



September 2026

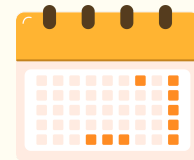
St Mary's Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you had a restful break and enjoyed spending time together. It is so lovely to see the children back in school, looking happy, settled and ready for the term ahead. We have already been so busy, and the children have worked very hard since returning. They have approached their learning positively and have been getting back into the routines and expectations of school.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with our drive to ensure the uniform policy is upheld. Our pupils are looking smart and ready for learning, which is supporting our continuing culture of high standards. A copy of the uniform policy can be found on the school website for your reference.

This term, we have implemented our updated behaviour policy. Again, a copy of this can be found on the school website. We are currently working with the pupils on key routines and embedding a behaviour culture of 'be ready, be respectful, be safe'. These three expectations will help our pupils to make positive choices, look after one another and engage fully in school life. We thank you for your continued support and for working with us on this. Your partnership makes an important contribution to maintaining a calm, respectful and purposeful school environment.

Spotlight on Attendance



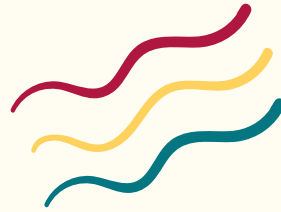
Attending school every day is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's education, development and future success. Every school day matters, and regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to keep up with their learning, develop their confidence, build positive relationships with their friends and teachers, and take part fully in school life. When children are absent, they can miss important lessons, instructions, discussions and experiences, and even occasional absences can make it more difficult to keep up with the rest of the class. Good attendance also helps children develop positive routines, independence, responsibility and a strong attitude towards learning. We understand that children may sometimes be unwell and that there will be occasions when absence is unavoidable. However, where your child is well enough to attend, please make school attendance a priority. We also ask parents and carers to arrange routine medical and dental appointments outside of school hours wherever possible, so that children do not miss valuable learning time. Arriving at school on time is equally important, as being late can mean missing the start of lessons, important information and settling-in time, and can make children feel unsettled about joining the class. If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us as soon as possible on 01204 333494 to explain the reason for their absence. By working together and making attendance a priority, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, achieve and enjoy all that school has to offer.

<u>Class</u>	<u>September Attendance %</u>
Pre-school	85.1%
Nursery	88.2%
Reception K	95%
Reception L	92.4%
1H	96.0%
1J	94.7%
2H	92.9%
2M	93.9%
3G	94.9%
3S	97.0%
4M	94.8%
4S	95.4%
5A	96.7%
5B	95.8%
6A	95.6%
6B	92.4%



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Class News



Pre-School

Our preschool children have had a fantastic start to the year, and we are so proud of how well all the children have settled into nursery. We have been spending lots of time getting to know our new surroundings, building relationships and making new friendships. We have been exploring emotions, learning to recognise and talk about how we feel, as well as discussing the special people in our lives through our topic 'Friends and Family'. We have also been building up our nursery rhyme bank, singing familiar favourites and learning lots of new rhymes together. It has been a wonderful start, filled with smiles, learning and lots of new experiences!

Nursery

We are delighted to see how well the children have started to settle into nursery. They have enjoyed exploring the different areas of our provision, becoming familiar with their surroundings and confidently accessing a wide range of activities and resources. The children have also been learning all about themselves, recognising and beginning to express their feelings, while slowly becoming familiar with and following our daily routines. It has been lovely to see their curiosity, enthusiasm and growing independence as they play, learn and build relationships with their friends and practitioners. We are now excited to begin our learning all about autumn and look forward to exploring the season through a range of exciting activities and experiences. We can't wait to see the children continue to learn, grow and flourish. Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle, containing water only, each day. If your child would like a snack, please provide a healthy option such as fruit, yoghurt or crackers.

Reception

It has been a wonderful few weeks in Reception, and the children are settling really well into their new classes and routines. They are beginning to make new friends and are growing in confidence each day. In English, we have been working really hard on developing our pencil grip and pencil control, and we are now beginning to write our long-legged letters. In maths, we have been developing our matching, sorting and comparing skills, and over the next couple of weeks we will be learning all about the numbers 1, 2 and 3. The children are really enjoying our topic, 'Me and My Family', where we have been talking about who we live with and exploring what different homes look like. They have also loved creating self-portraits and family portraits in our creative areas. We would like to remind you of a few important things: please bring reading diaries into school every day; books will be changed weekly on a Thursday and sent home on a Friday. Please also remember PE kits on Fridays and provide your child with a healthy snack for the afternoon each day.

