

St James' Catholic Primary

"Great News"

Friday 21st November 2025

YEAR 5 MASS

Today, KS2 celebrated Mass in Church with Father Owen. Thank you to children in Year 5 for preparing the Mass so well and to our wonderful readers. Father Owen was very impressed with our children's behaviour and the reverence they showed throughout the Mass.

STAFF UPDATES

At the end of last half term, we sadly said goodbye to four members of staff. Mrs Hogan, has retired after being a teaching assistant here at St James' for 27 years. We will miss her great sense of humour! Time for a well-deserved rest Mrs Hogan. Mrs Sanderson, one of our Nursery teachers, has left us to pursue a new career and our Head Cook, Mrs Wain, has a new job in catering. We wish them all the best for the future. Mrs Fitton, a midday assistant, has unfortunately had to finish work due to ill health (our prayers and thoughts are with her at this time). We thank them all for their years of service to our school community.

As a result of staff leaving, we have had to make a couple of changes to our existing staffing structure. Mrs Kinder, will now be teaching Nursery on a Thursday and Friday morning. Miss Bostock (our Deputy Headteacher) will be teaching Nursery every Thursday and Friday afternoon. Mrs Townsend, will continue to teach in Year 1 during the afternoons, so there will be no impact whatsoever on Year 1. As Mrs Kinder (one of our two SEND co-ordinators) now has a greater teaching commitment, we have asked Miss Chapman (our other SEND co-ordinator) to temporarily take on this role full time. Therefore, we have asked Miss Davies (an excellent supply teacher) to teach in Year 3 on a Monday and Friday until we finish in December. Mrs Allen will continue to teach Year 3 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This week, we have welcomed back Mrs Snarr (back from maternity leave) who will be working in Year 5. We also welcome Miss Rogers to the team. She will be one of our Midday Assistants, mainly supporting our Nursery children during lunchtime. On Monday, we have a new cook, Ms Lewis, joining the kitchen team. I am sure she will be a great asset in continuing to provide an excellent dinner service for our children.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We are delighted to announce that we raised over £350 for Children in Need last week. Thank you to the Mini Vinnies who helped to organise the events on Friday, and to all those who kindly donated money to the cause.

FOOTBALL SUCCESS

St Stephen's CE Primary School 6 - 7 St James' Catholic Primary School. Mr Woolley, Miss Bostock and Mr Partridge had the pleasure of attending the boys football match last Tuesday at Oxford Park, Ashton. It was a thrilling game with lots of excellent goals. Despite going 1 - 0 down, St James' pulled it back with style and went on to win. Mr Lovgreen (Headteacher from St Stephen's) was extremely complimentary and emailed us to say, "The game was played in a fantastic spirit, with good passion, skill and resolve! Whilst it was a very close game with teams 'trading blows throughout the match', it was without doubt that the best team won. I'd like to thank St

James' (staff, volunteers, pupils and parents) for their exemplary conduct throughout...I say this most sincerely, it was a real pleasure to host the fixture and the school. Well done St James' and we wish you all the very best in your cup run this year!" Thank you, Mr Partridge and Mrs Collins, for preparing our team so well. Best of luck boys in the next round!

FLU VACCINATIONS

Last Wednesday, pupils had the opportunity to receive their annual flu vaccination. The Nurses were very complimentary, praising Mrs Boyce's excellent organisation and how efficient the morning went. They had the vaccinations all done in no time. They also commented on our children's wonderful behaviour.

EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Great news, our overall attendance figure is on the way up. Last week, we reached 95%. Our school attendance target is 96% (so not too far off!). Let's keep up this momentum and continue to encourage excellent attendance. As you know, time away from school has a negative impact on pupils' progress and attainment. Please try to make appointments outside of the school day and do remember that holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may lead to a penalty fine. If you would like some support or guidance with attendance matters, please do contact us in school.

A new incentive for encouraging excellent attendance is our golden ticket award for the class who achieve the best attendance figure. This will be announced each week at our Community Assembly. Most classes have now won a golden ticket and prizes have included: Just Dance Party, extra Golden Time, a movie afternoon and an art party. The elusive own clothes day ticket is still there to be won!

