



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 19th December, 2025

This Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Advent - we hear how an angel appeared to Joseph to tell him what a special baby Jesus would be. We are going to be thinking about parents and babies from around the world.

Loving God,

Loving God, as we wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, we give thanks for the wonderful gift of new life. We pray for all parents around the world and for their children, that they will be healthy, happy and love one another.

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...

Wishing You a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas

As we come to the end of this term, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our families. Your presence at the many school activities, your generosity at fundraising events, and the time and effort you dedicate to support your children's learning—especially their reading—are truly appreciated.

Your support makes a real difference, and we are so grateful for the partnership we share in helping every child thrive.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Wow! We have a class full of children heading to Hollywood! On Tuesday, Class 1 performed our Nativity to all of their families. Everybody absolutely loved both performances and the children had so much fun throughout.

Class 1 were very impressed to get a standing ovation and make all of the grown-ups cry!



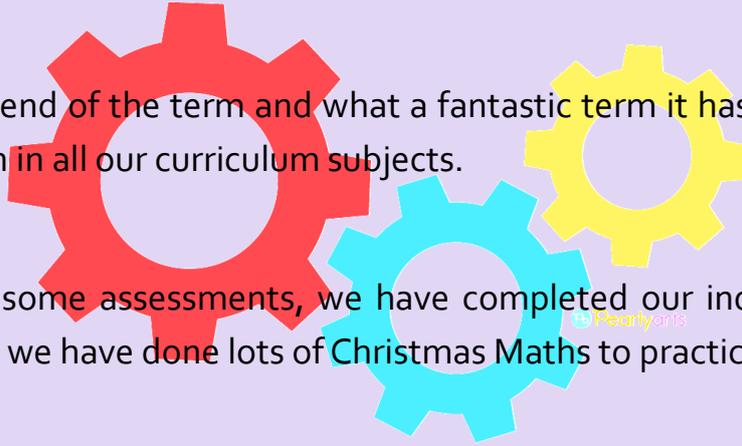
On Wednesday, Class 1 hosted a Christmas craft afternoon where they could spend time with their families listening to Christmas music and doing lots of different Christmas crafts!

Class 1 want to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to support us this week. Have a wonderful Christmas!





Class 2 'Trailblazers'



Well, we are finally at the end of the term and what a fantastic term it has been. We have learnt so much and had so much fun in all our curriculum subjects.

This week we have done some assessments, we have completed our independent writing for our persuasive letters unit and we have done lots of Christmas Maths to practice our key skills.

On Wednesday we finished our DT topic by building paper towers and evaluating how well our designs and building skills were.

We are all looking forward to a well deserved rest over the holidays ready to start again in the New Year.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

Thank you for all your support — it truly makes a difference. The children continue to work hard, showing resilience, creativity, and enthusiasm every day. We're proud of their progress and grateful for the encouragement from home. Together, we're building a wonderful learning journey!

This term, our budding engineers have been busy designing and constructing scale model bridges. Using creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, the children explored different structures and materials to bring their ideas to life. The finished bridges were both imaginative and sturdy, showing how much thought went into each design. We're so proud of their achievements — a wonderful example of learning through hands-on exploration!



Our gymnastics sessions have now come to an end, and what a marvellous finale it was! This week, the children explored a variety of different games and activities, showing off their balance, coordination, and teamwork. Their enthusiasm and energy filled the gym, and it was wonderful to see everyone participating with such joy.



We're proud of the progress they've made and the confidence they've gained through these sessions. A big well done to all!



Attendance



Attendance for the Autumn Term

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	92.33%	3
Class 2	17	96.68%	2
Class 3	23	97.01%	1



Celebration Assembly



	Progress Award	Achievement Award
Class 1	Arabella F	Lyle W
Class 2	Lila G	Ella C-Mc
Class 3	Poppy G	Poppy P
Attendance Award	Class 3	
100% Attendance Award for the Autumn Term	Class 1— Evelyn D, Joe R, Cooper S Class 2— Ronan D, Fia H, Emily H, Jenson L, Libby Mc Class 3— Iris D, Ella R, Bowen S	

Important Dates



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)
Monday, 12th January	Mad Science assembly
10th—13th February	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, 13th February	Break up for half term

Have a wonderful Christmas! 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.



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



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access our short survey

lancashire.gov.uk/childcare



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5 - 12
year olds

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4.30PM

To book your child's place please visit
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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



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)