



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Hall Road, Scarisbrick, Lancashire. L40 9QE

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Website: www.stmaryscps.co.uk

Email: head@st-marys-scarisbrick.lancs.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 24th October, 2025

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us a story about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector which teaches us how to pray and have a good heart.

Merciful God,

You know us through and through, and you forgive us when we have done wrong. Help us to know when we have made a mistake and to come to you in prayer each day.

Amen.



The Sunday liturgy is available weekly on the Wednesday Word by following the link on the school website <https://www.stmaryscps.co.uk/wednesday-word/>

In school this week...

Open Day Invitation: Come and See Learning in Action!

We're delighted to invite ALL **current and new parents** to our upcoming Open Day; a special opportunity to see your children in action and explore the vibrant learning taking place across the school. You will be able to visit classrooms and experience the wonderful atmosphere that makes our school so special. It's a chance to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our pupils—and to see just how much they're growing and thriving.

We're especially excited to showcase our **brand-new** Class 1 classroom! Come and see how this inspiring environment is helping our youngest learners flourish.

Opening of the BRAND NEW Class 1

We are delighted to tell you that our BRAND NEW classroom will be opening for our Class 1 'Shining Stars' on Monday, 3rd November. It is such an exciting new chapter for our school and children in this beautiful new learning environment. For you as parents, this will mean a slightly different morning and evening routine. Please look out for an email with further details.

Spooky Bingo

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and helped out at our Spooky Bingo event—it was frightfully fun! With your generosity and enthusiasm, we raised a fantastic £310. Every penny will go towards enriching our school community. We couldn't have done it without you!

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
OPEN DAY
FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025
2PM

Come and see our fantastic
BRAND NEW
Early Years classroom!

About Our School

- Teacher-Led Early Years Class
- Places available Nursery-Y6
- "Good" judgement from the Catholic Schools Inspectorate

All existing and new families welcome!

01704 880626
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Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith

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Hall Road
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An Update on our magical journey through reading at St Mary's

Reading Pets

Our cuddly Reading Pets, Reggie and Buddy, have officially arrived in Class 1 and 2—and they've wasted no time sneaking into book bags and joining the children on their reading adventures at home! The excitement was wonderful to see as the children proudly took their turn bringing a Reading Pet home and sharing stories aloud. Reggie and Buddy have proven to be the perfect companions for building confidence and celebrating the joy of reading.



Class 1 Mystery Reader: Share the Magic of Your Favourite Book!

Just a little reminder for Class 1 mums, dads, nannies, grandads, or another special grown-up, to sign up to be a Mystery Reader and surprise the children by reading your favourite book aloud. If you'd like to take part, please speak to the Class 1 team to arrange a time. We can't wait to welcome our mystery readers to our new classroom—and discover the stories you love!

Class Reading Challenges

Since September, our school has been buzzing with excitement as each class takes on a themed Reading Challenge designed to spark imagination and a life-long love of books. From the spellbinding world of Harry Potter, to the enchanted forest of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, and the broomstick adventures of Room on the Broom. Each time a child reads at home, they move one step closer to the top.

We're thrilled to announce that we now have FOUR reading superstars in Class 2 who have reached the very top of their challenge (Connie, Libby and the two boys)! What an incredible achievement! We're so proud of you!



Reading Café: Share a Story

Please save the dates in your diaries for our Reading Café—where you can sit down with your child and share a favourite book together. The Reading Café is all about celebrating the magic of reading in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Enjoy a warm drink and a biscuit, and the chance to connect through stories. It's a lovely way to support your child's reading journey and spend quality time together. We can't wait to see you there!

Class 1— Wednesday, 12th November (9am—9.20am)

Class 2— Wednesday, 19th November (9am—9.20am)

Class 3— Wednesday, 26th November (9am—9.20am)





Class 1 'Shining Stars'

What a wonderful last week of the half term Class 1 have had! Excitement has filled the air this week as we prepare to move into our new classroom after the half term break. The children have been eager to ask questions and make suggestions about our new classroom. We have taken a couple of trips down the corridor to visit the new room at different stages. Class 1 were so excited, they even made use of the space by having a dance together!



To finish the half term, the children in Year 1 have completed their first independent pieces of writing, writing their own versions of Harry the Happy Mouse. They were amazing at remembering to use their phonics to spell words, including finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. We are so proud of how you have all adapted to Year 1 learning already!



We had a great time hearing about Bobby Bear's adventures with Lillian this week. Class 1 have loved waiting to see who is taking Bobby home each week and then listening to their stories on his return!

