



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Friday 28th November 2025

St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Advent Prayer

Dear Father,
Today we begin Advent, a special time to get ready for Your coming. Thank You for loving us so much that You came to be with us. Help us to make room for You in our hearts and in our homes.

Teach us to be kind and helpful, to share with others, and to bring joy to those who need it.

As we light the Advent candles, remind us that You are the Light of the World.

Fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love as we wait for Christmas Day.

Come, Lord Jesus, and be with us always.
Amen.

What Does Advent Mean?


Advent is a very special time in the Catholic Church. It marks the beginning of the Church's year and is the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word *Advent* means "coming," and during this season we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

This year, Advent begins on **Sunday, 30th November**. It's a time of hope, waiting, and reflection. In school, children will learn about the meaning of Advent, light the candles on the Advent wreath, and take part in prayers and activities that help them understand the joy of preparing for Christ's birth.

Telford Based Support Services for Parents

1. Family Connect – Advice & Support

Free, confidential advice on childcare, school admissions, finance, and family wellbeing.

 **01952 385385** (Mon–Fri, 9am–5pm)

 www.familyconnecttelford.co.uk [telford.gov.uk]



2. Telford Crisis Support (Foodbank & Essentials)


Provides emergency food parcels, baby items, and school uniforms.

 **01952 586646**

 www.telfordcrisissupport.org.uk [www.telfordcrisissupport.org.uk]

3. Citizens Advice Telford & Wrekin

Help with benefits, debt, housing, and employment issues.

 **0808 278 7988** (Freephone)

 citizensadvice.telfordandthewrekin.org.uk [[citizensad...kin.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.telfordandthewrekin.org.uk)]

4. Telford & Wrekin Council – Emergency Welfare Assistance

Help in a crisis for food, utilities, and essentials.

 **01952 380400**

 www.telford.gov.uk/community-support [[telford.gov.uk](http://www.telford.gov.uk/community-support)]

5. Family Hubs

Support with parenting, breastfeeding, antenatal advice, and social groups.

 **01952 385385**

 telfordfamilyhubs.com [[telfordfam...lyhubs.com](http://telfordfamilyhubs.com)]

Morning Arrival

To help keep everyone safe and make mornings run smoothly, we're asking parents to walk their



children **onto the school grounds** rather than waiting at the gate. This gives children a confident start to the day and makes it easier for you to pass on any quick messages to staff. Thanks for helping us create a calm and positive start each morning!

Keeping Warm This Winter

As the weather turns colder, we've noticed that **some children are arriving without coats**, which makes it hard for them to stay warm during outdoor play and learning.

Please make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly every day. A **coat** is essential, and on chilly days, **gloves and a scarf** may also be needed.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone comfortable and ready to learn during the winter months!

Supporting Families in Need – Can You Help?

Over the years, we've seen some families face real financial hardship.. sometimes because of unexpected changes to benefits, and sometimes because working families simply can't make ends meet. In these situations, we've been able to offer support thanks to **your generous donations** and help from charities like the St Vincent de Paul Society.

We'd love to continue this support, especially as we approach the festive season. If you would like to contribute, **shopping vouchers** are a wonderful way to help. These vouchers allow us to provide families with the essentials they need, such as food and household items.

Here's how you can help:

- Purchase a voucher from any local supermarket.
- Drop it into the school office.
- We'll provide you with a receipt for your donation.

Your kindness makes a huge difference to families in crisis. Thank you for considering this and for being part of our caring school community.



Supporting Families Through SMILE Children's Charity

We're delighted to share that we have made some referrals to the **SMILE Children's Charity**, which will be putting together wonderful bundles of Christmas presents for some of our

families. These gifts will help make sure every child has something special under the tree this year.

A big thank you to **Telford & Wrekin staff**, who will be wrapping these presents between now and Christmas to make them extra festive!

Clubs and Christmas Parties

Our after-school clubs have now finished for the term, and we're getting ready for

class Christmas parties next week. Children can come in **casual party clothes**, but please keep outfits sensible and practical.

- No make-up
- Safe footwear
- Comfortable clothing

The parties are free and will be full of fun activities, games, and treats!

Important Update: Two-Child Benefit Limit Scrapped

The Government has announced that the **two-child benefit cap** will be removed from **April 2026**. This means families with more than two children will once again be able to claim **Universal Credit** or **Child Tax Credit** for all their children, not just the first two.

This change could make a big difference for many families, with some receiving **up to £3,647 per child per year** in additional support. It's estimated that this will help lift hundreds of thousands of children out of poverty. [\[netmums.com\]](https://www.netmums.com), [\[which.co.uk\]](https://www.which.co.uk)



What do parents need to do?

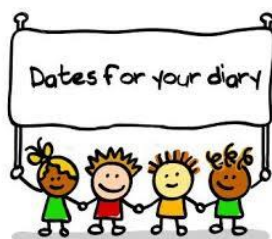
- If you already claim **Universal Credit** or **Child Tax Credit**, you don't need to do anything yet—the change will apply automatically from April 2026.
- If you are **not currently claiming but think you may be eligible**, you can check your entitlement and apply through the Government's Universal Credit website.
- Make sure your details (children's dates of birth, household information) are up to date with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Carol Concert



We'd love you to join us for our whole-school carol concert on **11th December at 2:40pm** in the playground. There'll be readings, prayers, and plenty of festive music (plus mince pies!). Please wrap up warm as we'll be outside.

We can't wait to celebrate with you and your families!



Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
December	
Thu 4 Dec	Reception Christmas Party – Afternoon in the classroom. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Thu 11 Dec	Family Christmas Carols Celebration– All welcome
Fri 12 Dec	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Mon 15 Dec	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Tue 16 Dec	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party – Afternoon in the hall. Children to wear something they feel special in.
Wed 17 Dec	Walk to Church Service Christmas Dinner. Children to wear something Christmassy
Thu 18 Dec	Last Day of Term
Fri 19 Dec	Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils