



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

**Weekly Newsletter: Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November**

## The First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

This Sunday is the first day of Advent. Advent is a special time when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. Help us to wait in hope with joyful hearts for his coming and to share your hope with others.



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/>

## The Season of Advent

The Season of Advent begins this Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> December. Advent is a special time in our liturgical calendar when we wait in hope for the coming of Jesus. We would like to invite every member of our school community to celebrate mass with us on **Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** in St Elizabeth's church. It will be a wonderful mass with the children participating in the readings, offertory and singing. We would love you to come and celebrate Advent with us.

## Archdiocesan School Levy

Each year we pay the Archdiocese of Liverpool a contribution towards building costs – this is called the School Levy. The contribution for this year is £10 per family. The Levy plays a crucial role in maximising the investment in our school buildings. This year we are reaping the benefit of this scheme with the exciting development of our brand new EYFS unit.

The Archdiocese are also supporting a tutoring programme for the Year 6 pupils.

Your annual contribution is vital in funding these projects. It can be paid through Parent Pay. Many thanks. Your voluntary contribution is much appreciated.

## CAFOD Live Simply Award

As you know, our school is joining CAFOD to try to create a world that is without poverty, through the Live Simply Award. As a school community, we are going to try to Live Simply, Live Sustainably and Live in Solidarity.

This week we are focussing on Living in Solidarity, by collecting **donations of Christmas toys and games** to be presented to the charity Nugent Care by the Year 6 children at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

## Santa Dash

It's nearly here ... the annual St Mary's Santa Dash! The event will take place on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, and families are welcome to come and support (with a hot chocolate and a cake) from 1.50pm, with the races commencing at 2pm.

If you are able to donate cakes, we would be very grateful! Please can they be dropped off at school on the morning of the event.

Many thanks for all the monies that have been coming into school this week. Any sponsorship money can be donated via the Just Giving page ([the link is on the poster below](#)).

Many thanks for your generosity and unending support!



## SEPTEMBER 2025 RECEPTION INTAKE

The Admissions window is now open for parents to apply for a 2025 reception place. The following link will take you to the Admissions page on the school website <https://www.stmaryscps.co.uk/admissions/>

You are very welcome to come and see the school and look at the beautiful facilities and see the curriculum in action. Please contact the school on 01704 880626 to arrange a visit with Mrs Preston.

You may also know a family friend or relative whose child is due to start school in September 2025. We need your help to remind them that the application window is now open.

**\*Please see attached leaflet**

## Curriculum News

### EYFS

Our EYFS children have had another fantastic week working hard together. Reception children have been speeding through their Gruffalo reading challenge, practising their Phonics skills. Nursery have been focusing on rhythm and rhyme, playing games to find matching rhyming pairs. We are also looking forward to starting our new text next week!

### Year 1 and 2

The children are continuing to work hard in Year 1 and 2. This week we have been learning all about information texts. The children have identified different features and created their own checklist.

We have continued with our weaving, the children have all used a simple loom to make a piece of woven fabric. Thank you to Sharon for her support and help, the children loved it!

Our maths this week has been very practical. We have been learning all about numbers and how to write them as words.



### Year 3 and 4

This week we had an exciting trip to the Eco Centre in Southport to complete a workshop on our History topic of life from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age. We completed activities on the different stages of the Stone Age, we dug for footprints in the sand and had to try and identify the animals they belonged to. We carried out research on how the people lived and we played a giant board game. In the afternoon, we went into the immersive cinema room and learnt all about Stonehenge: how it was made and what it may have been used for. It was a fantastic day and the children (and teachers) thoroughly enjoyed it all.



### Year 5 and 6

The Year 5 and 6 children have had a wonderful week. They have all been working extremely hard. Within English, they have focused on figurative language and they have highlighted examples of this within a selection of poems and song lyrics. They have also discussed their preferences when listening to a selection of songs and we looked at the similarities and differences and the figurative language within each.

This week, the children have planned their designs for their biscuits. Wow, we have some outstanding and very interesting designs - I can't wait to see the final products!

### Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to this week's winners:

Special Award (for 'opening our hearts to others'):

Lilian O, James R, Mabel H, James S, Maisy S, Bailey H, Erin C, Darcy P, Violet P.

Good Work Award:

Angus P, Reuben W-D, Ella C-Mc, Elliot H, Freddie O, Nina L, Harry R, Charlotte D, Ella R.

Mathematician of the week:

Annabelle C

Runner of the week:

Violet P

### Attendance news



#### Attendance for the week ending 29.11.24

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Reception	16	90.00%	3
Year 1/ 2	22	95.91%	1
Year 3/ 4	19	93.68%	2
Year 5/ 6	23	89.57%	4

A special well done must go to our **Y1/ 2** class who have the best attendance in the school, with 95.91%.

Attendance at school really does count! I appreciate that for parents it can be tricky deciding whether to keep your child off school when they're unwell. If you need any help, there are guidelines on the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/ismy-child-too-ill-for-school/> to help you to decide when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't.