We are super excited for Lyle & Clay to take home Bobby and his friend for the half term break!



Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week has been a busy one finishing off all our work and completing assessments in some of our subjects.

We have written our own stories in English based on our class book.

We have completed our Science topic with a set of challenges based on the sense of touch.



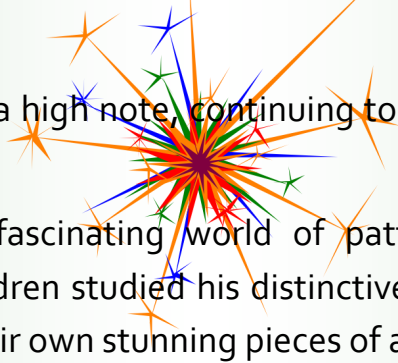
In Maths we have been learning new methods to add and subtract.

In Art we learnt how to create different shades using black and white paint and we will be able to use this skill when completing our final piece of artwork in the style of Piet Mondrian.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



Class 3 have ended the half term on a high note, continuing to show dedication and creativity in all their learning.

In Art, we've been exploring the fascinating world of pattern, drawing inspiration from the techniques of Gustav Klimt. The children studied his distinctive use of colour and intricate designs, then applied these ideas to create their own stunning pieces of artwork.

We took time to evaluate our creations thoughtfully, identifying areas for improvement and celebrating the progress we've made. It's been a joyful journey of artistic discovery and self-reflection — well done, Class 3!



To mark the end of our Creation and Covenant topic, we explored the powerful promise God made to Abraham: "I promise that I will give you as many descendants as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the seashore."

Inspired by this verse, the children created a stunning night sky filled with stars — each one representing a special person in their lives. We also crafted sand bottles to symbolize the countless grains of sand, reminding us of the vastness of God's promise and the beauty of belonging.



Celebration Assembly

	Special Award - For 'keeping going!'	Good Work Award
Class 1	Angus P	Eleanor B
Class 2	Oscar S	Otto S
Class 3	Ella R	Poppie H
Headteacher's award	Elsie M	Rueben W-D
Mathematician of the week	Ronan D	
Presentation award	Evelyn D	
Attendance Award	Class 2- 97.06%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 24.10.25

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	95.7%	2
Class 2	17	97.06%	1
Class 3	22	95.45%	3



Dates for your diary

Monday, 3rd November	Back to school (8:55am)
Friday, 7th—14th November	Raffle for Children in Need
Monday, 10th November	Launch of Anti-Bullying Week with school assembly and class based tasks
Monday, 10th November	Odd Socks Day (for Anti-Bullying)
Tuesday, 11th November	Remembrance Assembly (9:15am) Led by Class 3
Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS2 Craft Club begins (for 5 Wednesdays)
Wednesday, 19th November	Parents Evening
Wednesday, 3rd December	Whole School Advent Mass (9:30am in St Elizabeth's Church)
Thursday, 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Breakfast with Santa

Have a wonderful weekend! From Mrs Preston & the staff of St Mary's



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY

SOUTH

Do you have a child starting
primary school in September 2026
and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 15 January 2026

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school,
or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

Apply for a school place now by scanning
the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference,
please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

HAVE
YOUR SAY

*Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with
you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs.
To find out more please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces
and click 'school admission policies'.*

lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County
Council



FAMILY HUB SCHOOL DROP IN

Come along and meet your Children & Family Wellbeing Service representative where you can discuss any issues or concerns you have for you and your family.

NEXT SESSION

19th November 2025

St Mary's Catholic
Primary School

2.30pm - 4.30pm

**FAMILY
HUB**
WEST LANCASHIRE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
AUTUMN TERM 2025
TO KNOW YOU MORE CLEARLY

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Our classes will be studying the new Religious Education Directory curriculum that covers the themes of 'Creation and Covenant' and 'Prophecy and Promise'.

CREATION AND COVENANT

(3rd September – 24th October)

Class 1 CREATION AND COVENANT

- the whole of creation shows God love for us.
- we enter God's family, the Church, through baptism.

Class 2 CREATION AND COVENANT

- Retell the story of Noah
- The sacrament of baptism is when a person becomes part of the Christian family and promises to love God.

Class 3 CREATION AND COVENANT

- The Story of Abraham, Sarah & Isaac
- The virtues of faith, hope and love.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

*Find some of God's creations
when you are out and about.*

PROPHECY AND PROMISE

(3rd November – 19th December)

Class 1 PROPHECY AND PROMISE

- Celebrate Advent, it is a time to get ready for Christmas
- Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his son.

