



St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

19th June 2026



Sports Day Thank You

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who were able to join us for our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Sports Days. Your support and encouragement made a real difference and helped create such a positive atmosphere for our children.

We were incredibly proud of how fantastic the events were. The children showed great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork throughout the day, and it was wonderful to see them taking part with such confidence and enjoyment. Whether competing, cheering others on, or simply giving their best effort, every child represented the school brilliantly.

Thank you again for your continued support, it truly made the days extra special for everyone involved.

St Mary's has got talent

In the week beginning 29th June, we will launch a new event, St Mary's Has Got Talent. This is a fantastic celebration of creativity and confidence, where pupils can showcase their unique talents. Performances will begin in class, followed by voting to select finalists, leading to a grand final on 15th July. This promises a joyful and uplifting event. It is just for fun.

UK Social Media Restrictions for Under-16s: Parent Guide

What is happening?

The UK government has announced new restrictions on certain social media platforms for children under 16. These rules are expected to begin in spring 2027. Technology companies will be required to introduce age verification systems to prevent under-16s from creating accounts on some platforms.

Why is this happening?

The decision is based on growing evidence that some social media platforms can negatively affect young people's sleep, mental health, and concentration. Features like endless scrolling, notifications, and personalised content are designed to keep users online longer.

Which apps are affected?

Platforms likely affected include TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, X, and possibly YouTube accounts. Messaging apps like WhatsApp are not banned, and school tools such as Google Classroom remain unaffected.

What about AI apps?

Apps that simulate relationships (sometimes called AI companion apps) will be restricted to users aged 18 and over. Educational AI tools are not affected.

How will it work?

Companies will need to verify users' ages before allowing account creation.

What does this mean for your child?

Your child may no longer be able to create accounts on some social media platforms. However, they may still access content in limited ways (such as watching videos without an account). They may also spend more time on other apps like gaming or messaging platforms.

What should parents watch out for?

**SOCIAL
MEDIA BAN
FOR UNDER
16s**

**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW**

Some children may try to bypass restrictions using VPNs or shared accounts. Others may move to different apps or platforms. It is important to stay aware of what your child is using online.

How you can support your child

- Talk regularly about what they do online
- Know the apps they use
- Use parental controls and screen time settings
- Keep devices out of bedrooms at night
- Encourage a healthy balance between online and offline activities
- Reassure your child they can talk to you about anything they see online

Key message

These changes are designed to protect children's wellbeing. Open communication, trust, and guidance at home are the most effective ways to keep children safe online.

School Meals & Payments Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers to please ensure that any outstanding dinner money or other balances owed to the school are settled as soon as possible.

Keeping accounts up to date helps us manage our services effectively and ensures that we can continue to provide a smooth and efficient experience for all pupils. If your child has a school meal account or there are any other payments due, we would be grateful if these could be cleared promptly.

If you are unsure whether you have an outstanding balance, please check your payment account or contact the school office, who will be happy to help.

We understand that circumstances can sometimes make payments difficult. If you are experiencing any challenges, please do get in touch with us in confidence so that we can offer support.



**SCHOOL
MEALS &
PAYMENTS
REMINDER**

Book now for holiday activities – a note from Telford and Wrekin

Hundreds of funded activity sessions ranging from sports, arts and crafts, cooking and forest school experiences are available to book now as the happy, healthy and active holiday summer programme launches.

**HOLIDAY
ACTIVITIES
BOOK
NOW**

The programme organised by Telford & Wrekin Council and funded through the Government's Holiday Activities and Food (programme) invites local organisations to run funded sessions for eligible children and young people during the school holidays.

This summer, nearly 70 providers will be running hundreds of sessions across the Borough, from 20 July through to 23 August.

The sessions are fully funded and available to children from Reception to Year 11 who are eligible for income related free school meals.

Each eligible child can attend 8 full-day sessions or 16 half-day sessions, with every session including a funded nutritious meal. Many activities are fully accessible and designed to support children and young people with SEND.

Councillor Shirley Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education, Employment and skills, said:

“I’m delighted that our hugely popular happy, healthy, active holiday sessions are returning for the summer.

“Thanks to the fantastic support of organisations across the Borough, we’re able to offer a wide range of activities, ensuring there’s something for every child to enjoy.

“These sessions are specifically designed for children and young people who receive free school meals, helping to support families and keep young people active, engaged and well-nourished over the summer holidays.

“They are a chance to have fun, try something new, and enjoy new experiences whilst also offering parents and carers a little extra support along the way.”

[Bookings are now open online](#). Early booking is advised as places fill up quickly.

As well as the happy, healthy, active holidays programme, families can enjoy a wide range of free and low-cost summer activities across the Borough. This

includes the Council's popular 10 by 10 initiative, which encourages children to try ten exciting experiences before the age of ten. [Find out more about 10 by 10 online.](#)

Telford and Wrekin Leisure is also running its summer holiday activities offer from 20 July to 30 August. Children can take part in sessions such as fun & floats, tobogganing, tennis, driving range and more- all for as little as £2. Swim4life crash courses and learn to ski sessions will also be available alongside family-friendly events at Telford town park.

In addition, the Urban games return this summer on 20 July, offering with free sessions available across the Borough. Children and young people of all ages will be able to take part in a variety of sports. [Further details will be released soon and will be available online.](#)

New Youth Club Welcomed

Plans for a new youth hub which will boost employment and skills opportunities for hundreds of young people across the Borough have been welcomed.

It was recently confirmed that Telford College had been successful in its bid to deliver a youth hub in the Borough as part of the Government's Youth Guarantee.

The hub will support approximately 300 young people aged 16 to 24 each year and will be delivered in partnership with Telford & Wrekin Council and Landau.

When it launches, the hub will support young people who are not already in employment, education or training (NEET) or who are in receipt of universal credit.

Participants will receive intensive one-to-one support, access to accredited training, including English, maths and digital skills, employer-led events, work experience and mock interviews.

Jobcentre Plus work coaches, employability specialists, mental health professionals and housing advisers will also be involved in the hub.

As well as a town centre base for co-ordination, there will be targeted outreach in rural areas, including the TF1 and TF7 postcodes, using a mobile teaching unit to ensure young people across the Borough have equal access to support.

Six employer engagement events will be delivered in collaboration with DWP across the 12-month programme, including jobs fairs, sector insight events and apprenticeship fairs.

awareness of the wide range of skills, learning and employment support available to help people stay local and thrive.

Telford Job Box is a one-stop shop which offers support with CV writing, interview preparation, job applications and careers advice. [More information on the Telford Job Box can be found online.](#)

A Prayer for Our Families

Heavenly Father.

We thank You for the gift of our families and the love we share.

As we enter this weekend, we ask You to watch over every home in our community.

Bless our parents, children, and loved ones.

Keep them safe in their travels, guard them in their rest,

and fill their time together with joy, peace, and kindness.

Lord Jesus, be at the centre of our families.

Strengthen us in faith, guide us in love,

and help us to care for one another with patience and understanding.

Holy Spirit, inspire us to return refreshed,

ready to serve, learn, and grow together.

We place all our families under the loving protection

of Our Lady and all the saints.

Amen.