



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 10th October, 2025

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read about the Samaritan, one of the ten lepers, who thanked Jesus. For us too, there are many blessings in life for which we can be thankful and it's always worth giving thanks to God. Being thankful to God puts us in the right frame of mind. It is good for our well-being and helps us to be happy in life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to be always thankful to you and to show our thankfulness by loving those around us.

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...

Standing Firm with Power and Pride – Black History Month 2025

This week, our school came together for a powerful assembly to mark the beginning of Black History Month 2025, celebrating this year's theme: "Standing Firm with Power and Pride." During the assembly, the children learned about remarkable figures such as Harriet Tubman, who bravely led enslaved people to freedom; Mary Seacole, a pioneering nurse who cared for soldiers during the Crimean War; and listened to the music of Aretha Franklin. These individuals—and many more—have shaped history with courage, creativity, and conviction.

Back in the classrooms the children delved into the lives of Mae Jemison, who became the first African-American woman to travel into space; and also Jesse Owens, an American track and field athlete who made history at the 1936 Olympic Games by becoming the first track and field athlete to win four gold medals in a single Olympics.

As a school, we are proud to celebrate diversity and to encourage every child to be curious, compassionate, and courageous. Black History Month is not just about looking back—it's about learning, growing, and standing together.



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Class 1 is full of Phonics Super Stars! All of the children are working incredibly hard and have been learning lots of new sounds. It has been exciting to see the children reading many reading books and our Year 1 children moving onto new reading levels too. The children have also been role playing being a Phonics teacher this week!

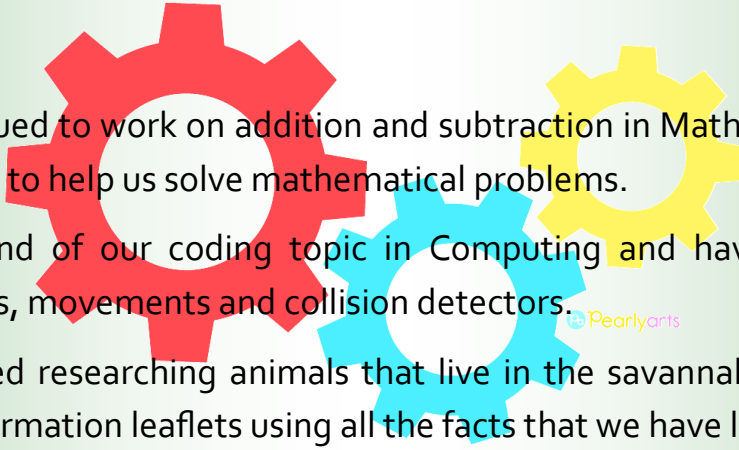
In PE on Wednesday, Class 1 focused on balancing. They started their warmup with a game of musical statues, then worked their way around different balancing stations, before finishing the session with some belly breathing.

In Art, we have been learning about symmetry this week. The children discussed what it was and looked at examples before making their own symmetrical butterflies!





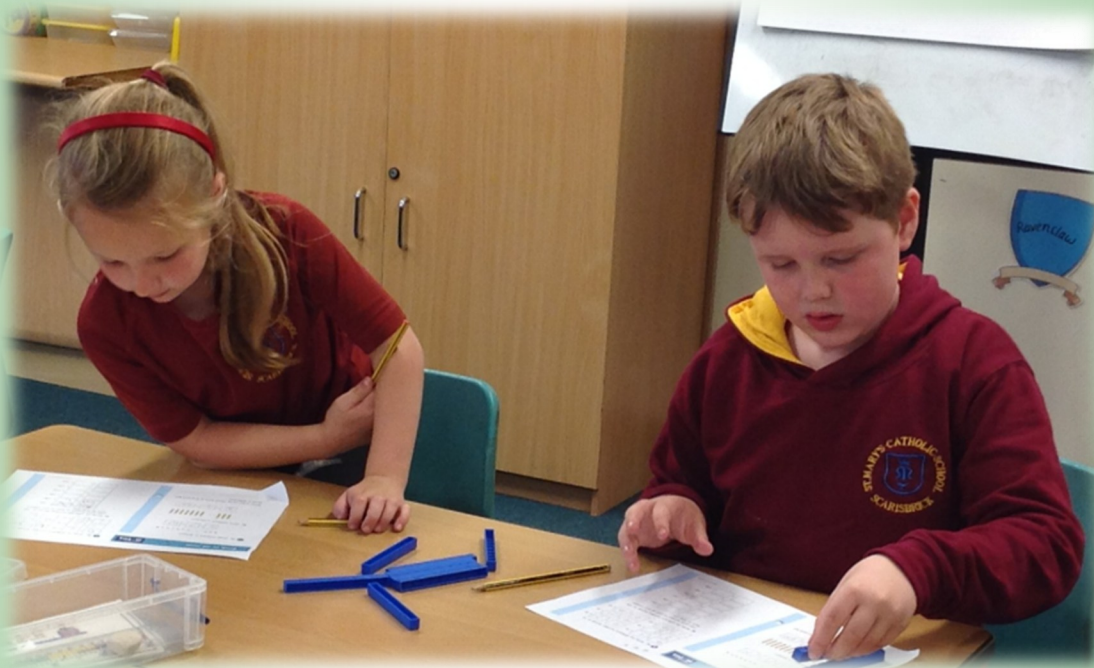
Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week we have continued to work on addition and subtraction in Maths and we have been using our place value equipment to help us solve mathematical problems.

We are coming to the end of our coding topic in Computing and have been writing our own programmes using buttons, movements and collision detectors. Pearlyarts

In English we have finished researching animals that live in the savannah and have been creating some fact posters and information leaflets using all the facts that we have learnt.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



This week, our budding authors have been busy creating their own mythical beasts, drawing inspiration from classic fantasy literature. Using 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' as a springboard, the children imagined creatures that might roam through enchanted forests, icy kingdoms, or secret wardrobes of their own. We'll be crafting original stories featuring these beasts in magical adventures—just like in C.S. Lewis's timeless world of Narnia.

This week in PE, Class 3 have been learning the technique of throwing the shot put—a combination of strength, coordination, and precision was required. Using proper form and safety guidance, they've practiced the glide and power position, building confidence with each throw.

In RE, we've been exploring the themes of 'Creation and Covenant', diving into stories that highlight the relationship between God and humanity. As part of this topic, the children have been learning about different forms of prayer, including the reflective practice of Visio Divina—a way of praying with images that invites deeper spiritual connection and contemplation.





Celebration Assembly

	Special Award -	Good Work Award
Class 1	Isabella E	Cooper S
Class 2	Tommy G	Alexandra B
Class 3	Erin C	Maisy S
Headteacher's award	Heidi M-J	Violet P
Mathematician of the week	Taylor M	
Presentation award	Kacper L	
Attendance Award	Class 2— 97.79 %	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 10.10.25

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	87.50%	3rd
Class 2	17	97.79%	1st
Class 3	22	97.16%	2nd



Dates for your diary

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
Monday, 10th November	Odd Socks Day (for Anti-Bullying)
Tuesday, 11th November	Remembrance Assembly (9:15am) Led by Class 3

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 

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



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

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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)