



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Hall Road, Scarisbrick, Lancashire. L40 9QE

Tel: (01704) 880 626

Website: www.stmaryscps.co.uk

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

Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 17th October, 2025

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about a bad judge and a widow who would not give up. Jesus teaches us the importance of justice, of praying and of never giving up hope.

God of justice and wisdom,

Help us to keep on praying and never to doubt that you will be with us always.

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...

Proud to be St Mary's

Year 6 Inter-Schools Maths Reasoning Club

On Monday, two of our budding mathematicians had the opportunity to collaborate with pupils from local schools in the first of a series of friendly inter-school maths reasoning events. It is a fantastic chance for our students to stretch their thinking, solve challenging problems, and work as a team. I was especially proud of our two brilliant girls who represented the school with confidence, creativity, and determination. Their enthusiasm and sharp reasoning skills truly shone through, and they were wonderful ambassadors for our school community.



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!

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, a beautifully designed space that supports curiosity, collaboration, and early learning. Come and see how this inspiring environment is helping our youngest learners flourish.

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Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith

A Magical Journey Through Reading at St Mary's

2026 will be the Year of Reading—a celebration of stories, imagination, and the joy of books! Here at St Mary's, we have launched a range of exciting initiatives to promote a love of reading across all year groups. Here's a sneak peek at what's in store:

Class Challenges Take Off!

Since September, our school has been buzzing with excitement as each class takes on a themed Reading Challenge designed to spark imagination and a lifelong 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, every class has embraced a literary theme that inspires children to read at home and climb their way up the challenge board. Each time a child reads at home, they move one step closer to the top—and we're thrilled to announce that one superstar in Class 2 has reached the very top of their challenge! What an incredible achievement and a testament to their dedication and love of stories. We're so proud of all our readers and can't wait to see who'll be next to reach the summit!

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

We're excited to relaunch our Class 1 Mystery Reader programme—a wonderful way for family members to step into the classroom and share the joy of reading! Whether you're a mum, dad, nanny, grandad, or another special grown-up, we'd love for you to sign up 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—and discover the stories you love!

Library Bus Visits: Bringing Books to Life Every Fortnight!

We welcome the Library Bus to St Mary's every two weeks—a rolling treasure trove of stories, adventures, and imagination! Each visit gives children the chance to explore new books, discover exciting authors, and enjoy the magic of reading in a unique setting. These regular visits are a wonderful way to support and encourage children to develop a lifelong love of books.

Reading Buddies: Sharing Stories, Building Friendships

At St Mary's, we believe that reading is even more powerful when it's shared—and that's why we're so excited about our Reading Buddies programme! This initiative pairs older and younger pupils together to enjoy books, build confidence, and foster a love of reading across the school. Whether it's a Year 6 pupil reading a picture book to a Reception child, or a Year 3 helping a Year 1 sound out tricky words, these moments create meaningful connections and joyful learning.

Reading Café: Share a Story

We're delighted to invite all parents and carers to our Reading Café, held once every half term—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)

Reading Pets

There's a new kind of reading companion at St Mary's—and they're soft, cuddly, and love a good story! Our Reading Pets have arrived in Class 1 and 2, and they're ready to sneak into book bags and join children on their reading adventures at home. Whether it's a bedtime story, a chapter before tea, or a weekend read in the garden, children can read aloud to their pet and enjoy the comfort of a listening friend. So don't be surprised if a Reading Pet pops into your child's bag soon... they're on a mission to make every story even more magical!

Class 1 E-books

We're excited to announce that Class 1 now has access to a new collection of e-books—bringing stories to life in a whole new way! Our digital library offers a wide range of titles that children can enjoy both in school and at home. These e-books are perfect for making story time even more engaging. They can explore books independently or share them with a grown-up. Look out for your new login details!



A Magical Journey Through Reading at St Mary's

Class 1 Share the Magic of Their Favourite Books!



All Aboard the Library Bus!





Class 1 'Shining Stars'

As we head towards the end of our first half term in school, Class 1 have continued to work extremely hard in all areas of learning this week.

In Literacy, Reception children have been putting their Phonics learning into practice by writing the names of characters in our story such as, cat, dog, bat and frog. Year 1 have been planning their own version of the story by changing the characters, ready to write their own version next week.

