



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 12th December, 2025

This Sunday - the third Sunday of Advent - is known as Gaudete Sunday and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudet' in Latin means 'Rejoice!'. We rejoice that Christ is coming.

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*Please give us the courage always to do and say what is right and to remember that we can always put our faith in you.*

*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...

### Christmas Arrived at St Mary's!

What a magical Wednesday we had! The festivities began bright and early at 8am with Breakfast with Santa, bringing smiles and excitement to everyone.

At lunchtime, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch complete with crackers and treats—a huge thank you to Lisa & Sue for making it so special!

In the afternoon, our annual Santa Dash took place. What a wonderful community celebration! The children (and even some adults!) ran their hearts out, cheered on by our amazing Santa and his elf. Afterwards, we warmed up with some lovely refreshments.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped create such a joyful and festive day for everyone.



*Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith*



## Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Class 1 have been so lucky this week. Mr Robson, our Site Supervisor has been super busy making things for our new outdoor area. He has made us a new stage area and a mud kitchen too! The children have had the best time making the most of their new things. A huge thank you to you, Mr Robson!

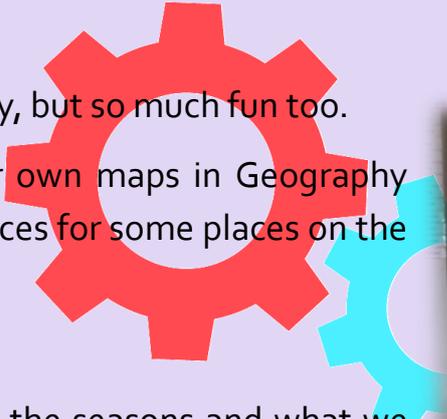


We have also had our final practise of our Nativity performance! The children have been amazing learning all of their words, songs and dance moves. On Monday, we will put our costumes on and perform for the rest of the school. We cannot wait to perform to our loved ones on Tuesday too!





## Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week has been so busy, but so much fun too.

On Monday we made our own maps in Geography and wrote the grid references for some places on the maps.

On Tuesday, we looked at the seasons and what we would see and wear in each season.

Wednesday, we had a great Christmas craft morning making cards, calendars, reindeer food and decorations, followed by PE and a Christmas movie in the afternoon.



Finally, we had the most fun on Thursday with Breakfast with Santa, Christmas dinner and our annual Santa Dash.



## Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



Class 3 have had a festive week of learning and adventure. The children have continued to work very hard in school and enjoyed a wonderful week full of learning and Christmas activities.



On Wednesday, we had a very special trip to Liverpool. The highlight was attending the Advent Service, where the children loved watching and joining in with the singing. We would like to thank all the parents and children who brought extra presents into school, we delivered these to the cathedral after the service.

We also explored the magnificent Liverpool Cathedral, before heading out on a tour of the city to see the sights we had discovered in our geography lessons last week.

Our visit to the Museum of Liverpool Life was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what it is like to live near Liverpool. The children were curious, engaged, and full of questions—making it a truly memorable experience.





## Class 1 and 2 Christmas trip to Farmer Ted's

What a wonderful Christmas trip our Class 1 and 2 children enjoyed at Farmer Ted's! The day was packed with festive fun and activities:

- Decorating gingerbread
- Making reindeer food
- Grooming the ponies and meeting the guinea pigs
- Writing postcards to Father Christmas
- Watching a magical Christmas panto
- And, of course, visiting Father Christmas himself!

A huge thank you to all the Class 1 and 2 staff for organising such a memorable and magical experience for the children.





## Class 3 'Bright Sparks' trip to Liverpool

On Wednesday, Class 3 had a very special trip to Liverpool. The highlight was attending the Advent Service, where the children loved watching and joining in with the singing. After the service we took time to explore the magnificent Liverpool Cathedral, before heading out on a tour of the city to see the sights we had discovered in our geography lessons last week.

We would like to thank all the parents and children who brought in new, unwrapped toys into school that will be donated to the Nugent Care charity to bring Christmas joy to families who are less fortunate than us.

In the afternoon we visited the Museum of Liverpool Life to learn more about what it is like to live near Liverpool. The children were curious, engaged, and full of questions—making it a truly memorable experience.





## Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 12.12.25			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	96.43%	2
Class 2	17	90.85%	3
Class 3	23	100%	1



Dear Parents & Carers,

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news! The Lancashire Attendance Team visited our school today and were full of praise. Our attendance is currently above both the Lancashire and national averages, which is an incredible achievement.

A huge thank you to all our families for supporting our whole-school commitment to excellent attendance. Your efforts truly make a difference every single day! Let's continue to strive for this throughout the next term.

Mrs Preston & the staff



Tuesday, 16th December	Christmas Party Lunch (see school lunch menu)
Tuesday, 16th December	Class 1 Nativity (9:30 and 2:30pm)
Wednesday, 17th December	Class 1 Christmas Crafts (2.25pm)
Thursday, 18th December	End of term awards assembly (9:15am) - all parents welcome
Friday, 19th December	Break up for Christmas (2pm)
Monday, 5th January	Back to school (8.55am)
6th—8th January	Year 5 Bikeability
Wednesday, 7th January	Mass for the Epiphany (9.30am in St Elizabeth's)

*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.



*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)



# 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](https://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare)



## CAMP VENUES



TARLETON  
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**

*(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)



SCHOOL



[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)**