

Believe and Achieve Together



ST MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2025

WELCOME

Welcome back after the half term break. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable time and your children are now ready for another action packed half term. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout Autumn 1.

With the night's drawing in and the festive season just around the corner, our thoughts are turning towards Christmas and the exciting activities we have in store. Please make a note of the dates and times.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

For those parents who kindly buy staff a Christmas present, we would like to ask that this year you help us support Ramsbottom Pantry instead by making a donation. Any donated food and toiletries will be gratefully received. Suggested items are tinned meats, soups, cereals, long life milk, tea, coffee, biscuits, household cleaning and toiletries.

We are always immensely grateful for your generosity, but with the cost-of-living crisis and as a Christian school, we feel that it is important to recognise the needs of others at this time.

Please can any donations be brought to school by **Friday 12th December**.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND PUPIL PREMIUM

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive **extra** funding which is called Pupil Premium. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources in school.

Some parents who receive income support, child tax credit, or universal credit (for full list go to link below), may be entitled to Free School Meals. We politely request that if you are eligible, you apply for Free School Meals, as this makes such a difference to school.

To see if you are eligible and apply, please use the following link: [Free school meals - Bury Council](#)

Please note: UIFSM—Currently, pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals? - No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year, our children will be going on a wide range of trips; from museums and galleries, to local geography and history walks, to sports competitions. These events require a high level of adult to pupil ratios, so if you would be willing to join our 'volunteers list' on an ad hoc basis, please contact the school office and we will organise a DBS for you.



SNOW DISRUPTIONS

The clocks going back last week reminds us that winter is on the way. We are keeping our fingers crossed for minimum disruptions due to snow over the next few months. However, in the event of heavy snow we will notify you via dojo of any decisions regarding school closure.



POPPY APPEAL

We are supporting The Royal British Poppy Appeal. Pupils will be able to purchase a poppy or other merchandise in school this week. There are poppies, wrist bands and rulers on offer. The suggested donation is £1 for the wristbands and rulers.



CHILDREN IN NEED

We are hoping to raise money for Children in Need on Friday 14th November. Children (if they wish) may come to school in pyjamas with a £1.00 donation for this charity.

CAROL SERVICE

We will be holding a KS2 Carol Service on Tuesday 9th December at 7pm in Emmanuel Church. Faith Ambassadors will help lead the service and we would love you to join us for this special service.

More details will be sent out nearer the time.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER

Our Christmas Fair is being held on Friday 28th November—starting at 6pm in church. We are looking for your help with donations for the Fair.

Friday 21st November – Non-uniform in exchange for chocolates please.

Friday 28th November – Non-uniform in exchange for anything in a bottle please (from wine to shampoo)

We will be selling green tokens from Monday 17th November to use at the fair.

Your help is needed to make the event a great success. PTA to finalise details Wednesday 12th November -7:30pm in school, everyone is welcome to attend. As always, we are grateful to our PTA for their hard work in supporting our school.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



On Wednesday 10th December we will be supporting the ‘Save the Children’ Christmas Jumper Day.

If you would like to dress up in your festive knitwear, please bring in £1 to donate to this charity. Please do not go to any trouble or expense for this day, either borrow or decorate a jumper you already have with tinsel, baubles or anything else.



NATIVITY

Class 1 and Class 2 will be performing a production entitled ‘Humph the Camel’, which will take place on Monday 15th December. The dress rehearsal will be at 2pm, followed by the main performance at 6pm.

Every year we look forward to and are proud of our nativity and we know this year will be no exception!

Further information about the shows and the tickets will be sent out nearer the time.

We look forward to seeing you all at our lovely Christmas Events

PARENT GOVERNOR

Parent governor letters have been distributed a little while ago. The closing date for applications is Monday 10th November. If you require another copy of the letter, please ask Mrs Chamberlain or Mrs Brunning.

RECEPTION PLACES

Parents of nursery children that will be due to apply for Reception class (those born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022).

It is now time to apply for your child's Reception class place. You will find all the information you need and can apply online at www.bury.gov.uk/admissionsprimary

Please remember that:

- A place in the nursery does not guarantee a place in the school
- You need to apply even if you have an older child in the school
- You must apply before the 15th January 2026

If you need any advice about your child starting school, please contact the Admissions Team on 0161 253 6474 or email admissions@bury.gov.uk

INDIVIDUAL / SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer will be in school on Monday 24th November. If you have a sibling who does not attend school and you would like a photo together, please bring any pre-school children to the office for around 8:30am. All siblings within school will also get a sibling as well as an individual photo.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Our annual church service, Celebration Sunday, will take place on **Sunday 1st March at 11:00am**. This service is a long-established tradition and brings the church and the school together in celebration of our school. This year we are holding a joint service with Emmanuel Holcombe, and the service will take place at St Mary's Church. St Mary's children will be leading the music.

It is a lovely opportunity for both schools to come together and celebrate our two communities. The service involves the whole school, and each class leads a different aspect. All families are encouraged to join us for this important event. Please make a note of this date in your diary.

OPEN DAY AND OPEN EVENING

We still have an Open Day and Open Evening coming up for all parents, grandparents and prospective parents on Wednesday 19th November (Open Day) and Thursday 20th November (Open Evening).

This is an opportunity for you to come and see the school in action and see what the children are learning.

You will be given a guided tour by a member of Year 6.

Please share with all your friends and neighbours!

We'd love to see as many people as possible at these events and show off our school!

COME AND JOIN US AT
ST MARY'S C OF E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HAWKSHAW

ONLY 3 MILES FROM RAMSBOTTOM AND TOTTINGTON,
2 MILES FROM GREENMOUNT AND 5 MILES FROM BURY

Open Day / Open Evening and
Toddler Sessions 2025

Places available in Pre School and Reception 2026

WEDS 19TH NOV	OPEN DAY 9:30AM - 11:30AM & 1:30PM - 3:00PM
THURS 20TH NOV	OPEN EVENING 6:00PM - 7:30PM Headteacher presentations will be at 6:00PM AND 6:45PM
MON 10TH AND MON 17TH NOV	TODDLER SESSIONS 1.45pm - 3.00pm in collaboration with Storytime Adventures

For more details and updates about these events, please email
stmaryshawkshaw@bury.gov.uk / visit our website stmaryshawkshaw.com or
follow us on Instagram [st.marys.hawkshaw](https://www.instagram.com/st.marys.hawkshaw/) / [storytimeadventures_uk](https://www.instagram.com/storytimeadventures_uk/)

NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY - JUST COME ALONG ON THE DAY

*"I pray that you would be rooted and established in love...
Filled to the measure of the fullness of God" Ephesians 3:17-19*