If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school office each day of their absence. Let us know that your child won't be in and please give the reason. Many thanks for your continued support.

### Pupil Consultation on Swimming Pool Closure

As part of the commitment to amplifying pupil voice in the local area, we received an email from WLBC with a child friendly consultation form. This form was drawn up between SHARES Lancashire and the council, based on feedback from a recent Pupil Parliament session, where children shared thoughtful and passionate views regarding the potential closure of the local swimming baths—an issue deeply affecting the local community. If your child would like to express their views, please find the link to the consultation form below:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=lpQQZoCYkWqSb4KcNrtk3sYhBcOc8JFpPOfx7RwAbtUOUoxSkE1VlpDMUtRR0w2VVowTjVKUUI5OS4u&route=shorturl>

### School uniform

School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within a school. Please can

I remind all the children that:

- if necessary, hair should be tied back, especially on PE days
- jewellery, other than small earrings, is not permitted

• nail varnish is not to be worn on school days.

• School hoodies are for PE days only

Many thanks for your co-operation in making the children look so smart and represent the school so well.

### Children's Liturgy

Our parish church of St Elizabeth's would again like to welcome the children of St Mary's (age 3-11) to their 'Little Church'. It is a wonderful chance for the children to gather in a small group, during the mass, to listen and reflect on the gospel in a way that they can understand and enjoy. The session will take place during the 9.00am Sunday mass.

Also, if anyone would like their child/children to be baptised, please contact Mary in the parish office (01704 880226) for a form to fill in. The baptismal course will now be held at St Anne's, but of course the baptism will take place at St Elizabeth's, at a mutually convenient date on a Sunday morning after Mass.

### School snacks

We welcome the Key stage 1 and 2 children bringing snacks into school for their morning break as it gives them some energy for the rest of the morning learning time.

However, for the health and safety of all of the children, please can you ensure that all snacks are **healthy**, and most importantly, **nut-free**. Many thanks for your support.

Well done to Year 3 and 4 who are 'leading the way' in supporting healthy break time snacks!

### Facebook

We have launched a brand new St Mary's Facebook page where we will be posting regular photos and updates with school news and events. We hope you enjoy seeing the children working and playing together.



### Dates for your Diary

\*See PTA dates attached below

Wednesday, 4th December (9.30am)

Whole School Advent Mass

Wednesday, 4th December (2pm)

Santa Dash (pre-loved Christmas jumper sale too!)

Wednesday, 11th December

Christmas Dinner Day

Thursday, 12th December

Christmas Jumper Day  
& Breakfast with Santa (8am)

Monday, 16th December

Y1 and 2 Christmas Concert (5pm)

Wednesday, 18th December

EYFS Nativity Play (9.30am & 2.30pm)

Thursday, 19th December

Whole School Awards Assembly (9.30am)

Friday, 20th December

End of term. Break up for Christmas (2pm)

**Have a wonderful weekend!**

**From Mrs Preston and the staff of St Mary's**



# SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

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 



# St Marys Catholic Primary School

PTFA Newsletter September 2024

What we have raised  
since September!

**£6,261!!!!**

- Movie Nights £508
- Spooky Bingo & Pumpkin Competition £395
- Santa Dash £1,884
- Bake Off £74
- Mothers Day Shop £175
- Easter Bingo & Parade £249
- Fathers Day Shop £121
- Summer Fair £2855

Dates for the Diary

- 22nd Nov After School Tuck Shop
- 29th Nov Christmas Pet Toy Sale
- 4th Dec Sponsored Santa Dash – Refreshments/Xmas Jumpers for donations
- 12th Dec Xmas Jumper Day Save the Children
- 13th Jan School Bake Off
- 6th March World BK Day – Dress Up or PJs
- 21st Mar Odd Socks Day Down Syndrome
- 27th March Mothers Day Shop
- 28th Mufti Day for Easter Bingo Prizes Eggs/Chocolate
- 2nd April Easter Bingo
- 3rd April Easter Hat Parade
- 22nd May Spring Movie Night
- 23rd May Mufti for Teddies
- 12th June Fathers Day Shop
- 20th June Mufti for Bottles
- 28th June Summer Fair

Committee

**Chair**

Laura Loveday & Nicola Gray

**Treasurer**

Mark Waddie

**Secretary**

Heather Parsons

**Vice Chair**

Gemma White & Helen Williams

Class Rep's

**Nursery/Reception**

Natalie Waddie

**Year 1 & Year 2**

Vacancy & Helen Parker

**Year 3 & Year 4**

Heather Parsons & Gemma White

**Year 5 & Year 6**

Helen Williams & Laura Morris

Can you Help Us?

We need volunteers for our

- Santa Dash from 12pm 4th Dec
- Can-you bake? Donations needed for Santa Dash



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

[etmaryspitfa00arisbrick](https://www.instagram.com/etmaryspitfa00arisbrick)



[ptfa@stmarys.scarisbrick@gmail.com](mailto:ptfa@stmarys.scarisbrick@gmail.com)

Email us anytime



St Marys Catholic  
Primary School

PTFA Newsletter September 2023

This year we have  
spent £2,791



A Huge £1,891 was contributed to  
the school trips to Knowsley Safari,  
The Atkinson, Camp Out etc  
including the coaches.

