



**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
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Web Site: <http://st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk/>

**Spring Term 2026: Term 4, Week 3**

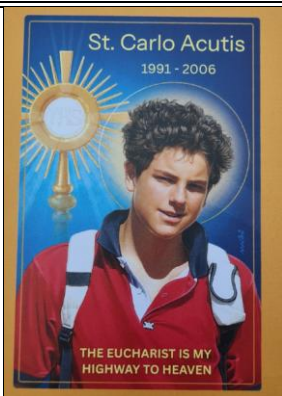
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

### **St Carlo Acutis**

On Tuesday, Year 6 were lucky enough to attend a special Mass in honour of St Carlo Acutis at St Peter's primary school.

Relics of St Carlo have been on tour in England in the last few months. At the Mass, we were given a talk by a priest from Assisi who explained how, by remembering St Carlo in this way, we can get closer to God and be full of joy and act with joy as St Carlo did.

Year 6 received prayer cards which they touched onto the relic holder. This is an act of veneration which connects the faithful on earth with the saints in heaven and it makes the cards themselves a 'third class relic'. Every child received a St Carlo prayer card (which has touched the holy relic).



### **Lunchtime play resources**

Miss Harrison has invested some of our annual sports premium funding to provide additional play resources for the children to use. The items are all focussed on developing hand-eye coordination, throwing / catching and ball striking skills.



### Big Lent Walk

Today, the children completed their final laps for the Big Lent Walk event. On Monday we will publish the class lap totals and arrangements for collecting the funds raised.



St Mary's Big Lent Walk Just Giving page:



### Values Role Models

Each week, class staff identify three pupils who are truly representative of the school values (in their learning, play and / or by contributing to the wider life of the school).

**This week's values role models are:**

|  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Reception</b>                                                                 | <b>Freddie</b>                                                                    | <b>Rory</b>                                                                        | <b>Phoebe</b>                                                                       |
| <b>Year 1</b>                                                                    | <b>Ethan</b>                                                                      | <b>Nieva-Mae</b>                                                                   | <b>Cyrus</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Year 2</b>                                                                    | <b>Bella</b>                                                                      | <b>Iona</b>                                                                        | <b>Pola</b>                                                                         |
| <b>Year 3</b>                                                                    | <b>Ted</b>                                                                        | <b>Arya</b>                                                                        | <b>Jesse</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Year 4</b>                                                                    | <b>Blanka</b>                                                                     | <b>Xanthe</b>                                                                      | <b>Sophie</b>                                                                       |
| <b>Year 5</b>                                                                    | <b>Alina</b>                                                                      | <b>Hortense</b>                                                                    | <b>Pearl</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Year 6</b>                                                                    | <b>Oscar</b>                                                                      | <b>Borna</b>                                                                       | <b>Riley</b>                                                                        |

### Wacky Races

Year 4 had the best DT Day this week! We designed and made our own sling shots - and then had great pleasure firing them in the hall. It was like something out of Wacky Races!! We learnt how to make our axle turn freely, while still maintaining strength and stability and we recognised the importance of modifying our plans. Some had to visit the "repair shop" but this is all part of the design and making process. We also developed our resilience, something that has been a big focus this year. So much fun had in just one day!

Mrs Crowley



### Netball Tournament

On Tuesday, St Mary's took part in a netball festival and represented the school brilliantly. The team finished third overall, winning two games convincingly and narrowly losing two very close matches.

It was fantastic to see the children playing against some strong teams and really pushing themselves throughout the afternoon. They showed great teamwork, determination and positive attitudes in every game, which was wonderful to watch.

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support the team – your encouragement from the side-lines made a real difference. Well done to everyone involved!

### **'You Won't Know Until You Ask' Helping Families Talk About Online Content:**

The government has launched a new campaign called You Won't Know Until You Ask. It is designed to help parents and carers talk to children about harmful or upsetting content they may see online — things like body-shaming, unkind posts, or videos designed to shock. Research shows that many parents have never talked to their child about this, even though most 11-year-olds now have a smartphone. Many adults say they are not sure what their child is seeing online.

The campaign gives simple, easy-to-use help, including:

- step-by-step guides for safety settings
- quick conversation ideas
- tips for talking about false or harmful information



These small conversations can make a big difference. They help children understand what they see online and know they can talk to a trusted adult.

You can find the campaign here: <https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk>

**FOREST SCHOOL TIMETABLE (Term 3):** For Forest School children should wear their basic kit, with shoes, to school and bring wellies & waterproofs (plus any extra clothing items) in a separate (**named**) bag.

#### **Reception class Forest School: Wednesday afternoons**

|        | Tuesday PM |      |      |      |      |  | Thursday PM |      |      |      |      |  |
|--------|------------|------|------|------|------|--|-------------|------|------|------|------|--|
| Term 4 | WK 1       | WK 2 | WK 3 | WK 4 | WK 5 |  | WK 1        | WK 2 | WK 3 | WK 4 | WK 5 |  |
|        | 24/2       | 3/3  | 10/3 | 17/3 | 24/3 |  | 26/2        | 5/3  | 12/3 | 19/3 | 26/3 |  |
|        | Y3         | Y3   | Y2   | Y2   | Y1   |  | Y6          | Y6   | Y5   | Y5   | Y4   |  |



### **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS (Spring 2026)**

**The final club sessions are NEXT WEEK, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March**

| Monday                                      | Tuesday                               | Wednesday          | Thursday                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Gymnastics Y2 – Y6<br>Infant Football Y1-Y2 | Chaplaincy Y2 – Y6<br>Netball Club Y6 | Rugby Club Y3 – Y6 | Football Club Y1 – Y6<br>Bridge Club Y5 – Y6 |

