



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Welcome back to school!

Welcome back to school! We start the new school year with great excitement! We're delighted to share with you that the children have settled into school brilliantly in their new classes. It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, kindness, and eagerness to learn as they embrace new routines and build new friendships. A huge thank you to our staff for creating such a welcoming and nurturing environment—and to you, our families, for your continued support.

We have a number of children who are starting St Mary's for the first time, and we have loved welcoming them into our school family.

In response to our new class structure, we have some new class numbers and names—which were especially chosen to reflect our Mission Statement 'Living & Learning Together—Shining in our Faith':

Class 1 'Shining Stars' - Miss Wade & Mrs Byrne

Class 2 'Trailblazers' - Mrs Priestner & Mrs Charnock

Class 3 'Bright Sparks' - Mrs McGrath & Mrs Burton-Duff



A new curriculum

Throughout the summer term the staff have been working hard on re-designing the curriculum for the new school year. The exciting new curriculum is designed to provide the children with as many opportunities to connect their learning, which will help them to build upon their knowledge and develop their skills.

Within the curriculum, the children will be given the opportunities to explore a wide range of English genres driven by good quality, vocabulary rich texts.

Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Reading Adventures Across the School!

This year, every class is taking part in an exciting Reading Challenge designed to spark imagination and a love of books. From magical tales to epic journeys, our pupils are diving into reading challenges that inspire and entertain. We're starting with some favourites:

Room on the Broom for Class 1

Who can reach Harry Potter's Great Hall in Class 2?

And in Class 3, the challenge is on to reach Narnia. With every page turned and every book completed, they're getting closer to stepping through the wardrobe into a world of wonder.

To help children make the most of our exciting Reading Challenge, we kindly ask families to support their child by hearing them **read every night**. Just a few minutes each evening can make a big difference—building confidence, fluency, and a lifelong love of reading. Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey!



Catholic Life & RE curriculum at St Mary's

Introducing the RED Curriculum

This year, we are launching the new RED (Religious Education Directory) curriculum across the school. This enriching programme is designed to deepen pupils' understanding of the Catholic faith, encourage thoughtful reflection, and support their spiritual growth. Through scripture, prayer, and discussion, children will explore key themes that connect faith to everyday life. The termly RE newsletter will be published next week with further details of the curriculum content for each class.

Sacramental Programme for Years 3–6

Our Sacramental Programme is a vital part of our school's faith journey. Pupils in Years 3 to 6 will be invited to take part in the programme, preparing for and celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. The children will participate in workshops and liturgies throughout the year. I will be sending out a letter shortly inviting the children to join in the sacramental preparation journey.

Half-Termly Mass Celebrations

We are delighted to resume our half-termly Masses, which will be celebrated in church and led by the children. These gatherings are a special opportunity for our community to come together in prayer and thanksgiving. Families are warmly invited to join us for these celebrations—dates will be shared in advance via the newsletter and the school website.

The first date to put in your diary is the Welcome Mass which will take place in St Elizabeth's Church on **Sunday, 7th September at 11am** followed by a family picnic (please bring your own food).

St Elizabeth's has a wonderful tradition of celebrating our farming community at the Harvest Festival mass. The children will decorate the church and take part in the mass, making it a very special occasion. Little Church will also be available for any children from 3 -11 years of age. Please save the date in your diary—**Sunday, 28th September at 9am**.





West Lancs Sports Partnership

West Lancs Sports Partnership will now provide two PE sessions per week for all classes, teaching a range of skills from athletics, gymnastics, striking and fielding games, dance and Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

This year we have also invested in 'bolt on' programmes for each of the classes: scooting (Class 1) and yoga (Class 2), boxercise (Class 3).

PE days are **Wednesday and Friday** for the whole school. The children will continue to come into school in their PE kits on PE days. As you know, we have been rolling out the new school PE kit (t-shirt, shorts and an optional PE hoodie) over the last two years. It is available in the Premier Sports store on Aughton Street, Ormskirk or on their website St Marys Catholic Primary School Scarisbrick – Premier Sports And School Wear Ltd (premierwearuk.net).

A Double Celebration at St Mary's!

We are thrilled to announce two fantastic achievements that reflect the dedication and excellence of our school community.

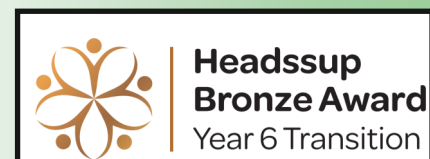
Gold Sports Mark Award

Congratulations to our pupils and staff for earning the prestigious Gold Sports Mark! This award recognises our commitment to high-quality physical education, inclusive sporting opportunities, and encouraging active lifestyles across the school. It's a testament to the energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved in our PE and sports programmes.

Bronze Award for Year 6 Transition

We are also proud to be the very first school to receive the Bronze Award for Year 6 Transition, recognising our outstanding efforts in supporting pupils as they move from primary to secondary school. This award celebrates our commitment to ensuring every child feels confident, prepared, and supported during this important stage of their educational journey.

These achievements reflect our ongoing dedication to nurturing the whole child—physically, emotionally, and academically. Well done to everyone involved!



Looking Ahead to a Wonderful Year

There is so much to look forward to in the new school year! From exciting learning opportunities and creative projects to special events and celebrations, we can't wait to see what the year brings.

Following the fantastic progress we've made in developing our PE provision—culminating in our recent Gold Sports Mark Award—we are now turning our attention to music development across the school. Our aim is to enrich the musical experiences of the pupils, from classroom learning to performance opportunities. We're excited to help every child find their voice and rhythm. Watch out for an exciting opportunity on the horizon!



St Mary's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

A big thank you to our PTA!

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing PTA for all their hard work and fundraising efforts last year. Their dedication and generosity have made a real difference—and this term, they've given us a fantastic surprise with the arrival of new playground equipment! The children are absolutely loving the new additions, which have brought even more fun, energy, and creativity to playtimes. We're so grateful for the continued support of our PTA and the wider school community.

For the year ahead, our staff have been busy planning some exciting fundraising events. These events are all about creating great memories for the children, as well as raising funds for the lovely 'treats' for the school! But we can't do it alone—we need your support!

We'd love to invite parents and carers to join us at our staff meeting on **Monday 29th September at 3:30pm**, where we'll be brainstorming ideas, planning events, and looking for opportunities to get involved. Whether you can help with organising, volunteering, or simply sharing ideas, your contribution will make a big difference.

Dates for your diary

Monday, 1st & Tuesday, 2nd Sept	INSET days (staff only)
Wednesday, 3rd Sept	Back to school (8:55am)
Monday, 15th Sept	Curriculum meetings (Two meeting times to help parents with 2 children in the school—3:30pm and/ or 4pm)
Friday, 26th Sept	Macmillan Afternoon Tea (3:30-4:15pm)
Sunday, 28th Sept	Harvest Festival Mass (9am in St Elizabeth's Church) - Harvest donations will be collected throughout the week beginning 22nd Sept
Monday, 29th Sept	Parents invited to join us at our staff meeting to organise PTA events
Thursday, 2nd October	Flu vaccinations (in school)
W/ B 6th October	Year 5 Bikeability
Friday, 17th October	Mufti day for Halloween treats
Wednesday, 22nd October	Spooky Bingo (3:30pm)
Friday, 24th October	Break up for the half term holiday
Monday, 3rd November	Back to school (8:55am)

Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey ! From Mrs Preston



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 