



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Hall Road, Scarisbrick, Lancashire. L40 9QE

Tel: (01704) 880 626

Website: www.stmaryscps.co.uk

Email: head@st-marys-scarisbrick.lancs.sch.uk

Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 9th January, 2026

In this Sunday's gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted, because he wanted to stand alongside the community—to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow. Jesus, God's beloved Son, came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with each other as we start this New Year.

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...

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

We hope you and your families enjoyed a joyful Christmas break. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week, refreshed, smiling, and ready for the new term ahead. There is a lovely sense of energy and enthusiasm around school, and we are excited for all the learning, growth, and special moments the coming weeks will bring.

A heartfelt thank you to all who joined us for the Epiphany Mass on Wednesday. It was a truly beautiful celebration. The children read and sang with such confidence and reverence, and we are incredibly proud of the way they helped lead the liturgy. Your presence and support made the occasion even more meaningful.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the PTFA for their incredible fundraising efforts throughout 2024–25. Thanks to their hard work—and your generous support—we have been able to purchase some fantastic new playground equipment that the children are already enjoying. Class 3 were the first to put it to the test with a brilliant game of netball at lunchtime. It's clear the new equipment will bring lots of joy and active play. And this is just the beginning. There are more treats and improvements planned for this term, all made possible by the dedication of our PTFA and your continued support at school events.

Thank you once again for everything you do for our school. Wishing you every blessing for the year ahead.



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Class 1 have made a seamless return to school after the New Year. The children have settled back in amazingly and have loved catching up with their friends about their Christmas holidays.

We have jumped straight into our new learning this week, the children have been introduced to their new Guided Reading & Literacy texts, and have started to explore their new topics in other subjects too!

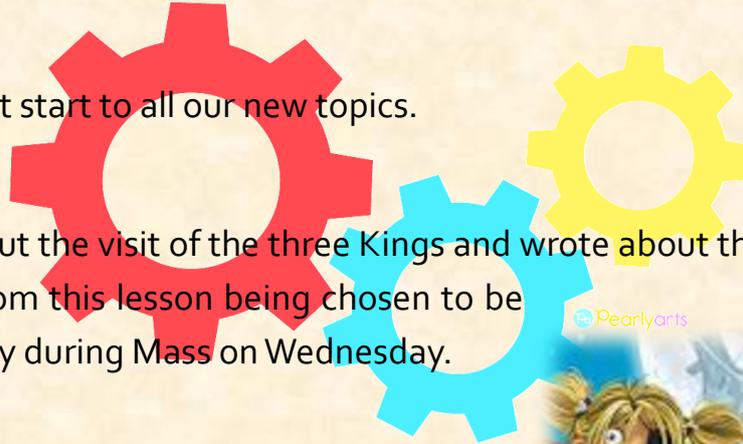
On Wednesday, we joined the whole school on a trip over to Church where we were proud to sing a song from our Christmas play. We loved seeing lots of our families there!



On Thursday, Class 1 held a Stay & Play session where we welcomed our current families in, alongside some children who will be joining us throughout 2026. We can't wait to spend more time with them!



Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week has been a great start to all our new topics.

On Monday we learnt about the visit of the three Kings and wrote about the events. Well done Elliot for your fantastic work from this lesson being chosen to be taken up with the Offertory during Mass on Wednesday.

We are really enjoying our new book "The Pirates Next Door" by Jonny Duddle and have been doing some fantastic descriptive writing and exploration of how the characters feel.



In Science we have started our new topic on Materials by looking at what different objects are made from and sorting them into sets. Next week we will be moving on to investigating the properties of some of these objects.





Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



This week, we have been delighted to welcome all Class 3 families and children back for another term filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities. After a well-deserved break, the children have returned with renewed energy and enthusiasm, ready to dive into everything the new term has to offer.

The children have already worked incredibly hard on our new topics. To explore these in more detail, please visit the class page on the school website.

We have begun our exciting new history unit all about the Anglo-Saxons. Did you know that the word Scarisbrick is actually a Viking word? The children loved discovering this local connection. This week, we created timelines and explored the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain, sparking lots of curiosity and great discussion.



In PE, we have started our unit on invasion games. It was wonderful to have Josh back with us today, putting the children through their paces and helping them build teamwork, strategy, and confidence.



In English, we have begun our exciting new Earthlings topic. This week, the children have been exploring Science Fiction, thinking creatively about what our planet might look like in the future. They have enjoyed imagining new technologies, futuristic landscapes, and how life on Earth could change over time.



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 09.01.26			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	98.60%	1
Class 2	17	98.04%	2
Class 3	23	95.17%	3



Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For making a positive start to the new term	Good Work Award
Class 1	Emma O	Reuben W-D
Class 2	Oscar S	Elliot H
Class 3	Harry R	Ella R
Headteacher's award	Poppy P	Emrys Mc
Mathematician of the week	Lyle W	
Presentation award	Tommy G	
Attendance Award	Class 1 - 98.60%	

Important Dates



Monday, 12th January	Mad Science assembly
Wednesday, 14th January	KS2 Rugby Club begins (until 11th February)
Friday, 16th January	Friday Fitness Club begins
10th—13th February	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, 13th February	Break up for half term

Happy New Year! 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





St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith

Religious Education Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Important dates this term

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

1st January

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th January

The Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Three Kings to the infant Jesus.

There will be mass on Wednesday, 7th January St Elizabeth's Church at 9.30am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

11th January

The Baptism of the Lord commemorates Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, commemorates the time when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth

SHROVE TUESDAY

17th February

ASH WEDNESDAY

18th February

Ash Wednesday is a day of reflection, marking the beginning of Lent and a 40-day period of preparation for Easter

ST DAVID

2nd March

MOTHERING SUNDAY

15th March

ST PATRICK

17th March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

25th March

The Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the moment when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

29th March

Palm Sunday recalls the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, where people greeted him by waving palm branches and laying their cloaks in his path

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd April

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ and the washing of his disciples' feet.

GOOD FRIDAY

3rd April

EASTER SUNDAY

5th April

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SPRING TERM 2026
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 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and 'Desert to Garden'.

GALILEE TO JERUSALEM
(5TH January – 13th February)

Class 1 GALILEE TO JERUSALEM – The Wise Men visit Jesus. Jesus came to show God's love and welcomes everyone. Jesus takes care of everyone.

Class 2 GALILEE TO JERUSALEM – The children will deepen their knowledge about who Jesus is and understand how he teaches about the nature of God through parables and miracles.

Class 3 GALILEE TO JERUSALEM - The children will consider Jesus' question to Peter, 'Who do you say I am?' They will also reflect on Jesus as the servant Messiah and how he announces the Kingdom of Heaven to those at the edge of society.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

Read Bible stories
together or
encourage children to
read a
child's Bible.

DESERT TO GARDEN
(23rd February – 27th March)

Class 1 DESERT TO GARDEN – Jesus wants us to care for others in Lent. Jesus died on a cross. Jesus rose and we celebrate.

Class 2 DESERT TO GARDEN – The children will revisit scripture from the previous year to consolidate learning about the events of Holy Week. They will also explore how Lent is a time of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Class 3 DESERT TO GARDEN - The children will explore Lent's themes of forgiveness and reconciliation and the idea that devotion to God leads a person to do good works. They will also look at Holy Week in St Matthew's gospel.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

As a family talk about
how you are going to
practice self-giving for
the rest of the season of
Lent. You may decide to
give up biscuits or cakes
and donate the money to
a charity. Ask your
child/ren what they are
doing in school to focus
on Lent and self-giving.

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



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)