All children with 96% or above attendance at the end of this Autumn Term will receive a certificate and will be entered into a prize draw. 1st Prize worth £100, 2nd Prize (worth £30) and 3rd Prize (worth £20). Previous prizes have included gift vouchers for Go Ape, Play Factore, Active Tameside, Hollywood Bowl and Cineworld.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

A letter has already gone out inviting all the children who are on packed lunches to have a school dinner if they so wish on **Wednesday 3rd December**. The kitchen staff have kindly offered to provide us with these extra meals if requested and paid for. If your child is in Years Reception to Year 2 no payment is required, due to Infant Universal Free School Meals. However, the slip needs to be filled in and returned or please inform the office before Thursday 27th November. All Children can wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.

NATIVITIES

Rehearsals have already started for our infant children. We have two different Nativities for EYFS (Nursery and Reception) and Key Stage 1 (Year 1/2). On **Wednesday 10th December**, we have the Key Stage 1 Nativity matinee performance at **2:30pm**, followed by an evening performance on **Thursday 11th December at 6pm**. Our EYFS Nativity is on **Wednesday 17th December at 10:45am**. Tickets will be on sale soon from the office.

FOREST SCHOOL

This half term, it is **Year 5 turn for Forest School now on a Wednesday** and **Year 3 on a Thursday**. Children need to arrive at school already dressed in their forest school clothes and

bring their wellies or outdoor footwear with them in a bag. Nursery have Forest School all year round (weather permitting) every Wednesday.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

We continue to have excellent attendance at our after- school clubs. Children are really enjoying playing with their friends, learning new skills and making crafts to take home. All children from Nursery - Year 6 can attend our after-school clubs. We have at least four after school activities each day and usually a least of choice of two clubs for each age group. These sessions need to be booked in advance, at least the day before, using the app. All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. **Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment.**

After School Club Activities Autumn Term 2 (Nov-Dec 2025)

MONDAY	Activity 1 Infants Singing and Dancing	Activity 2 Year 2/3/4 Games	Activity 3 Juniors Running or Year 4/5/6 Crochet & Knitting	Activity 4 Year 5/6 Photography
TUESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Mindfulness	Activity 2 Year 2/3 Chat n Chill	Activity 3 Juniors Sports	Activity 4 Year 4/5/6 Cheerleading
WEDNESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Marvellous Making	Activity 2 Year 2/3/4 Football	Activity 3 Year 3/4/5 Crafts	Activity 4 Infants/Juniors Computers
THURSDAY	Activity 1 Infants Mystery Club	Activity 2 Year 3/4 Lego & Construction	Activity 3 Year 5/6 Football (Team only)	Activity 4 Juniors Computers or Brass
FRIDAY	Activity 1 Infants PE/Games	Activity 2 Year 2/3/4 Cooking	Activity 3 Year 5/6 STEM activities (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)	Activity 4 Year 1/2/Juniors Computers

WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, fruit and salad.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WRAPAROUND

We have some special Christmas Wraparound sessions over the next few weeks. Our first one is on Tuesday 25th November from 4:30-6pm. There will be Christmas crafts, games and party food. We have another one planned for Monday 1st December, as well as a Christmas movie and popcorn coming soon! Please book on early using the app. Our first one on Tuesday has limited places left. Book now to avoid disappointment!

TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that we had to change the two dates for the choir and Hattersley Brass performances at Tesco. We have the new confirmed dates below.

DATE	EVENT
Friday 21st November	Year 5 Class Mass 9:15am in Church
Thursday 27th November	Year 1 Class Assembly 9am in Hall
Wednesday 3rd December	Christmas Dinner Day (wear Christmas jumpers)
Thursday 4th December	KS2 Snow White Pantomime at Hyde Festival Theatre at 7:30pm.
Monday 8th December	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 10th December	Early Years Christmas Crafts 9am
Wednesday 10th December	KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Nativity 2:30pm
Thursday 11th December	Early Years and KS1 Christmas Party (wear own clothes)
Thursday 11th December	KS1 Nativity 6pm
Friday 12th December	KS2 Carol/Brass Concert in Church at 2:45pm
Monday 15th December	EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday 16th December	Choir sing 1pm at Tesco
Wednesday 17th December	Early Years Nativity 10:45am
Thursday 18th December	Attendance Assembly
Thursday 18th December	KS2 Christmas Party (wear own clothes)
Thursday 18th December	Hattersley Brass 4pm at Tesco
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term
Monday 5th January 2026	Staff INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January	School Reopens for pupils
Thursday 8th January	KS2 trip to The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at the Lowry 12:45pm