



Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New
Year

From all the Staff and
Governors at St
Mary's Catholic
Primary School



CHRISTMAS 2025

The Christmas holidays are nearly upon us and we wanted to send our usual information sheet out to you with some ideas to keep costs down.

Discounted meals

At Morrisons Cafes customers will receive a free children's meal and drink with the purchase of any adult meal costing over £5.

Parents can also take advantage of Morrisons 'Two Adult Meals and Two Refillable Drinks for £15' deal, meaning a family of four can dine out for just £15.

Click on the Fish and Chips below for more cafes and restaurants offering discounts.

CLICK HERE



Things to do

Click on the holly below to learn more about events across the City for families to get involved in. Activities include Christmas crafts, calendar designing, Santa's secret workshop and Meet the Police!

CLICK HERE



More things to do

This Christmas, head out to Forestry England's Stick Man activity trails for a fun, family-friendly woodland walk inspired by Julia Donaldson's story. Kids can follow the trail activities, hunt for clues, and enjoy some fresh air together over the holidays. Click on the Stickman for more info!

CLICK HERE



Christmas fun at home

Looking for budget-friendly festive ideas? Twinkl's "15 Free Things to Do This Christmas" blog is packed with simple, fun activities for families, from Christmas crafts and scavenger hunts to movie nights and winter walks. It's a great source of inspiration for making magical memories together without spending a penny. Click on the wreath for more information

CLICK HERE



Rutland

There are a whole host of activities in and around Rutland over the Christmas period, although one event that caught our eye was the free After School Disco at Rutland Garden Village. Click on the present below for more details.

CLICK HERE





Dates/ Events for LENT/ SPRING TERM 2026

School begins on Monday the
5th of January 2026


Friday the 16th January:
Family Quiz
Night- FOSM

13th February: Own Clothes day
Valentine's Disco

16th of February- 20th February
Half Term

20th March: FOSM Talent Show

30th March- 10th April:
Easter Holidays



SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Keeping children safe online

Advent Term 2025-2026

Top tips for talking to children about staying safe online

Start with the positives

Online life can be great for learning, creativity, and staying connected. Balance helps children feel confident, not scared.

Pick the right moment

Choose a calm, everyday time i.e. a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the chat during a disagreement or when emotions are high.

Use child-friendly resources

Age-appropriate videos, guides, and tools can make safety messages clearer and more engaging.

Ask about their experiences

Use open questions: "Have you seen anything that made you uncomfortable?" "Who do you chat or play with online?" "Do you know them offline?" "How do certain apps or games make you feel?"

Keep it ongoing

These don't need to be formal, one-off talks. Regular, relaxed check-ins make it easier for children to speak up if something worries them.



Parental Controls

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices.

Parental controls can help you to:

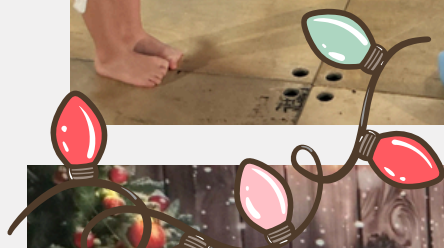
- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- Create content filters to block apps that may have inappropriate content
- Manage the content different family members can see

Parental controls can be a helpful tool, but they have limits — so they shouldn't be seen as the whole solution. Even if you've set controls on your home broadband and your child's device, they won't apply if your child connects to other Wi-Fi networks without them. Parental controls work best as one part of a wider approach to keeping your child safe online.



More Top Tips

- **Talk it through:** Explain controls are there to keep them safe, and invite questions about the settings.
- **Use strong passwords:** Add a password so settings can't be changed.
- **Adjust with age:** Ease controls as they grow, at a pace that suits your child, not peer pressure.
- **Filters aren't perfect:** They may still see upsetting content, so keep the conversation open.



Nativities, concerts,
Cristingles, Christmas
dinners and crackers-
what alot we've enjoyed
in December!

