



Head Teacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Thank you for welcoming me back so warmly after my maternity leave! It is lovely to see you all again and to be back in our wonderful school community. We have had a busy and productive half term and the atmosphere in school is happy and calm.

IQM Centre of Excellence

We have had our annual IQM review this half term. The IQM inspector was incredibly positive about our school. I will send the final report out imminently but below are a few quotes from it.

"The behaviour and attitudes of pupils across the school are exemplary, characterised by a high degree of courtesy and a sophisticated level of oracy. The children are articulate and express a deep sense of loyalty and pride regarding their school community."

"Parents report that their children thoroughly enjoy their time at school and feel confident that any concerns raised are addressed with immediacy and professional care. "

"There is a strong consensus that the school is a genuine community, with many parents noting that the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere was palpable from their very first visit."

"The physical learning environment serves as a visual testament to these high standards, remaining immaculate and purposeful throughout... These spaces not only showcase the breadth of cultural experiences and educational visits provided but also reflect the high expectations and attention to detail that define the school's pursuit of excellence. Through this combination of aesthetic rigour and pastoral warmth, the school has created a learning environment where every child feels represented, valued, and inspired to achieve."

"The senior leadership team demonstrates a relentless commitment to excellence... There is a genuine drive within the team to push the boundaries of current best practice. This proactive ambition is rooted in a desire to provide the very best possible outcomes for all pupils, constantly seeking out new ways to enhance the inclusive ethos and academic rigour of the school community."

March 2026



Head Teacher's Newsletter

March 2026

Easter

It was great to see so many of you this morning at our Y3/4 Passion production, celebrating the Easter story. Thank you to all who could attend!

I wish you a restful and happy Easter break next week.

Parent Link Group

Our first Parent Link Group is tomorrow in the LRC at 9am. We look forward to welcoming so many of you there. The meeting will be an informal opportunity to share with school leaders your ideas for our school and next steps for how we can make our school and the provision even better for your children.

Refreshments will be provided!

Instagram

We now have a school Instagram account- SWOYBolton. Please follow us!

We were told by Salford Diocese that we needed to stop using Twitter, and so this is why we are now using Instagram.

Parental Conduct

I am so proud and happy that there are such strong relationships between school and parents, and between yourselves as parents. However, occasionally there are incidents where parents' conduct— particularly their use of language— is unacceptable. School will not tolerate any inappropriate language being used on site. I thank you for your support with this.

Thank you for your continued support, commitment and drive to make our school the nurturing, happy place it is.

Miss Adams



St William of York Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

SUMMER TERM DATES FOR YOU DIARIES

Monday 13th April

Monday 4th May

Thursday 16th April

Thursday 7th May

Monday 11th May

Tuesday 12th May

Wednesday 13th May

Thursday 14th May

Friday 15th May

Thursday 21st May

Friday 22nd May

School reopens

Bank Holiday

Y4 Tudor Workshop (in school)

School closed for polling

Y6 SATS grammar

Y6 SATS reading

Y6 SATS Maths

Y6 SATS Maths

Smithills Hall Trip

Y1 CST- May Queen (2.45pm)

School closes for half term

Monday 8th June

Monday 8th June

Friday 12th June

Monday 15th June

Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday 24th June

Wednesday 24th June

Thursday 25th June

Wednesday 1st July

Wednesday 1st July

Thursday 2nd July

Friday 3rd July

Wednesday 8th July

Thursday 9th July

Friday 3rd July

Monday 13th July

Monday 13th July

Tuesday 14th July

Wednesday 15th July

Thursday 16th July

Thursday 16th July

School reopens after half term

St William of York Feast Day– party day

CST- EYFS St William of York

Sports Day

Y3 Romans Trip to Chester

New starter reception visit (pm)

Y6 DT day (in school)

Y5 Rivers trip

New starter reception visit (pm)

Transition day

Y6 trip to Rivington Pike

End of Year reports sent home

New starter reception visit (pm)

