



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 28th November, 2025

The season of Advent begins this Sunday. Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth - God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus. Advent is also the season of hope: a time to think deeply about Jesus' return at the end of time, which we read about in this Sunday's Gospel.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Help us to 'stay awake' and to be aware of your presence in the people that we meet in this Advent season.

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...

Key Stage 1 Indoor Athletics Event

Eight of our Year 1 and Year 2 children had the wonderful opportunity to represent our school at St Bede's High School in the KS1 Indoor Athletics Competition. The event, hosted by the West Lancs Sports Partnership, brought together many local primary schools for an exciting evening of sport and teamwork.

Our children took part with great joy and pride in a variety of events, including speed bounce, obstacle races, javelin, and long jump, to name just a few. Their enthusiasm and determination shone through in every activity.



Miss Wade and Mrs Priestner were immensely proud—not only of how well the children competed, but more importantly of the way they represented our school with such positivity, respect, and team spirit. Well done!



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith

Class 3 Reading Café

On Wednesday morning, our classroom transformed into a cozy Reading Café. It was wonderful to see so many parents join us, sharing stories and enjoying books alongside the children. The children were delighted to read with their parents and show off their growing confidence. Parents and children explored a variety of texts together, sparking lively conversation. The event created a lovely atmosphere of togetherness, reinforcing the joy of reading as a shared experience.

Thank you to everyone who came along — your presence made the morning truly special. We look forward to hosting more opportunities like this in the future!



Gold Sports Games Award Success

We are delighted and extremely proud to share that our school has been awarded the prestigious Gold Sports Games Award last week. This recognition celebrates the commitment, enthusiasm, and teamwork shown across our sporting activities throughout the year.

Two of our outstanding Year 6 children had the honour of attending the award ceremony alongside Mrs McGrath, where they proudly accepted the award on behalf of the whole school community.

We are also delighted to share that our school has been recognised for its commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that every member of our school community is involved and valued in our sporting events. In recognition of this dedication, we were proudly awarded the Equal Access School Award for 2025. This achievement highlights the importance we place on creating opportunities for all children to participate, enjoy, and succeed in sport.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated staff, our fantastic play leaders, and especially Mrs McGrath for their tireless efforts in organising and supporting sporting events both in and out of school. This achievement is a true reflection of their hard work and the joyful spirit with which our children take part in sport.





Class 1 'Shining Stars'

This week, Class 1 have been learning all about Advent. We have learnt what Advent is, what people do during Advent, and how we can make better choices during Advent. The children have all made their own Advent wreaths, talking about what each of the candles mean.



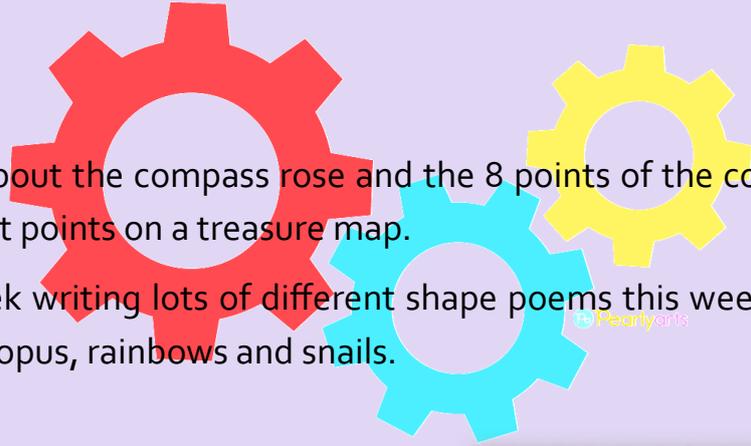
Class 1 have also been writing letters to Father Christmas this week! Now that we have learnt so much in Phonics, the children have been able to use their knowledge of letter sounds to write a letter telling Father Christmas how they have been so good this year, and what presents they might wish for. Once we have all written one, we are going to take them to the post box to send to the North Pole!



Later in the week, Class 1 were treated to a Mystery Reader all the way from Portugal! Arabella's Grandma came to read 'Monkey Puzzle' to us, which we really enjoyed!



