



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Friday, 14th November, 2025

A faithful person is a gift to the world. When we grow in faithfulness, others will know that we are people who are reliable, supportive and trustworthy. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples (and us too) to be faithful to him. Everybody wants a faithful friend. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for being our faithful friend. Please help us to keep growing in faithfulness to you and to one another.

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...

Goodbye Mrs Ormsby

This week we said a heartfelt goodbye to Mrs Ormsby, our much-valued school governor. Her association with St Mary's began many years ago when she herself was a pupil at the original St Mary's School. Since then, she has continued to serve our community with dedication and kindness. Her work within the church has been greatly appreciated, especially her role in preparing our children for their sacraments. As a governor, she has offered wisdom, guidance, and unwavering support over many years, helping to shape the life of our school.



We wish Mrs Ormsby every happiness as she begins a new adventure, moving closer to her family. Before she left, we were delighted to have her join us as our mystery reader—much to the children's delight. They loved listening to her favourite story—'The Owl who Was Afraid of the Dark' - hearing about Plop's brave journey to becoming a night bird.

Mrs Ormsby will always remain a cherished part of St Mary's, and we thank her sincerely for all she has given to our school and parish community.

Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith

Remembrance Day



On Remembrance Day, Class 3 gathered to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our country. The children showed remarkable respect and reverence throughout the commemoration, demonstrating their understanding of the importance of this solemn occasion.

Together, they reflected on the meaning of remembrance and showed empathy for the courage and dedication of those who fought for peace and freedom. Their quiet reflection and sincere participation were a credit to them

and a moving reminder of the values we hold as a school community.

We are proud of Class 3 for the dignity they displayed and the way they embraced the spirit of remembrance.



Across the school, every class took time to remember this special day with thoughtfulness and respect. Children learned about the history and significance of Remembrance Day, deepening their understanding of why we pause to reflect and honour those who served. Each class also engaged in beautiful creative activities.



Class 1 Reading Café

On Wednesday morning, Class 1 hosted their Reading Café and it was a wonderful success. We would like to thank all the parents and grandparents who joined us to share a story with the children and enjoy a little breakfast treat together. The atmosphere was warm and joyful, with children delighted to read alongside their loved ones.

We look forward to welcoming Class 2 parents and grandparents next Wednesday morning for their turn to enjoy this special event.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 took place from Monday 10th until today. This year's inspiring theme was "Power for Good" – a reminder that each of us had the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

The week began with Odd Socks Day on Monday 10th November. Teachers and children alike wore odd socks as a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique. It was a simple act that sent a powerful message: our differences should be embraced, not bullied.



Throughout the week, we joined together to highlight kindness, respect, and the importance of standing up against bullying.



Together, we used our Power for Good to create some fantastic work. Class 3 created 'Power of Good' jars highlighting acts of kindness that we can perform each day. Class 2 made a class poster showing that they stand together against bullying. Class 1 used the story of Elmer to inspire their work. Please come and see the children's work that is displayed in the school hall.



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

This week has been full of lovely experiences for our youngest children. Class 1 have had some wonderful opportunities this week.

On Monday, we had a Mystery Reader! Our lovely governor, Mrs Ormsby, came into Class 1 to read her favourite story to us, 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. We loved engaging with the story and hearing about how Mrs Ormsby used to read it to her son.

In Geography, Class 1 worked together to create a map of our new classroom. Together, we located all of the areas of our classroom and where we can find things. Year 1 then made their own maps of the classroom, using what they had learnt.

In DT this half term, we are making models using different recycled materials. This week, we have been discussing which materials would be best to use (tubes, boxes, cartons etc) and what type of model we would like to make.

Class 1 had a wonderful morning at the first Reading Cafe on Wednesday! It was fantastic to spend time with our families, sharing stories together and enjoying a breakfast treat too. We loved showing our families that we can log on to Oxford Owl and read books online too!





Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week we have got two more readers to the top of our reading challenge – well done girls!



We had lots of fun looking at OS maps of our local area in Geography. We found map symbols on the map and found out what they meant using the key.

Mr Shingler gave us a great PE lesson on Wednesday where we learnt and practised different ways to move and balance like different animals. We extended this to doing supporting balances in pairs and then groups.

We also spent some time this week learning about why we were wearing odd socks on Monday for Anti-Bullying Week, and learning about the importance of Remembrance Day on Tuesday.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



Class 3 have had another amazing week of learning and reflection.

On Tuesday, the children led a beautiful and thoughtful Remembrance Day service. We were incredibly proud of their maturity and respect during such an important occasion. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and grandparents who were able to join us — your presence made the event even more special.

In English, we continued our work on Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. The children have been exploring descriptive language and phrases, working hard to understand how writers create atmosphere and emotion. Their enthusiasm for the story is shining through, and they are beginning to use Dickens' techniques in their own writing. Next week, we will build on this by experimenting with our own descriptive passages, inspired by Dickens' vivid imagery. We are excited to see the children's creativity flourish!



This week in Geography, Class 3 have been busy exploring maps. Using Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of our local area, the children learned how to identify map symbols and discussed the different geographical features they could find. We also compared Scarisbrick to Ormskirk and Southport, noticing similarities and differences between rural and urban areas. The children enjoyed spotting landmarks and thinking about how geography shapes the places we live.

In PE, the children focused on balance and movement in gymnastics. Working in pairs, they experimented with using their own body weight to create interesting shapes and balances. Their teamwork and creativity really shone through as they developed a variety of different balances.





Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For showing enthusiasm	Good Work Award
Class 1	Lyle W	Martha W
Class 2	Emily H	Ronan D
Class 3	Cooper G	Bowen S
Headteacher's award	Roman W	Erin C
Mathematician of the week	Freddie O	
Presentation award	Emrys Mc	
Attendance Award	Class 2 - 100 %	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 14.11.25			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	93.57%	3
Class 2	17	100%	1 
Class 3	22	97.10%	2

Dates for your diary

Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS2 Craft Club begins (for 5 Wednesdays)
Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS1 Gymnastics Club
Wednesday, 19th November	Class 2 Reading Cafe
Wednesday, 19th November	Parents Evening
Friday, 21st November	KS2 Fitness Club (8.15 every Friday morning)
Friday, 21st November	Year 1 Hearing Screening
Wednesday, 3rd December	Whole School Advent Mass (9:30am in St Elizabeth's Church)
Thursday, 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Breakfast with Santa & Santa Dash

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.*

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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)