Y6 trip to Gullivers World

End of Year reports sent home

Y6 Leavers' Production

Parents' Evening

Y6 Leavers' Mass

Nursery Graduation 11am

Y6 Graduation 9.15am

School closes at 1.30pm

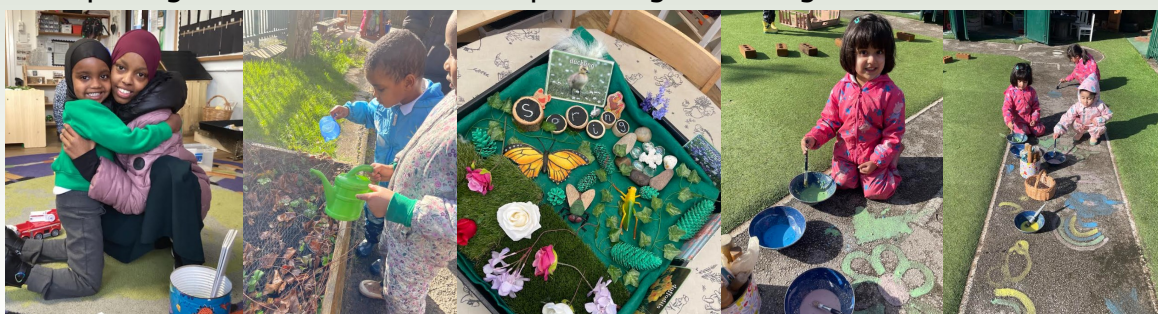
March 2026



Head Teacher's Newsletter

NURSERY

We have had a busy month in Nursery! In maths, we have continued subitising up to 5, encouraging the children to represent amounts in lots of creative ways. Our key text, Goldilocks & The Three Bears, provided a wonderful opportunity for storytelling and imaginative play, as the children actively engaged with the characters and themes of the story. We even had a visit from Goldilocks herself and put on our detective hats to solve the case! With Easter approaching, we learned all about the Easter Story and enjoyed taking part in lots of fun Easter crafts and singing! We have been busy bees outdoors, from making bird feeders to exploring in the mud kitchen and practising our biking skills!



RECEPTION

This half term in Reception we have begun to learn about the season of Lent and looked closely at the signs of Lent. We have also enjoyed learning about the season of Spring focusing on animals, their habitats and their babies. We have explored the natural world around us and begun to explore and compare the past and the present investigating old and new familiar objects we even enjoyed a special visitor. We are continuing to be independent learners whilst we play to learn in our classroom and had so much fun showing our mummies during our Mothers' day stay and play.





Head Teacher's Newsletter

YEAR 1

In English, we have been reading Six Dinner Sid. We had fun inventing our own version of the story by changing his name and the foods he ate. We have been learning all about 'coding' in computing. We used our new skills to programme a beebot on a journey and had to discuss what might happen if the algorithms were incorrect. In Maths, we have been counting forwards and backwards to 50 and finding one more and one less than a given number. We have been making simple connections in RE between the use of ashes and the Christian belief that Lent is an opportunity for a new start.



YEAR 2

Another busy term in Year 2! We have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about Sunny's adventures in Meerkat Mail. We know all about fractions and can find both unit and non-unit fractions of amounts. We have been learning how to create slots and bridges for pulling mechanisms to create moving storyboards in DT. We made predictions and then investigated to see what types of exercise really gets our heart beating as we continue to think about how to keep ourselves healthy in Science. We are now experts in using directional language and we used it to locate the features of our school grounds as part of our fieldwork in Geography. We have thought of lots of ways we can celebrate Jesus' life by giving back to our school, our community and our world during Lent.



