



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 3rd October, 2025

It is said that faith can 'move mountains'. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of the power and the responsibility that comes with having faith in God. Putting our faith in Jesus helps us to know God as our loving Father, and this changes how we see the world — it can give us confidence and inner strength, and help us keep growing in our love for one another.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please increase our faith and move us to action – sharing God's love with everyone we meet.

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...

A Heartfelt Thank You from St Mary's

We'd like to say a huge thank you for your incredible generosity throughout our first month back at school. Your kindness and support have made a real difference—and we couldn't be more grateful.

Thanks to your contributions, we raised a fantastic **£144** for the **Gold Ribbon Appeal** in support of the Children & Young People's Cancer Association—a charity close to the hearts of everyone in our school. These funds will help advance research into better treatments and improved care for children affected by leukaemia.

Your enthusiastic support of our **Macmillan Afternoon Tea** and cake sale raised an amazing **£129!** These vital funds will go towards supporting the nearly 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

We were also overwhelmed by the generous response to our **Harvest Food Appeal**. Your donations were proudly displayed in church and have now been collected and distributed by our local foodbank to those in need.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents who joined us to celebrate our **Thanksgiving Mass** this morning. I cannot begin to express how proud I was of the children—their beautiful singing, their respectful behaviour, and the wonderful way Class 3 led the readings, the offertory, and warmly welcomed everyone into church. You truly are outstanding ambassadors for our school, and your presence made the celebration all the more meaningful.

Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

What a wonderful week we have had in Class 1, continuing our 'All About Me' topic. This week, we have been discussing what makes us unique and what makes each of us special. We used the iPads to paint a portrait of ourselves, or our family on Purple Mash. Later in the week, we made our own 'Mini Me' using lots of different materials, carefully choosing the right colour hair and eyes, and even choosing an outfit!

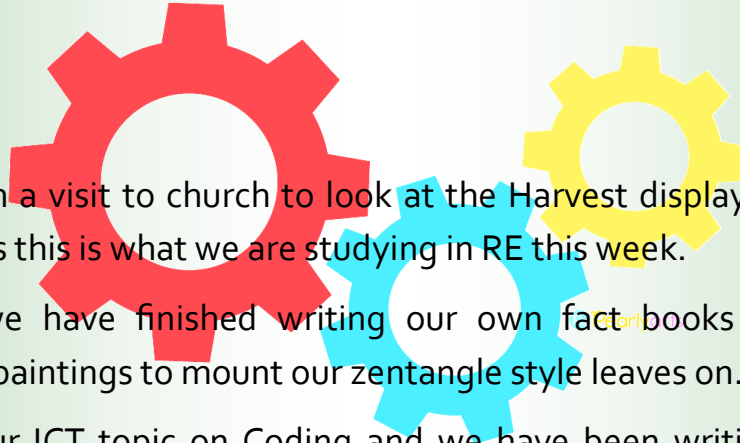
Our Nursery children have been working hard on their colour recognition this week. They have worked together to play games to match the correct colours.

We have had a fantastic week with lots of children reading multiple times at home with different adults. The children have been so excited to keep moving up our 'Room on the Broom' reading challenge! Thank you for your support with this!





Class 2 'Trailblazers'