Miscellaneous £315  
Eg Various Prizes, Parent kind membership  
(insurance)



£445 Treats for our children like Wonka  
Bars, Ice Cream Trucks & surprise visits



Year 6 Leavers Hoodie Contribution. £140  
(£10 per Child)



ST MARYS PTFA brings you our Annual

# SPONSORED SANTA DASH

Dear Parents

Calling all children to take part in our Sponsored 2024 Santa Dash on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, we're encouraging parents to wrap up warm and support from the sidelines too, or wear your running shoes and take part!! We will have warm drinks & cakes on sale and our Christmas Preloved Jumper Sale

Please choose from 1, 3 or 5K for your child to run, complete the slip below and return to school ASAP with your £2 entry fee. This enables us to buy our Santa hats and Medals etc. Any children that raise more than £20 will automatically get their £2 fee returned.

We have created a JustGiving Link to make the payment collection as easy as possible to share! Just don't forget to ask people to name the child they are sponsoring with each donation. Unless cash is absolutely necessary we are encouraging everyone to collect as much sponsorship as possible then deposit on the crowdfunding link to raise added support using Gift Aid, plus reducing the flow of cash into the school.

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ptfa-stmarys-santadash2024?utm\\_term=8ykRwk5BK](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ptfa-stmarys-santadash2024?utm_term=8ykRwk5BK)

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**Childs Name & Class -**

**Distance Running - 1k 3k 5k**-----

**Date of Run - 4th December 2024**

**£2 Entry Fee in a SEALED named envelope**

**\*\*\*Return ASAP before 26/11/24**



ST MARYS PTFA always working to raise vital funds for our school,  
St Mary's Catholic Primary School



St Mary's PTA

# Christmas Jumper Amnesty

## Donate

We are collecting unwanted Children's Christmas Jumpers this **Monday 17 December** please send any donations in with your child.

## Buy

New-to-You Christmas Jumpers at bargain prices at our Annual Santa Push Wednesday 19 December

## Score

The planet by buying pre-loved Jumpers

## Help

To raise vital funds for our PTA

# PTA Dates for your diary

*Friday, 18th October*

Multi Day for Spooky Bingo (donations of Halloween sweet treats would be very welcome)

*Half term break*

*Monday, 21st—Friday, 25th October*

*Monday, 28th October*

Send in your entries for the pumpkin competition

*Wednesday, 30th October*

Spooky Bingo (winners of the pumpkin competition announced)

*Monday, 4th November*

*Christmas Jumper donations*

*Thursday, 7th November*

PTFA AGM at the Morris Dancers

*Tuesday, 12th November*

Odd Socks Day (Anti-bullying week)

*Friday, 15th November*

Children in Need (donations welcome—thank you)

*Friday, 29th November*

Christmas Dog Toy Sale

*Wednesday, 4th December (3pm)*

Santa Dash (pre-loved Christmas jumper sale too!)

*Thursday, 12th December*

Christmas Jumper Day (for Save the Children)

*Friday, 20th December (3pm)*

*Break up for Christmas*



## PTA Dates for your diary

*Back to school*

*6th January, 2025*

*Monday, 13th January*

**PTA Bake Off**

*Half term break*

*Monday, 17th—Friday, 21st February*

*Thursday, 6th March*

**World Book Day Book Swap event**

*Friday, 21st March*

**Odd Socks Day (Down Syndrome)**

*Thursday, 27th March*

**Mother's Day shop**

*Friday, 28th March*

**Mufti Day for Easter Bingo (donations of Easter treats would be very welcome)**

*Sunday, 30th March*

**Mother's Day**

*Wednesday, 2nd April*

**Easter Bingo**

*Thursday, 3rd April (9.15am—during the Awards Assembly)*

**Easter Bonnet parade/ Egg decorating competition**

*Friday, 4th April (2pm)*

**Break up for Easter**



# PTA Dates for your diary

## Back to school

Tuesday, 22nd April

Thursday, 22nd May

Movie night

Friday, 23rd May

Mufti Day for Summer Fair (donations of teddies for the tombola would be very welcome)

## Half term break

Monday, 28th May—Friday, 6th June

Thursday, 12th June

Father's Day shop

Sunday, 15th June

Father's Day

Friday, 20th June

Mufti Day for Summer Fair (donations of bottles for the tombola would be very welcome)

Saturday, 21st June

Junior Warrior

Saturday, 28th June

Summer Fair

Wednesday, 23rd July

Ice cream truck

Wednesday, 23rd July (2pm)

Break up for Summer



# St Mary's Catholic Primary School

## 2024 - 2025 School Calendar

August '24							September '24							October '24						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		
November '24							December '24							January '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	
February '25							March '25							April '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1							1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
May '25							June '25							July '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30							27	28	29	30	31		
	School Open							INSET Day (Staff Only – no children)													
	School Closed/ Holidays																				