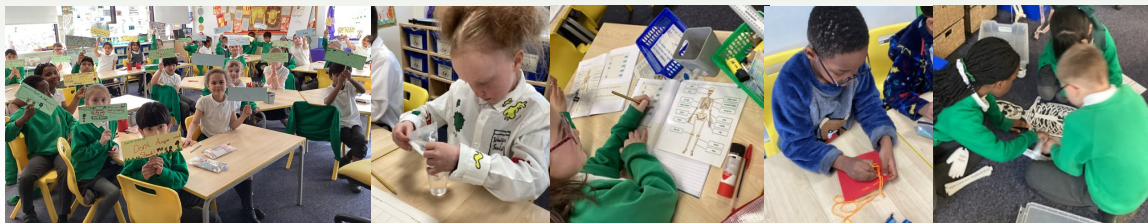
March 2026



Head Teacher's Newsletter

YEAR 3

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed World Book Day and loved sharing the story of 'Arlo the lion who couldn't sleep' and wearing our pyjamas for the day. We have been learning about counties, the 8 points of a compass, ordnance survey maps and 4 figure grid references in geography. We will be using the skills to navigate our local area of Great Lever and identify human features. In DT, we have been developing and practising our sewing skills so that we can make a textile Easter card. We have learnt about skeletons and muscles in science and the importance of eating a balanced diet. Science day was great fun! We carried out an investigation to find out who the chocolate cake thief was! In RE, we have been learning about the significance of Lent and how Christian people prepare for Easter by fasting, giving and praying. We have also been working incredibly hard putting our beautiful Passion Play together.



YEAR 4

What an eventful half term we have had in Year 4! We are having a lovely prayerful period of Lent and have spent lots of time reflecting on our gratitude for the sacrifices that Jesus made for us! We have learned about His final journey when we listened and acted out the Passion Play. In English, we have completed a diary entry based on The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane and looking forward to publishing our final piece. We are now fractions experts and can add and subtract them as well as find fractions of amounts! In DT we have been designing our own light boxes and have come up with some amazing designs! We even designed our own keyrings, which Andy Sledge will be making for us on his laser machine! We are so lucky! In science, we have been learning about States of Matter and have observed different materials as they change state.



March 2026



Head Teacher's Newsletter

YEAR 5

In year 5 this month, we have been writing a lot! We composed setting descriptions based on our world book day text 'Arlo, the lion who couldn't sleep' and narratives inspired by 'the day the colours came home'. We have also really enjoyed learning about the world we live in and its power. We have looked in depth at natural disasters, including earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, hurricanes, floods and droughts. In Maths, we completed our fractions, decimals and percentages unit. We have been exploring structures in DT, looking closely at the design of bird hides. In Science, we have focussed our learning on the life cycle of human beings and the physical changes which we go through during our lives. We also loved taking part in our whole school 'who stole the cake from the staffroom?' day, using ink chromatography to discover the culprit. In RE, we have been remembering Christ's sacrifice when he died on the cross and have been reflecting on how Lent is an opportunity to turn away from evil, hearing the stories of how Judas betrayed Jesus, Jesus' arrest and his sacrifice for us. We have continued coding in Computing and we have been enjoying music with Bolton Music Service who have been visiting each week to teach us how to utilise music technology. We have received weekly visits from Fort Alice, to support our 'healthy families' PSHE learning. It has been a lovely half term and Miss Harkin, Mrs Mohammad and Mrs Catterall wish all of year 5 a happy and holy Easter break.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a busy few weeks in school. We have been preparing for our SATs tests in the summer term and solidifying the things we have learned throughout our time at St William's. In maths, we have developed our oracy skills to solve tricky problems. We have been enjoying using role play in English to show Alma's thoughts and feelings throughout the short film. In science, we have been learning about light and how it travels in straight lines- we conducted an experiment to confirm this. The NSPCC came in to meet us and taught us all about staying safe. We thoroughly enjoyed our science day where we were able to become scientists or detectives! Most of all, we enjoyed our trip to crucial crew where we learned many life skills to help us in daily life. Overall, we have had a lovely half-term and Miss Neille is sure we will continue to go from strength to strength in the summer term.



March 2026