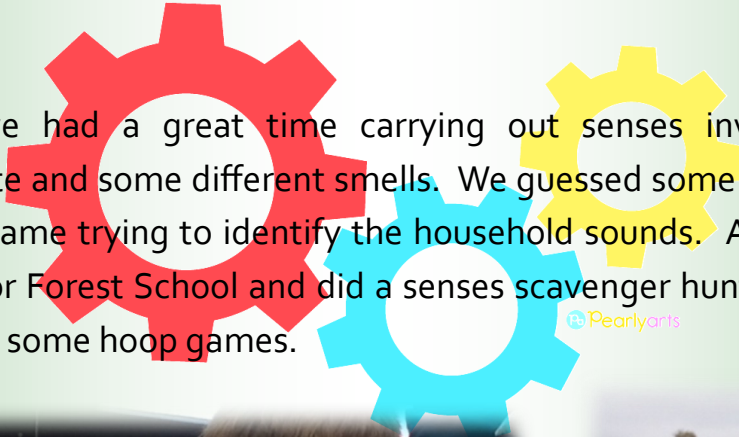
In RE, Class 1 have continued to learn about Baptism this week. They have recognised all of the different features of a Baptism and talked about what they represent and what they are used for. The children even took turns to care for our baby doll and used water to practise baptising them in class.

On Thursday, we had a visit from the Library bus! We loved catching up with Victoria and choosing some new books to read together in class.



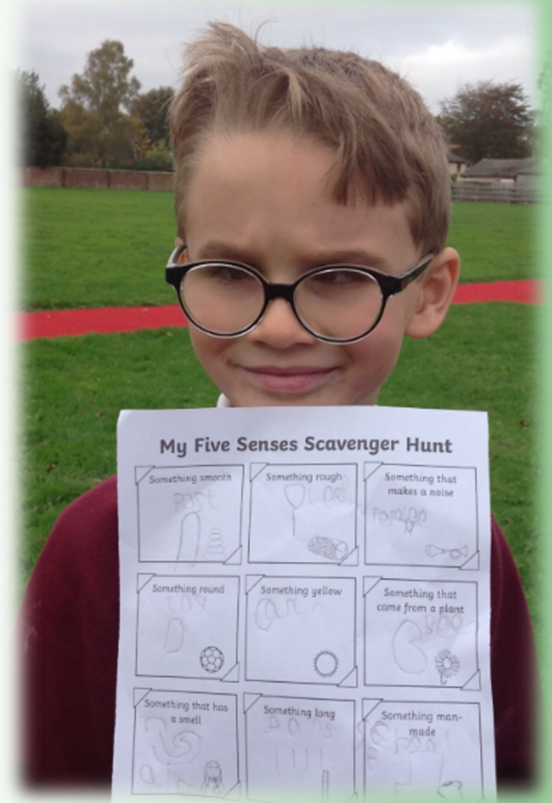


Class 2 'Trailblazers'



Pearlyarts

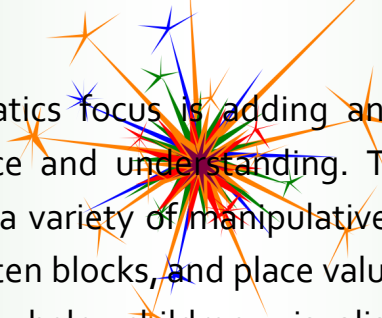
This week in Science we had a great time carrying out senses investigations. We had to identify some fruit by taste and some different smells. We guessed some objects in a feely bag and we even played a sound game trying to identify the household sounds. After we had recorded our results we went outside for Forest School and did a senses scavenger hunt. We also worked on our teamwork skills by playing some hoop games.



A big well done to Connie this week who has completed our Harry Potter reading challenge and is now starting all over again to win more rewards and prizes. Keep up the great home reading everyone in Class 2 – we really are Trail Blazers!



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



This week, our continued mathematics focus is adding and subtracting numbers with confidence and understanding. To support this, the children have used a variety of manipulatives such as counters, number lines, base ten blocks, and place value equipment. These hands-on tools help children visualise number relationships, build fluency, and develop strong mental and written strategies.



The children in Class 3 continue to impress us with their curiosity and enthusiasm for history. This week, they've been diving into the fascinating world of the Ancient Maya civilisation. Through group research and lively discussion, the children uncovered the Maya's remarkable achievements in astronomy, architecture, mathematics, and writing. From decoding ancient glyphs to exploring the grandeur of Maya temples, their investigations brought this incredible civilisation to life.





Celebration Assembly

	Special Award - For remembering to say thank you	Good Work Award
Class 1	Ashton H	Arabella F
Class 2	Jenson L	Trystan Mc
Class 3	Neveah G	Caleb S
Headteacher's award	Libby Mc	Harry R
Mathematician of the week	Poppy P	
Presentation award	Poppy G	
Attendance Award	Classes 1 & 2 - 100%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 17.10.25

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	97.86%	2
Class 2	17	100%	1
Class 3	22	100%	1



Dates for your diary

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
Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS2 Craft Club begins (for 5 Wednesdays)
Wednesday, 19th November	Parents Evening

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

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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



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)