Year 1

All Year 1 pupils have transitioned into Key Stage 1 beautifully. We are so proud of how well they have adapted to some big changes in their routines, and their little personalities are all beginning to shine through! In maths, we have been developing our understanding of numbers within 10. We have been learning to find one more and one less in a range of different ways and have also been introduced to the greater than, less than and equal to signs. In English, our focus has been on letter formation and applying the sounds we learn in phonics to our writing. The children have been really impressing us in their phonics lessons, and it was lovely to see so many of you come along to watch phonics in action! In design technology, the children have been designing their own healthy wraps and are looking forward to preparing and enjoying their tasty creations. Thank you to all the parents who have supported their children with logging on to Numbots and completing some of the maths challenges.

Year 1-2 Sunflower

The children in the Sunflower Room have had a fantastic start to the year and have settled into their new routines brilliantly! We have been busy learning about place value through sensory play, rhymes and songs. We have also enjoyed exploring The Gingerbread Man, using actions and visual supports to help us communicate and retell the story. The children loved making their own playdough gingerbread men while developing their fine motor skills. In design technology, we explored different materials using our senses before creating gingerbread men for our classroom display. We have also been learning about maps and our local area in geography. The children built their own houses and shops using construction blocks and enjoyed a walk around our school grounds, discovering new areas and places we had not visited before. It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in and enjoyed their learning!



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Year 2

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled into routines well. We have enjoyed exploring new topics, including Local History and Animals, including Humans, in science. We have also been learning about the importance of healthy food and exercise. In English, we have just started our new text, A Tadpole's Promise. The children will use this text to help them write a non-fiction piece about the life cycle of a frog. In maths, we are continuing our work on place value. The children have been using practical equipment to recognise the value of different digits in two-digit numbers, as well as practising counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. The children have enjoyed learning about ball skills in PE, practising how to move with a ball in different ways and stop the ball confidently. They have also enjoyed jogging, marching and sprinting, experimenting with different speeds as part of our fitness learning. It was lovely to see some of you during our Phonics Workshop. A big thank you for supporting your child with reading and homework at home. Please continue to read with your child each night and sign their reading diary. Children must now come to school wearing their PE kit on PE days, which are Wednesday (indoor) and Friday (outdoor).

Year 3

Year 3 have made an excellent start to the year. The children have settled well into Key Stage 2 and are becoming more confident with their new routines. In English, we have been reading The BFG by Roald Dahl. The children used the story to inspire some brilliant instructions for making their own dream jars. In maths, we have been exploring place value with three-digit numbers. Our geography topic, The World, has introduced us to hemispheres, tropics and meridians. The children have also enjoyed using the equipment on the Key Stage 2 playground. Homework: Please support your child with 10 minutes of reading and 10 minutes of Spelling Shed each day. An adult should sign the reading diary daily. They should also practise times tables for 10 minutes three times a week and complete one short handwriting activity each week(Login details are in their diaries). We are very proud of the effort the children have shown so far.

Year 4

The children have settled in wonderfully and are already adapting well to our new routines. We have enjoyed reading our class text, 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and have now begun exploring figurative language through 'The Promise'. In maths, we have been focusing on place value, and the children have shown great progress and confidence. Our history topic this term is Ancient Egypt, which the children have embraced with enthusiasm as they uncover new knowledge, methods and concepts. We are excited to see them continue to flourish throughout the year. All children should now have their login details for Times Table Rock Stars and Spelling Shed. We encourage them to use both regularly to support their learning at home. In particular, the Studio and Soundcheck sections on Times Table Rock Stars are especially helpful for improving times-table accuracy and speed, while regular practice on Spelling Shed will help reinforce the spellings they are learning in school. Mastering times tables and developing confidence are key focuses in Year 4.

Year 5

Year 5 have made a fantastic start to the year! In English, the children have written feature-filled diary entries inspired by Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, using a range of exciting writing techniques– J.K. Rowling would be proud! In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, working with numbers up to 1,000,000. In science, we have been investigating forces and are looking forward to putting our learning into practice through practical investigations. In geography, we have been taking a trip through Europe, using our map skills to locate countries, cities and key geographical features. In P.E., the children have been developing their fitness and tennis skills – Wimbledon, here we come!