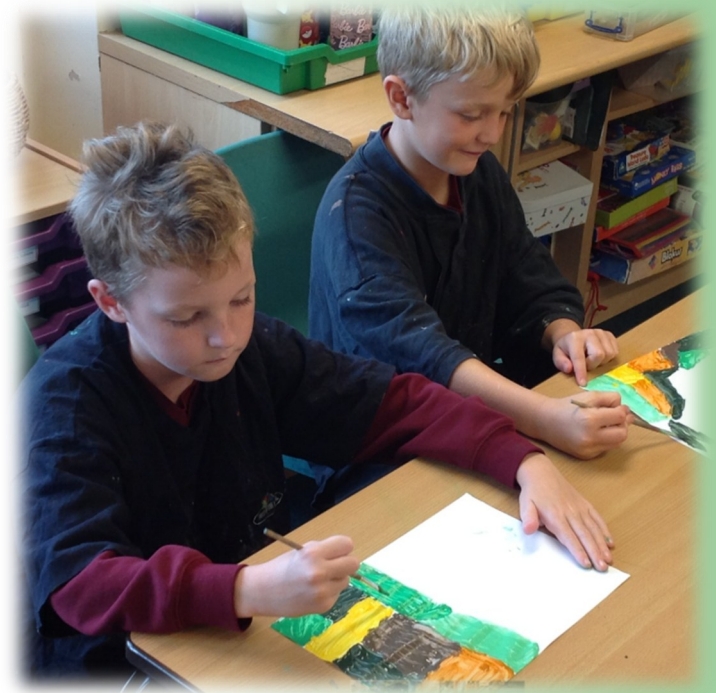


What a busy week!

We started this week with a visit to church to look at the Harvest displays and took the chance to look at the baptism font as this is what we are studying in RE this week.

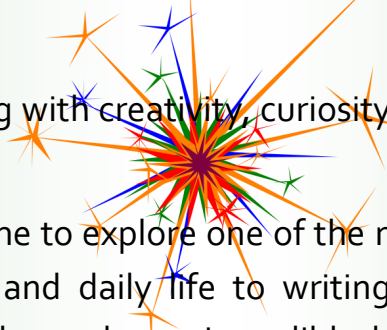
Throughout this week we have finished writing our own fact books about wolves and have completed some autumn paintings to mount our zentangle style leaves on.

We are really enjoying our ICT topic on Coding and we have been writing our own code to race characters along a road. You can use these activities at home too using your Purple Mash login.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



This week in Class 3 has been bursting with creativity, curiosity, and deep thinking—what a fantastic journey we have all been on!

The children have stepped back in time to explore one of the most advanced ancient cultures! From learning about Maya homes, food, and daily life to writing imaginative diary entries from the perspective of Maya children, they have shown incredible historical insight and empathy. What brilliant historians they are!

We have explored the powerful virtues of love, hope, and charity, and reflected on how we can live these out in our own lives. Learning about Saint John Henry Newman showed how faith and hope can inspire action and justice. Thoughtful discussions and reflections show how Class 3 are growing not just in knowledge, but in kindness and wisdom.

Our drama skills shone as Class 3 freeze-framed key moments in Abraham's story. Through movement and expression, they captured the emotions and choices of a man who trusted deeply in God. What a creative and meaningful way to explore faith and storytelling!





Celebration Assembly

	Special Award - For using beautiful manners	Good Work Award
Class 1	Evelyn D	Athea H
Class 2	Ronan D	Eric H
Class 3	Bailey H	Charlie M
Headteacher's award	Iris D	Penelope P
Mathematician of the week	Elliot H	
Presentation award	Reuben W-D	
Attendance Award	Class 2 - 97.12%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 03.10.25

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	91.19%	3
Class 2	17	97.12%	1
Class 3	22	96.79%	2



Dates for your diary

Monday, 6th October	Launch of Black History Month with school assembly and class based tasks
Thursday, 16th October	Visit from the school library bus
Friday, 17th October	Mufti day for Halloween treats
Wednesday, 22nd October	Spooky Bingo (3:30pm)
Friday, 24th October	Break up for half term (3:20pm)
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

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 

CAMP VENUES



TARLETON
ACADEMY



ORMSKIRK
SCHOOL

ONLY
£22.50
per day



ENDEAVOUR
COMMUNITY



ACTIVITY
CAMP

OCTOBER HALF TERM
MON 27TH - FRI 31ST
OCTOBER

Arts & Crafts, Athletics,
Basketball, Dance, Dodgeball,
Football,
Invasion & Target Games,
Swimming
and much more!



with
WEST LANCASHIRE
SPORT PARTNERSHIP



Open to
5 - 12
year olds

8.30AM
until
4.30PM

To book your child's place please visit
<https://ec.schoolactivity.co.uk>
and if you have any queries
please email
holidaycamps@endeavourlearning.org



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



lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County Council



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

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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)