



ST MARY THE VIRGIN CW PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

CONTACT US



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SPRING TERM 2026!



I am pleased to share with you the outcomes of our recent Estyn inspection. The report reflects the hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm shown every day by our pupils, staff, governors, and wider school community.

We are delighted that the inspectors recognised the positive, caring ethos of our school and the strong relationships we build with our learners. They highlighted the dedication of our staff, the supportive environment we nurture, and the many areas where our pupils demonstrate confidence, curiosity, and pride in their achievements.

We are equally grateful for the helpful recommendations provided by Estyn. These will support us as we continue to strengthen our provision and ensure that every child has the very best opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. Our focus now is to build on the progress already made and work together to implement the next steps identified in the report.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Our success is very much a shared achievement, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you and your children.



With very best wishes, Mrs Prichard

LEARNING JOURNEYS



I hope you enjoyed reading your child's Termly Learning Journeys which were uploaded to Seesaw just before the Christmas holidays.

If you haven't been able to access them, please make sure you've signed up to the Family Account **for each child** so you are able to see the wonderful learning that your child has been doing.

Report summary for parents
and carers on St Mary The
Virgin C.I.W. Primary School
Date of inspection: November
2025

Summary

Saint Mary the Virgin Church in Wales School lies at the heart of the local area and is a focal point of its diverse community. Leaders, governors and staff work hard to build strong relationships with the school family and a wide range of external partners. A notable strength of this highly inclusive school is the positive well-being and family ethos where all staff and pupils feel happy and safe. Effective safeguarding and thoughtful nurturing practices support a culture that celebrates diversity and enables all pupils to flourish academically, socially and personally.

Teachers and support staff build strong relationships with pupils and understand their needs well. In many classes the quality of teaching ensures that many pupils, including those with additional learning needs and those with barriers to learning, make good progress from their starting points.

School leaders and teachers work collaboratively to design an inclusive and authentic inquiry-based curriculum that provides pupils with suitable learning experiences across all areas of learning. Most pupils engage well in lessons and are keen to talk about their learning. However, on occasions provision does not always support pupils to apply their skills across the curriculum well enough.

Communication with families is open and effective and staff work closely with parents. Leaders are visible at key times during the school day and parents trust that the school is doing the best for all pupils and considers their views. Overall, the school works hard to build trust with all families and provide a broad range of effective interventions to support all pupils across the school.

Leaders, staff and governors understand the community well, consequently they ensure the school provides and delivers the best opportunities to meet the diverse needs of all pupils. Leaders and governors work well together and identify key priorities to improve the school. However, their evaluation of the areas for improvement do not always focus sharply enough on the quality of teaching, including the variability in its effectiveness, and on outcomes for all pupils.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made three recommendations to help the school continue to improve:

R1 Improve the consistency of teaching across the school so that all pupils experience high-quality learning

R2 Ensure that teachers provide beneficial learning opportunities to support pupils to apply their skills progressively across the curriculum, especially in Welsh oracy and numeracy

R3 Strengthen self-evaluation processes to focus more sharply on pupil progress and the impact of teaching on learning outcomes

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#)

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Publication date: 08/01/2026

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR SCHOOP & SEESAW?



ALL communication is sent via our Schoop platform or, sometimes via Seesaw.

For Schoop, please make sure:

1. You have signed up giving your children's names
2. You have joined each of your child's classes - this means that you'll get class specific information as well as whole school information.
3. You have set your phone to receive notifications for Schoop

For Seesaw please make sure

If you are new to Seesaw

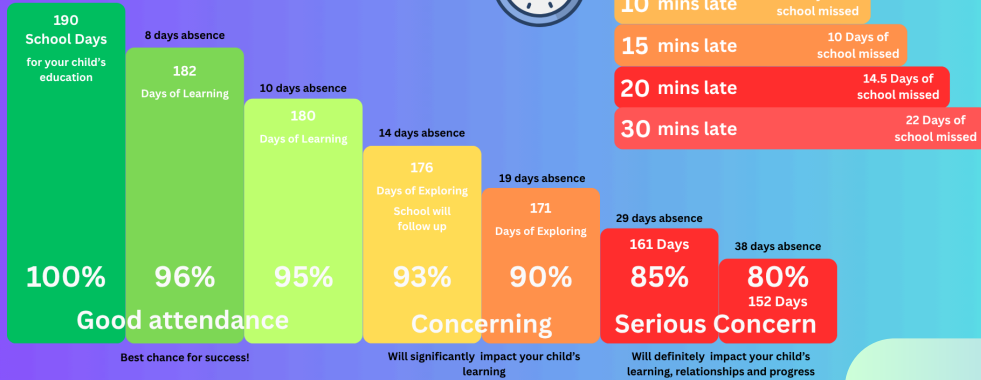
1. You have downloaded the Seesaw app
2. Tap 'I'm a family member'
3. Tap 'create family account'
4. Scan the QR code given
5. Create your account