Class 2 PROPHECY AND PROMISE

- Advent is the season when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus.
- The stories of the Annunciation, The Visitation & the birth of Jesus

Class 3 PROPHECY AND PROMISE

- Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' incarnation at Christmas.
- The prophets John the Baptist & Elijah.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

*Find out about some
Christian symbols for
Advent e.g. Advent
wreath, calendar, Jesse
tree.*

*Use the CAFOD or Mission
websites to get a religious
Advent calendar.*

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith



Religious Education Autumn Term Newsletter 2025-26

Important dates this term

WELCOME MASS

(7th September)

St Elizabeth's Church at 9.00am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

HARVEST MASS

(28th September)

St Elizabeth's Church at 9.00am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

(3rd October)

St Elizabeth's Church at 9.30am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

ALL SAINTS

(1st November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

(2nd November)

Today and throughout the rest of November, we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

(11th November – 9.15am)

The children of Class 3 will lead a service for Remembrance Day for all school pupils and families at 9.15am.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

(24th November)

ADVENT

(Begins 1st December)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing.

Whole School Mass – Wednesday, 3rd December in St Elizabeth's Church at 9.30am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(8th December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

CLASS 1 CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

(16th December – 9.30am & 2.30pm)

The EYFS children will present the story of the first Christmas for families and children from Class 1.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25th December)

School Parking

Have you considered:

- Walking or cycling to school instead? This is a great way to contribute to a child's 60 minutes of activity a day and is easy to incorporate into your daily routine. Try it once a week at first and see how easy it can be.
- Parking nearby or getting off the bus two stops earlier and walking the rest of the way. If you live too far away to walk or need your car for your commute to work you can still walk part of the way. Adults in England should aim to take part in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week.
- Car sharing is a great way to reduce congestion and save you pennies. Team up with other parents or carers who live nearby- share the cost and halve the hassle.

If you have a parking concern outside of your school report it to parking@lancashire.gov.uk

For more information on this leaflet please email the Road Safety Team at roadsafetyschool@lancashire.gov.uk



Better Health healthier families

Sign up at nhs.uk/betterhealth



SCHOOL

SCHOOL



lancashire.gov.uk



A Guide to Parking Safely at Our Schools

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking around our schools has become a big problem, putting the safety of children and others at risk. We all want to keep our children safe around schools, so here are some top tips on how you can make a difference.

How can you help?

- ✓ Keep your speed down
- ✓ Turn your engine off - do not idle
- ✓ Leave the middle of the road free, with enough room for other road users to easily pass through
- ✓ Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely onto the pavement
- ✓ Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door
- ✓ Leave enough room on pavements for pedestrians, pushchairs & wheelchairs to get past
- ✓ Take care when reversing
- ✓ DO NOT PARK ON ZIG ZAG LINES

Please keep restricted areas clear

- ✓ Zig zags and school entrances
- ✓ Dropped kerbs
- ✓ Resident's driveways
- ✓ Opposite or within 10 metres of a junction- so that children can see cars and cars can see children.

Your questions answered

What would happen if I did park in a restricted area?

If you park in a restricted area you are putting children's lives in danger and for this reason school parking is regularly monitored and enforced. If you park in a restricted area you could receive a £70 fine.

Am I okay to stop on zig zag markings if I am only there a few minutes?

No, under no circumstances should you stop on zig zag markings at any time, these are there to protect school entrances and leave a clear view of the street for pedestrians.

Please park considerably around our schools and keep our children safe!

Don't forget...

Congestion around schools is one of the main reasons given for dangerous parking and there are other ways you could do the school run...



Never park on zig zags or block school entrances

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith



St Mary's School Holiday Dates 2025/ 26

Autumn Term 2025

INSET: Monday 1 September 2025

INSET: Tuesday 2 September 2025

Mid Term Closure: Monday 27 October- Friday 31 October 2025 (inclusive)

Closure after school on: Friday 19 December 2025

Number of openings: **75**

Spring Term 2026

Re-open on: Monday 5 January 2026

Mid Term Closure: Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026 (inclusive)

Closure after school on: Friday 27 March 2026

Number of openings: **55**

Summer Term 2026

Re-open on: Monday 13 April 2026

May Day Closure: Monday 4 May 2026

Mid Term Closure: Monday 25 May - Friday 5 June 2026

Closure after school on: Monday 27 July 2026

INSET: Thursday, 23 July 2026

INSET: Friday, 24 July 2026

INSET: Monday, 27 July 2026

Number of openings: **65**

Total number of openings – 195

(190 days for pupil + 5 INSET days for staff)