



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

**Friday, 21st November, 2025**

Today we hear how Jesus is laughed at while on the cross and how two thieves have very different things to say to him. We think about the type of king Jesus is and how we can share his love with others.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, our King and Saviour,*

*May we never forget your love for each one of us. We praise you 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...

### Parents' Evening

A heartfelt thank you to all parents who attended Wednesday's Parents' Evening to discuss their children's progress. Your partnership is an essential ingredient in supporting your child's learning journey, and we truly value the time and commitment you give.

Working together helps us celebrate achievements, identify next steps, and ensure that every child continues to thrive. We are grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to building on this collaboration throughout the year.



### Friday Fitness Club

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Friday Fitness Club—what a fantastic way to start the day! The children joined in with great energy and enthusiasm, showing just how much fun keeping fit together can be.

A big thank you to all the children for their hard work and positive spirit, and a special thanks to Poppy's mum for motivating everyone and helping to make the session such a success.

We look forward to many more lively mornings filled with fitness, teamwork, and smiles!

*Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith*

## Open Afternoon – A Heartfelt Thank You!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended our Open Afternoon last week. Despite the terrible weather, the atmosphere throughout the school was warm and bright. A huge thank you to Lisa, our cook, who prepared delicious samples of school dinners.

Thank you to our parents, who kindly served tea and coffee to all our visitors.

A special mention goes to our children, who were wonderful guides for parents. They truly are the best ambassadors for our school, as many of our new and current parents commented.

We are also very grateful to Mr Ben McMullen, from the Archdiocese, who joined us to support the event. This gave us the opportunity to thank them personally for their ongoing support and funding of this project.

To mark this special occasion, Mr McMullen presented the school with a beautiful commemorative gift, a gesture that will long be treasured by our school and its community.

We all wish Class 1 so much happiness in their beautiful new learning environment. We know that they will continue to flourish!



## Class 2 Reading Café

This week it was the turn of Class 2 to host the St Mary's Reading Café. A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us to read with the children and show their support—it truly makes a difference.

When asked about the Reading Café the children said:

*"I loved choosing the books to read with my mum!"*

*"I liked everybody reading together!"*

*"I loved the breakfast and juice!"*



The children have been working incredibly hard on their reading, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm shining through. We are especially proud of those who are making great progress in the Harry Potter Reading Challenge, showing real determination and a love of stories.

Events like these highlight the joy of reading and the importance of sharing books together. We look forward to welcoming the Class 3 families next week!





## Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Wow... we have celebrated some of our wonderful readers this week! We have had 5 children in Class 1 who have completed our 'Room on the Broom' reading challenge this week! The children have been so excited to celebrate each other each day in school when we move up the challenge. All of the children's reading is progressing beautifully and they are becoming much more confident at reading independently.

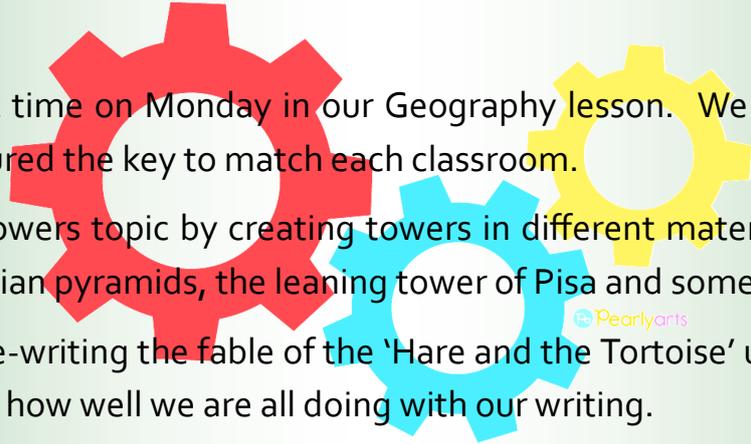
Class 1 were delighted to find ice in their outdoor area this week. They have been keen to experiment with the ice; smashing it, painting it, and crushing it. We have added food colouring to some pans of water and discussed what we might find if it freezes again tonight!

We have started preparations for our Christmas play! This week, we have been busy learning words and actions to all of the songs, as well as practising lines to say. We can't wait to perform for you on Tuesday 16th December!





## Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week we had a great time on Monday in our Geography lesson. We labelled each area of our school on a map and coloured the key to match each classroom.

In DT we continued our towers topic by creating towers in different materials to follow the style of the Eiffel tower, the Egyptian pyramids, the leaning tower of Pisa and some Greek monuments.

In English we have been re-writing the fable of the 'Hare and the Tortoise' using different characters. I am really impressed with how well we are all doing with our writing.

Thank you so much to all the parents who were able to attend the Class 2 Reading Café. As one of the children said, "We loved reading with our families!"





## Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

The children have continued to show wonderful enthusiasm in all areas of their learning.

We've been working hard on balancing and travelling skills in gymnastics. The children are growing in confidence and showing great teamwork as they practise new movements.

Multiplication and division have been our main focus this week, with children tackling challenges with determination.

o Year 6 have taken their learning further by developing their algebra skills.

o Class Three have been working diligently on their times tables, using them to strengthen their maths work.

Year 4 have been exploring electricity. They successfully built simple circuits, experimenting with switches and bulbs to see how electricity flows. The excitement was clear as they watched their circuits come to life!



The children have been investigating and building bridges in Design Technology. They explored which pillar shapes are the strongest, testing their designs to see how well they could support weight. This hands-on activity encouraged problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork.



It's been inspiring to see how much effort everyone is putting in — well done, Class 3!

We are looking forward to our Reading Café on Wednesday next week, we hope that lots of you can join us.

Reading Cafe





## Celebration Assembly



	Special Award -	Good Work Award
Class 1	Clay W	Elsie G
Class 2	Ella C-Mc	Lila G
Class 3	Penelope P	Iris D
Headteacher's award	Poppy G	Ella R
Mathematician of the week	Arabella F	
Presentation award	Connie Mc	
Attendance Award	Class 2 - 98.04 %	



## Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 21.11.25			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	93.71%	3
Class 2	17	98.04%	1 
Class 3	23	97.58%	2

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS2 Craft Club begins (for 5 Wednesdays)
Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS1 Multi-Sports Club (for 5 Wednesdays)
Friday, 21st November	KS2 Fitness Club (8.15 every Friday morning)
Wednesday, 3rd December	Whole School Advent Mass (9:30am in St Elizabeth's Church)
Thursday, 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day, Breakfast with Santa & Santa Dash
Tuesday, 16th December	Class 1 Nativity (9:30 and 2:30pm)
Thursday, 18th December	End of term awards assembly (9:15am) - all parents welcome
Friday, 19th December	Break up for Christmas (2pm)

*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](http://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](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces)  
and click 'school admission policies'.*

[lancashire.gov.uk](http://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**

*(3<sup>rd</sup> September – 24<sup>th</sup> 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**

*(3<sup>rd</sup> November – 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

(7<sup>th</sup> September)

St Elizabeth's Church at 9.00am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

#### **HARVEST MASS**

(28<sup>th</sup> September)

St Elizabeth's Church at 9.00am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

#### **WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

(3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

(16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:parking@lancashire.gov.uk)

For more information on this leaflet please email the Road Safety Team at [roadsafetyschool@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:roadsafetyschool@lancashire.gov.uk)



**Better Health** healthier families

Sign up at [nhs.uk/betterhealth](https://nhs.uk/betterhealth)



[lancashire.gov.uk](https://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)**