



12th December 2025

And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

Matthew 11:4-6

Pupil Premium/Free School meals

Once again, we are asking FOR ALL parents to look to see if they are eligible for Free School Meals (even if your children are in Reception/Year 1 or Year 2). If you are eligible and apply, then this brings much needed funding into the school to help us help all of the children achieve their best. Please see the information below:

If your child is in a Key Stage 1 year group and you get one of the qualifying incomes shown below it will help the school if you make a claim for free school meals, as they can get extra funding.



From Year 3 onward free school meals are only available if you get one of the following:

- Universal Credit - and your earned income is less than £7,400 a year, after tax and not including any benefits
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, providing you are do not get Working Tax Credit, and your annual gross income is less than £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you get Working Tax Credits you will not be eligible unless you are receiving the four week 'run on' payment after stopping work.

Free school meals are available for pupils at local authority maintained primary and secondary schools, including academies. They are not available for children at private or independent schools.

They are also available for eligible households with:

- children at local authority-maintained nurseries, providing they receive education before and after lunch
- students aged between 16 and 19 who go to Elms Bank Specialist Arts College sixth form
- students who receive Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right

Applications can be made on the Bury council website www.bury.gov.uk (type in Free school meals). If you need any support, please ask at the school office.

Teeny Tiny Nativity

This Advent, we are encouraging all of our children but especially our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to make their own 'Teeny Tiny Nativity'. The scene of Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, shepherd etc in the stable can be created out of anything at all: egg boxes, cardboard tubes, painted stones - anything! It would be lovely to have as many as possible and all different ones. They can be brought into school once made and we will display them around the school during Advent.

Bury Homeless Project Shoe Box Appeal

We are once again collecting shoe boxes filled with supplies for those in need. Hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries or little gifts which would put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. Please label 'man/woman/boy/girl/pet' which helps with the distribution. Thank you for your continued generosity.

The last day to drop off shoeboxes is Tuesday 16th December at 9am as they are being collected in the morning on this date.

End of Term Advent Mass

Our end of term Advent Mass will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 2.00 pm in St Marie's Church. Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will be going to Mass. Please do join us if you can – everyone is welcome! It would be lovely to have the church full to the brim as we celebrate Advent and the coming of Christmas.

Year 5 Stay and Pray

On Thursday 18th December our Year 5 children will lead us in a stay and pray at 8.50pm in the main hall. All are welcome to attend.

Year 6 Selling Toast for MacMillan Cancer Support: Y3/4/5/6

From next week, the Year 6 children will be selling toast at breaktime for 30p a slice (50p for two slices!) to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Christmas Jumper Day

On Monday 15th December children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper with their uniform – this is not a non-uniform day - should they wish to do so.

Support and Help

It is really important to us at school to know that if any parents/families are struggling for whatever reason then we are here to help as much as we can. Please do speak to the class teachers or directly to me if you need any support in any way. Sometimes we can direct you to other professionals for support or we may be able to help ourselves. We are here to help.

Reception Admission

The online portal for applications for children to attend Reception in September 2026 is now open. This can be accessed via www.bury.gov.uk/primaryschool/admissions. The deadline for this is Thursday 15th January.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 th December	9.00 – 10.00 am	Nursery & Reception Craft Morning Nursery Craft Afternoon (please note that parents of full time children can come to either session) Christmas Lunch Choir to perform for the Alexander Care Home Christmas Jumper day (with their uniform please)
	1.30 – 2.30	
	12 noon	
	1.30 pm	
Tuesday 16 th December	2.00 pm	Advent Mass in Church
Wednesday 17 th December	Year 3 only	Children are invited to wear their PJs for the day and bring a snack for the film
Thursday 18 th December	9.00 am	Year 5 Stay & Pray
	Year 1 only	Polar Express Day – children can wear PJs to school for the day
	3.05 pm	School closes for the Christmas holidays

Attendance Matters

As a school, we have always had really good attendance compared to other schools in the local authority. Good attendance is everyone's responsibility and we must maintain this and continue to improve. There is currently a renewed drive from the Department of Education and schools must be seen to promote excellent attendance. Whilst we appreciate there are times that children cannot come into school and individual children that we know about have medical conditions that impact on their health, we still need to do everything as a school to promote and celebrate excellent attendance.

Class attendances for this week.

Year Group	Attendance %
Reception	95.4%
Year One	98.5%
Year Two	99.3%
Year Three	99.7%
Year Four	97.2%
Year Five	98.6%
Year Six	98.6%

Well done to Year 3 for having the best attendance this week!

The class with the best attendance will receive an extra playtime each week.

Christmas Mass Times at St. Marie's Church

Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th December) - 7.30pm: St Marie's

Christmas Day (Thursday 25th December) - 11.30am St Marie's

A Final Note

This Sunday we light the Candle of Joy. It is known as Gaudete Sunday. On this day we take a moment to acknowledge the joy that Jesus' birth brought to the world and to each one of us. With all of the lovely events in school, this week really has been full of joy. Long may it continue!



God bless,

Mr McRae
Head Teacher



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

