to attend Mass at St John's Church
- ◆ Friday 12th December—Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (to be ordered on Evolve)
- ◆ Friday 12th December—Reindeer Ramble
- ◆ Monday 15th December—KS2 Advent Performance at 2pm
- ◆ Friday 19th December—'Break the Rules' day—more information to follow. (please note change of date)
- ◆

November is the month of Remembrance



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen

Poppy Novelties are on sale during the month of November . The pupil chaplains will sell the novelties in classes during the week . You can send money into school with your child or purchase from the office.

£1.00—poppy, £1.50—snap band, 50p—keyring, reflector/zip pull—50p, wristbands—£1

Dear parents and carers,

As the first half-term of the year has come to a close, it is fitting to celebrate all that has been achieved by our amazing pupils. The atmosphere around school of happiness, kindness and respect has been evident to all staff as well as visitors both in and out of school. Pupils have shone in many different aspects of school life and this has been shown through our extensive list of award winners for: star of the week, class dojo winner, lunchtime, excellence, our 'respect' monthly value (with our 'kindness winners being revealed this week) as well as sporting achievements.

It has been a busy half-term filled with exciting enrichment opportunities to support our curriculum. Our Y6 class visited Low Bank Ground, our Year 3 and Year 4 classes participated in reading activities at Wigan Library, all classes received amazing visitors to support their History learning and Reception and Year 1 classes took part in 'Bikeability' sessions. We have also participated in girl's football matches (where we finished 2nd out of 32 schools—wow!) Plus a group of pupils thoroughly enjoyed competing in a ten-pin bowling competition. In all of these situations, pupil behaviour and attitudes towards each other has been exemplary.

A huge thank you to all parents who were able to attend 'Stay and Pray' sessions in different year groups where pupils delivered reverent and thought-provoking Prayer and Liturgy worships to highlight their religious understanding and celebration of the Word. Parental feedback shows the high level of satisfaction of these events and their importance in bringing all stakeholders of our school family closer. We look forward to seeing you all at our 'Share the Learning' event in November.

Extra-curricular clubs this half-term will include a KS2 dance, KS1 multi-skills, Lego, choir, reading, mindful colouring and Microbits to name a few so there will be something for everyone to enjoy and take part in.

Finally, we will welcome our new Music specialist, Mrs O'Neill to school this half-term. We wish her the best of luck as she supports our music curriculum and delivery as well as raising the profile of music across school even further!

Kind regards, Mr Atherton

Attendance

Thank you to all pupils for the great start to the year in terms of attendance. Our current average attendance is **96.2%**. We are still aiming for our attendance goal of **97%**. We have had lots of weekly class winners of our attendance awards. Well done to Y5 who have achieved the highest attendance for the first half-term!

Rec—95.9%	Y4—97.3%
Y1— 93.9%	Y5—98.7%
Y2— 95.3%	Y6—96.2%
Y3—96.2%	



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Reindeer Run—Friday 12th December

To support Wigan and Leigh Hospice, we will be taking part in 'Reindeer Run' where pupils will be completing a Christmas fun run. Everyone is invited to wear their favourite festive jumpers and get active to raise money for our local hospice. The hospice are kindly asking for donations from our 'Reindeer Runners'. Please scan the attached link:



Parent Governor vacancy

We are seeking a committed and enthusiastic parent to join our Governing Body starting in January 2026. As a Parent Governor, you will play a vital role in supporting the Catholic ethos of our school, helping to shape its vision and ensuring every child has the opportunity to flourish. No previous experience is necessary — full training and support will be provided. What matters most is your passion for our school community and willingness to contribute your time and ideas. Further information will be sent out soon regarding how to apply for the role. If you are interested in making a difference and helping guide the future of our school, please consider applying.

New Reception Intake 2026-2027

From the 30th September parents can submit Reception admissions applications for the academic year 2026-2027. Applications should be made online and must be completed by the closing date of 15th January 2026. The Catholic School Supplementary Form **must** also be completed. Please hand in to the school office. Please call in for a copy or access the form from our school website.

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective parents to our Reception open day on **Tuesday 25th November**. Please contact the school office for more information.

Do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions. Alternatively you can contact school places directly on: 01942 489013.

Further details of events and pictures can be found on our school website :

SCHOOL WEBSITE: www.saintmaryandjohn.wigan.sch.uk