Year 6

Within English, Year 6 have been reading The Giant's Necklace, which is a fantastic story. In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on writing newspaper reports, developing the children's understanding of how to report events accurately and effectively. Maths has a focus on fractions in the coming weeks, so any practice using TT Rockstars will help tremendously. In history, we have been learning about the Vikings, exploring their raids, settlements and impact on Britain. Please keep signing the homework diaries and supporting us in strengthening your child's reading!



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Safeguarding



Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our highest priority. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we work closely with families and other professionals to ensure that our children are safe, supported and able to thrive. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Ross Powell, and our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Paula Coleman. If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, please speak to a member of staff or contact the school and ask to speak to the DSL/DDSL. If you are worried about a child outside school hours, you can contact Bolton Council's Integrated Front Door by calling 01204 331500 and pressing Option 2 (Monday to Friday from 08:45 to 17:00). Outside of hours or on bank holidays, you can contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01204 337777. If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.

We are also able to offer support to families through Early Help when a child or family may benefit from additional support. Please speak to us if you feel you may need help.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found [here](#). Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe.

Operation Encompass

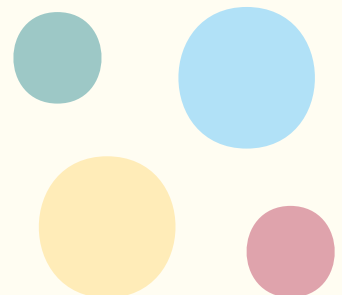
Our school is part of Operation Encompass, a national safeguarding scheme that enables schools and the police to work together to support children who may have experienced domestic abuse. Through this scheme, the police can notify school before the start of the next school day when a child has been involved in or exposed to a domestic abuse incident. This information is shared confidentially with our DSL and DDSL, who can ensure that appropriate support is available to the child. Our priority is always the safety, wellbeing and emotional support of our pupils. Operation Encompass helps us to respond sensitively and provide the right support when children and families may need it most.

WELLBEING

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year, and it has been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm for wellbeing across our school. We are delighted to welcome 30 new Wellbeing Ambassadors to our team. A huge well done to all of our Ambassadors who have completed their training. Their enthusiasm, kindness and passion for helping others has been amazing to see, and we are really looking forward to working with them throughout the year.

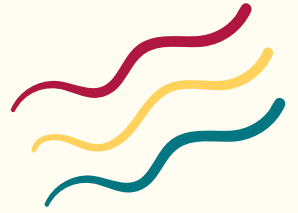
We have appointed our Captains and Vice Captains, who are already working hard to lead wellbeing in school. Just a reminder that our Wellbeing Lead is Mrs Ash. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, or if you or your family need a little extra support, please remember that Mrs Ash is always happy to listen and help. Please also take a look at the Wellbeing section of our school website, where we are currently updating the information and adding new resources and support for families.

Every child's feelings matter.





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Changes to the School Day

You have recently received communication around a change to the timings of the school day. We thank you for your support as we transition to these new timings.

School currently opens from 08:45 until 15:30 for multiple classes and, in line with updated DfE guidance, all classes will now operate in line with these times from 2nd November 2026.

We appreciate that many of you will have pick-ups from multiple classrooms. Please rest assured that our staff will keep your children in their classroom (or at the car park gate for Year 5 and 6) until you come to collect them. This will help to ensure that children remain safe and supervised while families make their way around school.

Important Notice about Dinner Money

School dinners have increased to £2.75 per day (£13.75 per week) from September.

The rules around Free School Meals are changing. If you receive Universal Credit you may now be eligible for Free School Meals even if you have been **eligible from Free School Meals previously** you need to **reconfirm their eligibility** for next year.

The links to check eligibility are as below:

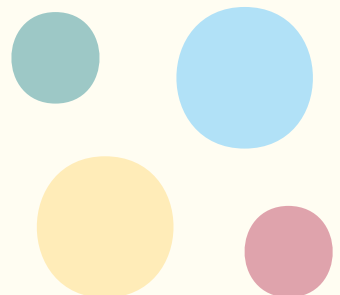


<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

or

<https://fsm.lgfl.net/>

If you are unsure, please come into school as we can support with with checking your eligibility.