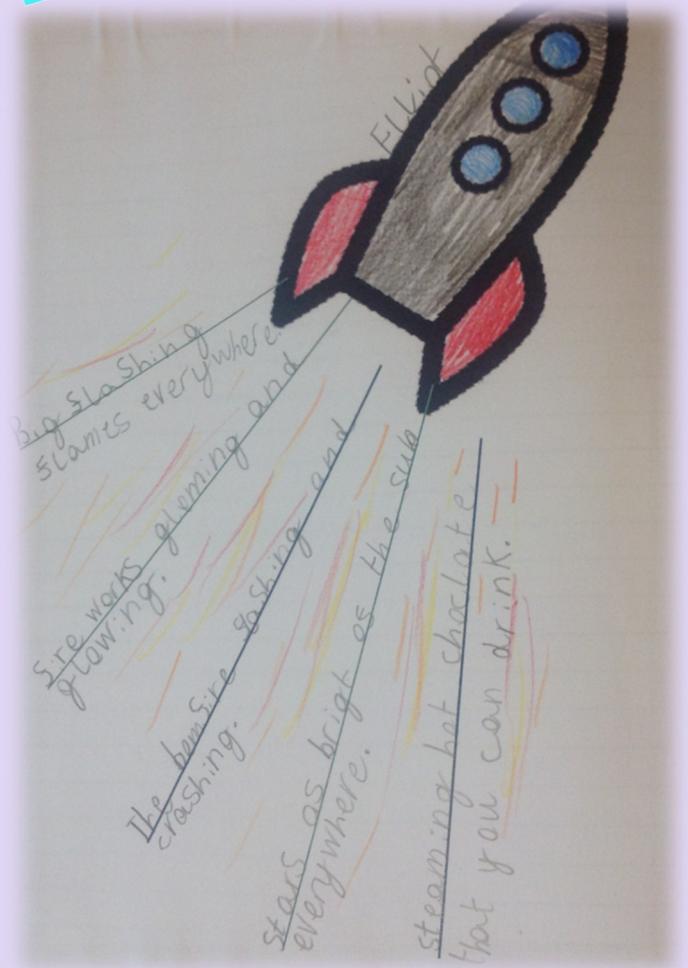
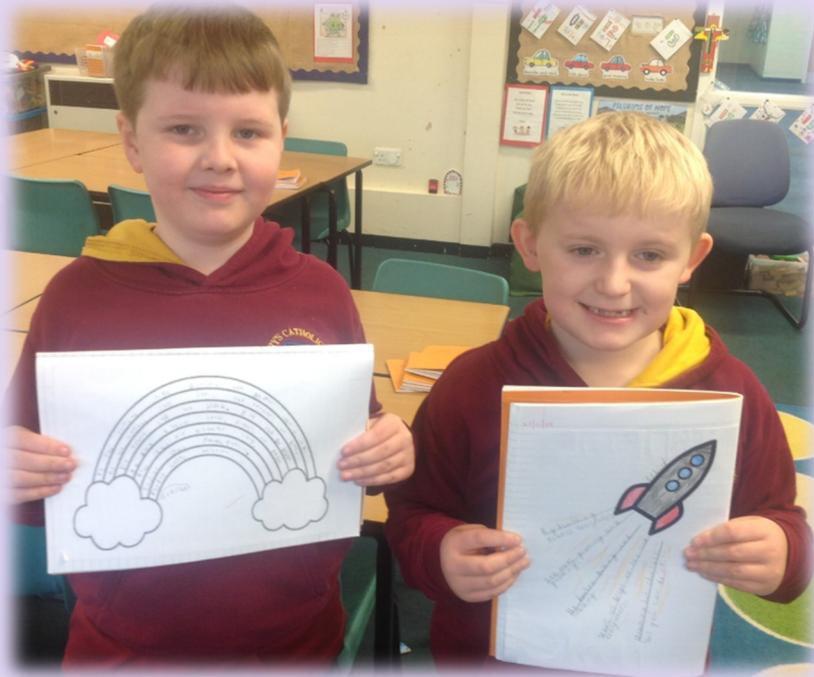
Class 2 'Trailblazers'



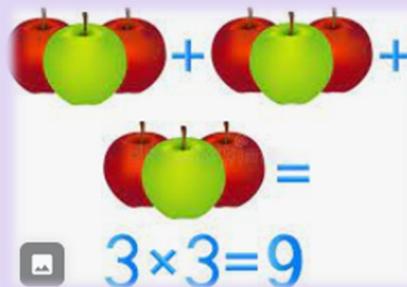
What a busy week!

We enjoyed learning all about the compass rose and the 8 points of the compass in Geography and used these to find different points on a treasure map.

We have had a lovely week writing lots of different shape poems this week to describe objects and animals including fish, octopus, rainbows and snails.



In maths we are working hard making and drawing arrays and using them to solve multiplication problems and we will continue this next week when we explore the different times tables.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



In Class 3 we've had another fantastic week in class, full of learning, teamwork, and creativity.

The children have continued their work on 'A Christmas Carol', diving deeper into the timeless story and exploring it in new ways, including:

- Film scripts: We examined how Dickens' classic has been adapted for the screen, noticing differences in dialogue and staging.
- Play scripts: Students compared how the same scenes are written for live performance, learning about stage directions and how actors bring words to life.
- Creative discussions: The children enjoyed debating which version they preferred and imagining how they might adapt the story themselves.
- Performance practice: Reading aloud gave everyone a chance to experiment with tone, expression, and character voices.

It's been wonderful to see their enthusiasm grow as they connect literature with performance. We're looking forward to building on this work next week, perhaps even trying out some short scenes of our own!





Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For being a kind friend	Good Work Award
Class 1	Cooper S	Joe R
Class 2	James S	Eric H
Class 3	Poppie H	Violet P
Headteacher's award	Taylor M	Caleb S
Mathematician of the week	Roman W	
Presentation award	Heidi MJ	
Attendance Award	Class 2 - 98.67%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 28.11.25

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	89.29%	3
Class 2	17	98.69%	1 
Class 3	23	98.07%	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



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



CAMP VENUES



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ACADEMY



ORMSKIRK
SCHOOL

ONLY
£22.50
per day



ENDEAVOUR
COMMUNITY



CHRISTMAS CAMP!

MON 22, TUE 23 DEC
MON 29, TUE 30 DEC

Arts & Crafts, Athletics,
Basketball, Dance,
Dodgeball, Football,
Invasion & Target Games,
Swimming* and much more!

*Tarleton only

ACTIVITY
CAMP



with
WEST LANCASHIRE
SPORT PARTNERSHIP



Open to
5 - 12
year olds

8.30AM
until
4.30PM

To book your child's place please visit
<https://ec.schoolactivity.co.uk>
and if you have any queries
please email



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)