If you have more than one child

1. Sign into your account in the Seesaw app
2. Click on your profile icon, click 'Add Child's Journal' button then scan QR code provided

If you need any help, please come to the school office and speak to Mrs Harris or Mrs Lakin.

Attendance Matters



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance, and punctuality are really important.

We recognise that children get ill at times, however it is important that, if your child is absent, you let us know and give us the reason why. Please ring or Schoop us **before 9:00 a.m.** on the day of the absence.

If you do not contact us, and we are unable to contact you if your child is absent, we may need to contact Children's Services to confirm their safety.



The School Day

Nursery a.m.
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Nursery p.m.
12:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Reception - Year 6
8:55 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Please make every effort to be at school on time.



Last term's attendance was 90.8%, below our target.

There are also many children arriving at school late - 2.4% last term - we close the gates promptly at 8:55 a.m. so please arrive at school in plenty of time!

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CW PRIMARY SCHOOL
WELCOME BACK!

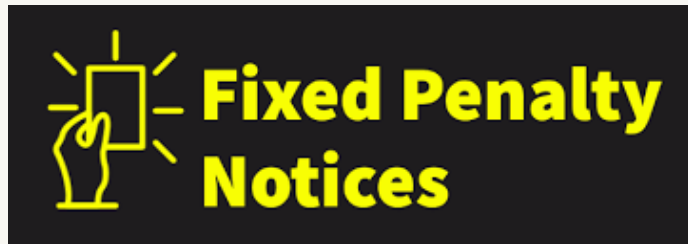


PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF
THESE TERM DATES

2025/6

SMTV holidays and INSETs

	Begin	Half Term		End	INSET DAYS
		Begin	End		
Autumn 2025	Monday September 2025	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 31 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	1 st and 2 nd September
Spring 2026	Monday 5 January 2026	Monday 16 February 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026	24 th October
Summer 2026	Monday 13 April 2026	Monday 25 May 2026	Friday 29 May 2026	Monday 20 July 2026	5 th January
					17 th July
					20 th July



If your child has unauthorised absences for 10 sessions (5 days) or more, you may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice.

If your child has persistent absence, we may refer you to our School Attendance Officer to support you.

Holidays in term time are not authorised.

We want to support you with your child's attendance and punctuality - please contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Harris (Family Engagement Officer), or Mrs Prichard (Head teacher) if you are having problems or would like some support.

CARS ON NORTH CHURCH STREET

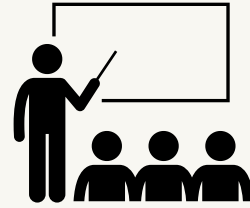
Please remember that North Church Street has no space for parking cars - there is free parking on Bute Street for up to 1 hour.

I have noticed an increasing number of cars being brought down North Church Street - **this is putting children at risk! There is plenty of parking available on Canal Parade.**





OUR STAFF



School Leaders

Head teacher: Mrs Nicki Prichard
Acting Deputy Head teacher: Mrs Hannah Lakin
Senior Leaders: Mrs Danielle Egan, Mrs Rhian Howe,
Mrs Lisa Davies & Mrs Kate Parsons

Office

Mrs Gemma Achilles (Senior Finance & Admin Officer)
Mrs Michaela Harris (Family Engagement Officer)

Lunchtime

School Cook: Mrs Jass Kaur
Kitchen Assistant: Miss Maria Mota

Estates

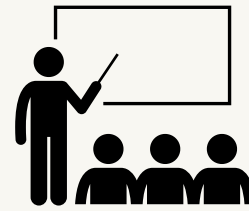
Estate Manager: Mr Tyrone Berry

Cleaners

APP Cleaning



OUR CLASSES



Nursery

Teacher: Miss Katie Thomas
LSAs: Miss Caitlin Doody, Miss Amal Mohamad

Reception

Teacher: Mrs Kate Parsons
LSA: Mrs Simran Kaur

Class 1

Teacher: Miss Rachel Goodwin
LSA: Miss Janine Wills

Class 2

Teacher: Mrs Lisa Davies
LSA: Miss Samina Ali

Class 3

Teacher: Mrs Rhian Howe
LSA: Miss Georgia Rankmore

Class 4

Teachers: Mrs Jo Webb (Mon-Wed), Mrs Susannah Thomas (Thurs-Fri)

