



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 5th December, 2025

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too. In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help us to prepare well for Christmas and show us how we can help others to do the same.

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...

Whole school mass to welcome the season of Advent

On Wednesday, our school community came together to celebrate the beginning of Advent with a special whole-school Mass at St Elizabeth's Church. The children of Class 3 led the liturgy with such reverence and respect, guiding us all into the spirit of the season. Their beautiful singing filled the church and spread Christmas joy to everyone present.

We are deeply grateful to all the parents who were able to join us and share in this meaningful occasion. Your presence made the celebration even more special, and together we welcomed Advent with hearts full of hope and joy.



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

This week in Class 1 has been all things Christmas! The children are all definitely getting into the Christmas spirit, with the arrival of our Christmas tree, decorations and different Christmas enhancements to the learning areas of our classroom.

We enjoyed going to Church with the rest of the school on Wednesday to join in with a lovely Advent Mass.



In English, we have been looking at poetry. We focused on fireworks and bonfires, watching different videos of what they look like and how they sound. On Thursday, Year 1 have written their own poems using lots of exciting vocabulary!

Little Angel Gets Her Wings

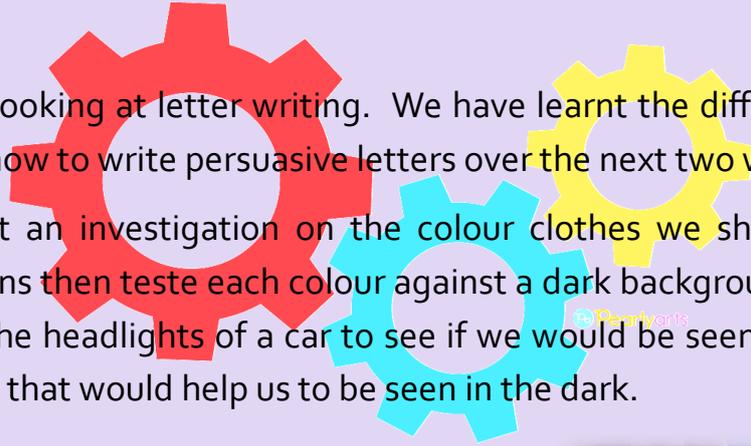


Class 1 have been super busy practising their lines and songs for our upcoming performance of 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' on Tuesday 16th December. We are very excited to show you what we have been working on.

Tuesday 16th December 2025
9:30am & 2:30pm



Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week we have been looking at letter writing. We have learnt the different parts a letter needs and we will be looking at how to write persuasive letters over the next two weeks.

In Science we carried out an investigation on the colour clothes we should wear to be seen at night. We made predictions then tested each colour against a dark background. We shone a torch on the colours to represent the headlights of a car to see if we would be seen by the driver. After that we designed our own coat that would help us to be seen in the dark.



Last week we sent out the logins for TT Rockstars. We all had a go on Wednesday and it was lots of fun. Please have a look with your child at home as this will help them to learn their weekly times tables.



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

The children were truly fantastic in Mass on Wednesday, when they led the whole school in our Advent Mass. They carried out the readings beautifully, and we were so proud of the whole class for their reverence and participation.



In Mathematics this week, Year 6 have been working hard on algebra, showing great perseverance with new concepts. Year 4 and 5 have been focusing on multiplication and division, building confidence with times tables and division facts. We encourage families to support this learning at home, and the children particularly enjoy practising rapid recall through TT Rockstars.

Last week, in RE, we explored the life and mission of John the Baptist. The children produced wonderful artwork, incorporating religious words and symbols to express their understanding.



In preparation for our trip to Liverpool next Wednesday, the children have been developing their mapping skills. They practised using OS maps to identify four- and six-figure grid references for places we'll be visiting. This activity sparked lots of excitement and helped them discover more about our local area.





Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For being full of hope	Good Work Award
Class 1	Elsie M	Angus P
Class 2	Alexandra B	Libby Mc
Class 3	Neveah G	Xander L
Headteacher's award	Evelyn D	Connie R
Mathematician of the week	Oscar S	
Presentation award	Maisy S	
Attendance Award	Class 2 - 98.04 %	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 05.12.25			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	89.36%	3
Class 2	17	98.04%	1 
Class 3	23	95.65%	2

Dates for your diary

Wednesday, 12th November	After School KS1 Multi-Sports Club & KS2 Craft Club begins
Friday, 21st November	KS2 Fitness Club (8.15 every Friday morning)
Wednesday, 10th December	Class 3 trip to Liverpool
Thursday, 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day (8am), Breakfast with Santa & Santa Dash
Friday, 12th December	Class 1 and 2 trip to Farmer Ted's
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



Parents and Carers, tell us about your experience of using childcare in Lancashire



Scan the QR code to
access our short survey

lancashire.gov.uk/childcare



CAMP VENUES



TARLETON
ACADEMY



ORMSKIRK
SCHOOL

ONLY
£22.50
per day



ENDEAVOUR
COMMUNITY



ACTIVITY
CAMP



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



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.*

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

(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



SCHOOL



lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County Council



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.

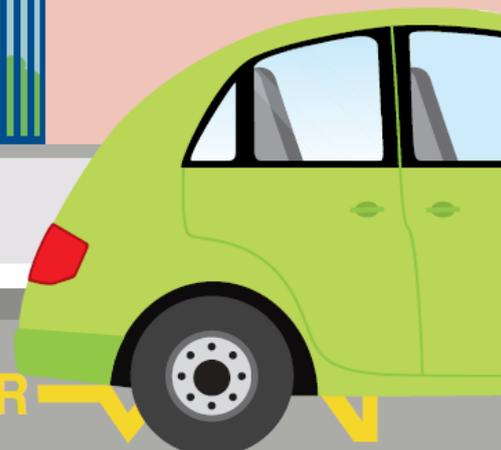
Am I okay to stop on zig zag markings if I am only there a few minutes?

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)