



Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Autumn Term 2025

As we reach the end of another busy and joyful term, I want to thank you for your continued support, especially as we have celebrated Christmas as a community with our wonderful carol service at St Thomas and St John's Church. We enjoyed meeting their new vicar, Rev. Marie, today. You are all warmly invited to their special Christmas Eve service aimed at primary aged children at 4pm. A good way to settle very excited children at that time!

Dates for Your Diary

- Monday 5th January – First day back for all pupils
- Wednesday 14th January – Shades Workshop for Years 5 & 6 (racial justice workshop led by the Diocese of Manchester)
- Wednesday 21st January – Online safety talk for Years 5 & 6 delivered by the Police
- Tuesday 27th January – 'What's Up on WhatsApp?' digital safety event for parents, carers and Y5 & Y6 children together, 3.30–4.40pm. Childcare will be available for younger siblings as we want everyone to be able to come.
- Thursday 5th February – Family Breakfast – a chance to come together as a school community and start the day with food and conversation from 8am in the hall.



Staffing Updates

We want to keep you informed about staffing arrangements for the start of the Spring Term:

- Mrs Hanson will continue to be absent in January. To ensure continuity for Year 2, **Miss Weatherburn** will be teaching the class full time (she currently teaches Y2 in the afternoons).
- In Nursery, **Mrs Knight** will be full time (currently afternoons), with **Mrs Kennedy** also teaching in the mornings (currently based in Y3 but works across school). We also have a new teaching assistant **Mrs Slater** starting in Nursery in January who will be full time.
- This means every class will have familiar adults teaching them who know the children well and can maintain our focus on achievement and happiness.
- We will be using a supply teacher to cover two days a week when Mrs Knight is usually in YR, Y1, Y2 and Y4 for a half day per class whilst teachers plan. We look forward to introducing **Mrs Kennett** to those classes in the New Year.

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Holiday Support for Families

The Christmas break can be a joyful time, but we know it can also bring worries. If you are concerned about a child, please contact **Bury Council's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** on 0161 253 5678 (Mon–Fri, 8.45am–4.45pm). For urgent concerns outside these hours, call the Emergency Duty Team on 0161 253 6606, or dial 999 if a child is in immediate danger. The school email and mobile phone will not be checked regularly over the holidays, so please ring the Council direct if support is needed. We will of course pick up anything that needs our involvement and support in the New Year.

If you need **extra help with food or fuel costs**, Bury Council offers support — call 0161 253 7030 (open 10am–4pm on 29, 30 and 31 December). Families are also welcome at local Warm Spaces across Bury, where you can keep warm, enjoy a hot drink, and connect with others. A full list of venues is available on the Bury Directory Warm Spaces page. Our St John's Radcliffe "**The Bread and Butter Thing**" food hub is also operating over the holidays — text 07507 237311 to sign up to alerts with your name, postcode and say you want to join the St John's Radcliffe hub.

Looking Ahead

We are excited about the opportunities next term will bring, from workshops that broaden pupils' understanding of justice and safety, to events that strengthen our school community.

Finally, I would like to wish all our families a wonderful Christmas break and a happy New Year. Thank you for everything you do to support St John's, I look forward to working together in 2026 to make our school the best it can be for our wonderful children.

Warm regards,
Tracey Cansdale
Headteacher