Class 5

Teacher: Mr Chris Darlington
LSA: Miss Eman Mohamad (Tues - Fri)

Class 6

Teacher: Mrs Hannah Lakin & Mrs Danielle Egan

Nest

Teachers: Ms Cerys Box
LSAs: Miss Seren Gallivan, Mrs Helen Watt

LSAs

ALN: Miss Sadaf Jafari
Intervention & Support: Ms Amina Aboussaad, Mrs Emma Phelps, Miss Clare Atkins

PPA cover provided by
Miss Clare Atkins (FPh) & Supply Cover (KS2)

FOOD & DRINKS

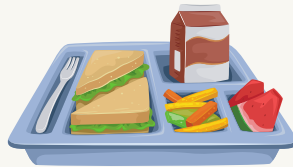
ST MARY THE VIRGIN CW
PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Meals



LUNCH TIME



School meals are now free for children from Reception to Year 6.

You **MUST** order your child's meal via ParentPay in advance - this can be done for up to 2 weeks in advance. If you have not ordered a lunch for your child, we will have to ring you to provide a packed lunch.

Packed Lunches



You may wish to provide a packed lunch for your child.

Please make sure this is a healthy lunch. Please don't send in fizzy drinks or sweets as part of the lunch.



We are a nut free school.

Cold takeaways (e.g. McDonald's, KFC) are not suitable.



If you bring a lunch for your child, please **DO NOT** bring any takeaway food.



Healthy Snack

Nursery & Reception: we provide a healthy snack for a cost of £1 each week. Please pay cash.

Years 1-6: please send your child with a healthy snack each day.



Your child needs to bring a reusable water bottle each day.

Thank you for not sending Stanley bottles.



School Uniform

We expect all children to wear School Uniform.

Our uniform is as follows:

- Black, grey or blue trousers, skirt or dress
- Polo shirt: white, blue or yellow
- Jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan: royal blue

We do not allow hoodies at school for uniform or PE kit.

Please make sure you put your child's name in their School Uniform - this is really important!



PE Kit

ALL children from Reception to Year 6 MUST bring a PE kit to school to change into: shorts, leggings or joggers, a T-shirt and trainers.

If your child does not bring kit, we will put them into spare school kit.

Please don't send your child to school in their PE kit.



Cold weather

In this cold weather, please make sure your child has a coat and gloves. Their coats MUST have their name in them!



Wet weather

When the weather changes, please make sure your child wears a suitable coat, with a hood if it's raining. We play outside in all sorts of weathers!

There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing! We have no room in school to store umbrellas.





ST MARY THE VIRGIN CW PRIMARY SCHOOL



PE Days

Please send your child to school with their PE kit on Mondays - they will take it home then on Fridays to be washed over the weekend!

Indoor PE:

Monday - Nursery, Class 3

Tuesday - Class 2 & Class 4

Wednesday - Class 6

Thursday - Class 1 & Class 5

Friday - Reception

Outdoor PE:

Monday -

Tuesday - Reception, Class 1 & Class 5

Wednesday - Class 3

Thursday - Class 2, Class 4 & Class 6

Friday -



BREAKFAST CLUB



We have a small number of spaces in our Breakfast Club. Please contact the School Office for an application form.

Miss Maria Mota is our Breakfast Club Supervisor and Mrs Jass Kaur is her Assistant (as well as our School Cook)

Breakfast Club runs from 8:15 a.m. each morning and is free. Children MUST eat breakfast there - it is not childminding.

The gates close at 8:30 a.m. - your child will not be able to attend and will need to wait with you until 8:55 a.m.



School website

Our website has been updated and the school calendar is available for you to see.

We're adding policies, etc, so do keep your eye out!

Parent Governor



Our new parent governor is Ayan Farah. We welcome her to the Governing Body.

Day of the Soup 27th January 2026

Join us to sup soup after school on 27th January - more information will follow via Schoop!

All welcome!