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Upcoming Events

Parent Workshops

Autumn

Workshop	Date/Time	Location	Aimed At
Phonics and Early Reading (including stay and learn)	24/09/26 09:15	Hall and Classrooms	EYFS/KS1 (KS2-stay and learn)
SATs (Y6), Multiplication Check (Y4)	30/09/26 09:15	Hall and Classrooms	Year 6 and Year 4
Online safety	07/10/26 09:15	Hall	Whole School
The importance of Attendance	14/10/26 09:15	Hall	Whole School
Maths and Early Number (including stay and learn)	04/11/26 09:15	Hall	EYFS/KS1 (KS2-stay and learn)
Behaviour Policy	11/11/26 09:15	Hall	Whole School
SEND: Universal offer and Graduated Response	18/11/26 09:15	Hall	Whole School
Well-being/PHSE	25/11/26 09:15	Hall	Whole School
Supporting the development of foundation skills	02/12/26	Hall	Whole School

We have communicated the whole year of parent workshops via the MCAS app. If you currently do not have this app on your phone, please speak to the office who will support you in setting it up.

Apply for a secondary school place

Everything you need to know about school admissions

Apply by 31 October 2026

If your child will be 11 by 1 September 2027, you must apply for a high school place by 31 October 2026.

See overleaf for more information.

www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/apply-online-school-place

Do you know that in Bolton...

...most of the high schools will receive more applications each year than there are available places. In some cases, more than three times.

This means that some children applying for a high school place won't get in because there aren't enough places in that particular high school for everyone who applies.

Bolton Council

Year 6 Notice

A reminder that applications for secondary school places closes on 31st October. Please ensure you have completed your child's application before this deadline. If you require any support, please speak to the office who will be able to offer guidance.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Class	Event	Location
WC 28/10/26	All Week	Whole School	Harvest Festival	Classrooms/Hall
01/10/26	15:20-17:00	Year 6	Cross Country	Essa School
01/10/26	All Month	Whole School	Black History Month	Classrooms
02/10/26	All Day	Whole School	Flu Vaccinations	Workroom
WC 05/10/26	All Week	Whole School	Dyslexia Awareness Week	Classrooms
06/10/26	16:00-17:30	Year 4 Girls	Football Festival	Ladybridge High School
07/10/26-09/10/26	3 Days	Year 6	Residential School Trip	Winmarleigh Hall
WC 12/10/25	All Week	Whole School	Road Safety Week	Classrooms
WC 12/10/26	All Week	Whole School	Scholastic Book Fair	Hall
13/10/26	15:30-18:00	Whole School	Parents' Evening	Classrooms
13/10/26	16:00-17:30	Year 4	Mixed Football Festival	Ladybridge High School



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Clubs and Events in the Community

A number of companies have reached out to us and asked the school to pass on some of the activities within the community. Please see below for details.

ELEGANCE
Dance Team
NOW RECRUITING
Passion. Confidence. Teamwork. Elegance.

WHEN:
WEDNESDAYS EVENINGS
17:30 - 21:30

WHERE:
HALLIWELL ROAD,
BOLTON, BL1

WHO:
AGES 3+ WELCOME!
All abilities welcome - beginners to advanced!

Build confidence
♥ Make friends
♥ Develop skills
SHINE

BUILD CONFIDENCE **MAKE NEW FRIENDS** **FUN & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT** **PERFORM & COMPETE** **DEVELOP SKILLS AND SHINE!**

♥ **BATON, POM, DANCE & MUCH MORE!** ♥
♥ **COME DANCE WITH US!** ♥

CONTACT EITHER
KIRA 07933214507 or **JENNA 07518193783**

BSS
LEISURE SERVICES

SPORTS CAMP
26TH - 30TH OCTOBER

Most Childcare Vouchers Accepted **From £29 per day**

For ages 5-13 **08:30-17:00**

Hot & Cold Lunches Provided

@bssleisure **bssleisure** **@bssleisure** **01204 434 797**
www.bssleisure.com

Places Project

**CHILDREN'S & YOUTH TEAMS' HUB
BOLTON**

Join us for an evening of prayer, worship and encouragement

Thursday 1st October
7 - 8:30pm
St Peter's Parish Centre, BL1 5RR

For more information email:
stephbuckley@manchester.anglican.org

PASSION FOR BOLTON