**If your child is unable to attend a club session please make sure an adult informs the school office.**

### **Spring Term Events Calendar**

| Term 4: Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026    |                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February                                                 | -09:15 Reception / Year 1 shared Liturgy of the Word* (school hall)                             |
| Week of 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> March                                  | -Last week of after-school clubs for the term                                                   |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March                                                      | -15:30-19:00 Parents consultation evening 1*                                                    |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                                                    | -15:30-19:00 Parents consultation evening 2*                                                    |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March                                                      | -Year 1 ukulele performance * (hall) <i>TIME TBC</i>                                            |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March                                                    | -9:15 end of term (Lent) mass* (Our Lady's Church)<br>-Last day of term. School closes at 15:15 |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March                                                      | -Staff training day (no pupils).                                                                |
| <b>Easter Holiday: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b> |                                                                                                 |
| <b>Pupils return to school on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>                     |                                                                                                 |

\*Parents are welcome to attend these events

### **REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE:**

Absences should be reported **daily**, by 9.15am **via email** to [admin@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk) please put your child's full name and year group in the subject line. Also include: **pupil name & year group with reason for absence, including symptoms of illness** (not just unwell/under the weather)

## Dinner Menus – Term 4, 2026

| W/C : 23 FEB, 9 & 23 MARCH |                                                     |       | W/C : 2 & 16 MARCH |                                              |       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Mon                        | Pork Sausages, Mash, Veg & Gravy                    | Red   | Mon                | Pork Hot Dog, Potato Wedges & Veg            | Red   |
| Mon                        | Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans                     | Green | Mon                | Macaroni Cheese, Veg & Garlic Bread          | Green |
| Tue                        | Pork Meatballs, Pasta, Veg & Garlic Bread           | Red   | Tue                | Chicken Korma, Rice, Veg & Pitta Bread       | Red   |
| Tue                        | Home Made Cheese & Bean Pasty, Potato & Veg         | Green | Tue                | Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans              | Green |
| Wed                        | Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg                 | Red   | Wed                | Roast Gammon, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg        | Red   |
| Wed                        | Veggie Sausage, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg             | Green | Wed                | Veggie Sausage Roll, Yorkshire Pudding & Veg | Green |
| Thu                        | Home Made Beef Burger in a Bun, Potato Wedges & Veg | Red   | Thu                | Pepperoni Pizza, Wedges & Veg                | Red   |
| Thu                        | Jacket Potato & Cheese/Beans                        | Green | Thu                | Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Wedges & Veg          | Blue  |
| Fri                        | Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg                           | Red   | Thu                | Jacket Potato & Cheese/Beans                 | Green |
| Fri                        | Cheese and Tomato Pizza, Chips & Veg                | Green | Fri                | Fish Fingers, Chips & Veg                    | Red   |
|                            |                                                     |       | Fri                | Quorn Nuggets, Chips & Veg                   | Green |

## CLASS EMAIL ADDRESSES

>If you need to contact your child's class teacher (to ask questions, share information or for general contact), you can do this directly by emailing the year group account:

Reception Class : [reception@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 1: [year1@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year1@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 2: [year2@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year2@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 3: [year3@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year3@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 4: [year4@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year4@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 5: [year5@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year5@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)

YEAR 6: [year6@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:year6@st-marys-churchdown.gloucs.sch.uk)



**Five Rivers**

## FOSTERING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- >There are Children in **Gloucestershire and surrounding areas right now** who need a safe loving home.
- >You don't need to be perfect – just patient, caring and willing to learn.
- >Could fostering be something you've never considered... but should?

### Fostering Myths-Busted!

You must be married **X**

You need a spare mansion **X**

You must be a stay-at-home parent **X**

You **can** be single ✓

You **can** work ✓

You just need a spare room and a big heart ✓

**Contact Five Rivers Fostering – 0333 0603 962**

[carer.enquiries@thefosteringcompanyneltld.co.uk](mailto:carer.enquiries@thefosteringcompanyneltld.co.uk)

### NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can go to their local pharmacy with their child and ask for help.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

| Common condition                 | Patient eligibility  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Earache                          | 1 to 17 years        |
| Impetigo                         | 1 year and over      |
| Infected insect bites and stings | 1 year and over      |
| Sore throats                     | 5 years and over     |
| Sinusitis                        | 12 years and over    |
| Uncomplicated urinary tract      | Women 16 to 64 years |
| Shingles                         | 18 years and over    |

## **Online Safety advice / guidance for parents. What you need to know to keep your child SAFE online**

Here are some reputable resources offering comprehensive advice for parents:

### **1. NSPCC: Online Safety**

The NSPCC provides guidance on supporting children of different ages with technology use and offers tips on initiating conversations about online safety.

 <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

### **2. Internet Matters: Online Safety Guide**

Internet Matters offers a detailed guide covering topics like setting parental controls, managing privacy settings, and addressing online issues your child may encounter.

 <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-safety-guide>

### **3. UNICEF: Keeping Your Child Safe Online**

UNICEF provides advice on setting clear ground rules, having honest conversations about online interactions, and helping children understand the importance of a positive digital footprint.

 <https://www.unicef.org/parenting/child-care/keep-your-child-safe-online>

### **4. Childnet: Parents and Carers Toolkit**

Childnet offers resources to help parents and carers support their children in navigating the online world safely, including guidance on various online safety topics.

 <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

### **5. UK Safer Internet Centre: Advice for Parents and Carers**

The UK Safer Internet Centre provides free internet safety resources tailored for parents, helping you stay informed about the latest online safety practices.

 <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>