

Monday 24th November 2025

St. Mary's News

Start children off on the way they should go and, even when they are old, they will not turn from it. - Proverbs 22:6



Watergrove
Trust
Providing more



Welcome

Hello! It is time for assessment week, where we will be gaining understanding of the great progress our young people have made this term before diving into December! We're looking forward to celebrating the festive period with you. Let's get started!



Up and Coming

- Friday 28th November**
PTA Toy Sale in Church - 9.00am
- Monday 1st December**
Year 4 and 5 Advent Service. Led by Year 5, supported by Year 4. In church at 2:30pm.
- Tuesday 2nd December**
Year 4 Trip to Ski Rossendale
- Friday 5th December**
Tree Decorating Assembly and Reindeer Run. Children in own clothes for Christmas Fair donation (Christmas jumpers optional and welcome).



Menus Week 1

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	DESSERT
MONDAY	Chef's Choice of Pizza Served with Chips & Sweetcorn	Pasta Of The Day Served With Garlic Slice & Sweetcorn	Assorted Desserts or Fruit
TUESDAY	Homemade Cheese Pie Served With Mash & Beans	Quorn & Lentil Chili Served With Rice & Nacho's	Assorted Desserts or Fruit
WEDNESDAY	Roast Of The Day Served With Creamy Mash & Seasonal Vegetables	Quorn Fillet Served With Creamy Mash & Seasonal Vegetables	Assorted Desserts or Fruit
THURSDAY	Chicken & Sweet Potato Curry Served With Rice & Naan Bread & Raita	Veggie Sausage In A Bun Served With Wedges & Curry Sauce	Assorted Desserts or Fruit
FRIDAY	Battered Fish & Chips Served With Mushy Peas	Selection Of Sandwiches Served With Chips & Salad	Assorted Desserts or Fruit

Jacket Potatoes and a selection of sandwiches are available daily. All meals are served with water.

Any dietary requirements please advise a member of our team.

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Attendance

Week beginning 17th November 2025

Reception - 94.3%

Year 1 - 89.0%

Year 2 - 93.7%

Year 3 - 98.3% (1st)

Year 4 - 95.7% (3rd)

Year 5 - 97.5% (2nd)

Year 6 - 92.4%

This Week:
94.4%

School Target:
95%



ClassDojo Winners

Reception - Shane D

1 - Olly

2 - Owen

3 - Jenna

4 - Freddie

5 - Oscar

6 - Isla



The Best Start in Life

The Best Start in Life Parent Hub is a new website from the Government providing essential advice and support from pregnancy through to when children start school.

The hub covers everything from childcare support and early years education to health topics, such as introducing solid food. You can use the Childcare Support Checker on the site to see what financial help you qualify for and find local family support. Found out more by going to:

www.beststartinlife.gov.uk



Upcoming Pantomime.

Just a reminder that if you haven't already done so, please use Arbor (under Trips) to give your consent and suggested contribution of £15.00 for your child to attend the Pantomime trip on Thursday 18th December. Please contact the school office if you have any queries regarding this.

Consent is required for your child to attend. Our school trips are only possible with the help of parental voluntary contributions. A consistent shortfall in voluntary contributions for trips unfortunately may result in the decision that future trips such as this, cannot go ahead.



Arbor

Autumn Forest School

Next week, our Forest School will close up shop ahead of the festive period. It has been an amazing autumnal forest school. As our environment changes and the brisk winds blow, our learners have taken part in all sorts of traditional forest-craft with Miss Webber.



St. Mary's News



Delivering Joy at Christmas with Dunelm

As a staff, we decided this year to not take part in our usual Secret Santa, but instead grab a tag from Dunelm's Delivering Joy at Christmas initiative. We are proud to have delivered loads of lovely presents to children in the community. A big thank you to Miss Young and Miss Fenton for their wonderful organisation.



Christmas at St. Mary's 2025

Friday 28 th November	PTA Toy Sale	Our PTA will be selling pre-loved toys to raise funds for school experiences throughout the year, as well as our school crossing patrol. Parents and carers are welcome into church at 9.00am.
Monday 1 st December	Year 4 and Year 5 Advent Service	In Church. 2.30pm. Parents and Carers welcome. Led by Year 5 with Year 4 supporting.
Thursday 4 th December	St. Mary's host leaders from across the trust for a Christmas Experience.	In school time.
Friday 5 th December	Christmas Jumper Day/Non-Uniform Tree Decorating Ceremony. Springhill Hospice Reindeer Run.	Donations warmly accepted. KS1: Donation of chocolate. KS2: Donation of bottles. Donations are for our Christmas Fair.
Monday 8 th December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity	In Church. 2.30pm. Parents and carers welcome.
Thursday 11 th December	Morning Year 3 & 5 Christmas Experience	In church - led by church team.
Thursday 11 th December	St. Mary's Christmas Fair	In-school. 2.30pm. All manner of Christmas treats available for purchase.
Monday 15 th December	Whole-School Christmas Celebration	In Church. 2.15pm. Led by Reception and Year 6. Parents and carers welcome.
Wednesday 17 th December	St. Mary's Christmas Dinner	Children wishing to have Christmas Dinner who usually have packed lunches, can book via the office.
Thursday 18 th December	Whole-School Trip to the Pantomime	Booking and payment can be made via the Arbor App or the school office.
Friday 19 th December	Christmas Parties in class. School closes for the Christmas holidays.	See you in 2026!

This Week in Worship

In Church, we heard from Ben about a very special Proverb - Proverb 139 13-14. We heard how, just as we give our compliments to our friends when they make amazing things, we should give our thanks to God for His brilliant creation. Back in Key Stage Worship, Mrs. Brown told us the story of David and Saul where, even when David had deep disagreements with Saul, he respected his position.

Reception Maths Workshop

Thursday 27th November 3.30pm.

We invite our Reception parents and carers to the Reception classroom to better understand our approach to Maths in the Early Years and what you can do to support Maths learning at home.

PTA Toy Sale

Friday 28th November 9.00am in St. Mary's Church

Our PTA will be selling pre-loved toys to raise funds for school experiences throughout the year, as well as our school crossing patrol. Parents and carers are welcome into church at 9.00am. Note: This sale is for parents and carers only. Leftover toys will be available to buy at our Christmas Fair.

Christmas Services

Sunday 14th December
Nativity Service at 10.30am

Sunday 21st December
Carols by Candlelight at 6.30pm

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December
All Age Carols with Christmas lights at 4pm

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December
Christmas Day Service at 9am

All Welcome

St Mary's Church, Balderstone
Oldham Road
Rochdale
OL11 2HB

stmarysbalderstone.org.uk

Come and join us!