



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 16th January, 2026

In this Sunday's gospel, we return to the beginning of Jesus' mission. The humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. John the Baptist is one of the best known saints. He encouraged his own followers to leave him and become followers of Jesus. His life witnessed to the truth about Jesus and, because of him, many people came to know and follow Jesus.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please help us to be your witnesses by your love, so that others will come to know the joy of knowing 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...

Mad Science Ignites a Sense of Wonder

This week quite literally started with a bang, as the team from Mad Science visited school to deliver an exciting assembly for the children. We hope many of you are able to sign up for the club. The sessions will run on Monday's after school, beginning on Monday 23rd February. If you need another letter, or would prefer the details sent by email, please let me know.

Benchball Brilliance from Our Y5/6 Team

A fantastic group of Y5/6 children represented our school at the inter-schools benchball competition yesterday, and they did us proud. From the first whistle to the final point, they played with spirit and enthusiasm, showing real determination and impressive sportsmanship throughout every match.

Their teamwork, encouragement of one another, and positive attitude stood out just as much as their skills on the court. It was wonderful to see them competing so confidently and supporting other schools with the same kindness they showed each other.

Well done to every player involved — a brilliant effort all round.



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'



This week, Class 1 have embraced their current topic: Winter & The Arctic. The children have been especially interested in learning about Arctic animals. Together, we have researched the animals in different ways such as discussions, watching videos, and reading fiction and non-fiction books. During outdoor play, Nursery & Reception have been working together to make their very own igloo!



Our Year 1 children have continued to work extremely hard across all of their curriculum subjects. In Phonics, they are learning alternative ways of spelling the sounds that they already know.

We have been focusing on 'I wonder...!' across our

subjects this week. In History, the children have been wondering why people would like to explore Antarctica.

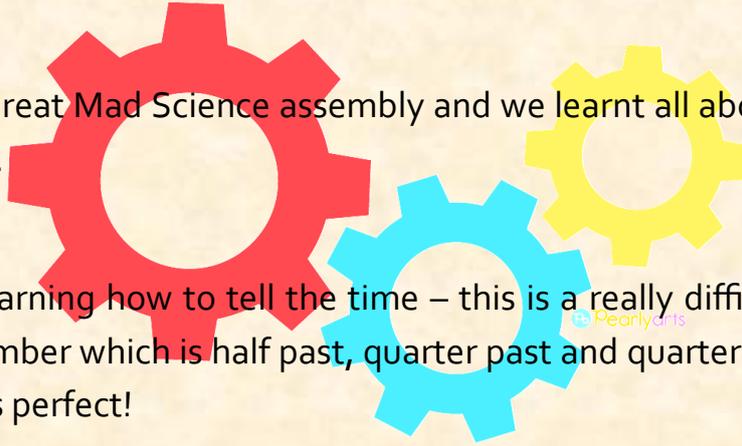
In RE, they have been wondering what the Magi would have been saying/ thinking on their journey to visit Baby Jesus.

We still have some super readers reaching the end of our class reading challenge! Some children are now completing it for a 2nd time!!





Class 2 'Trailblazers'



This week started with a great Mad Science assembly and we learnt all about different ways that we could try to get into space.

In Maths we have been learning how to tell the time – this is a really difficult topic and everyone is trying really hard to remember which is half past, quarter past and quarter to. Please help your child at home as practice makes perfect!

In History we have been learning about Christopher Columbus, his early life and why he wanted to travel a different way to Asia.

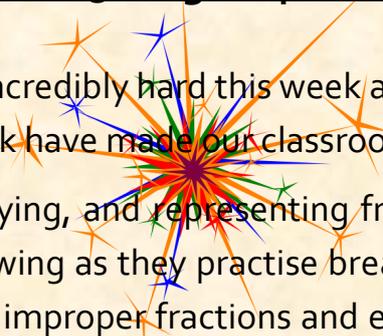
On Wednesday we carried on with our Rugby skills with Josh. We all love the warm up games and we are getting really good at passing the ball correctly.



We will finish the week trying out new techniques to fold and cut paper ready to make a 2D paper sculpture next week.



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



Well done, Class 3! You have worked incredibly hard this week and are truly shining like bright sparks. Your effort, enthusiasm, and teamwork have made our classroom a wonderful place to learn.

Class 3 have been comparing, simplifying, and representing fractions using visual models and real-life examples. Their confidence is growing as they practise breaking wholes into equal parts, finding equivalent fractions, using mixed and improper fractions and explaining their reasoning to partners. We will continue building fraction fluency next week. Many of the class have shown fantastic perseverance in Maths this week — fractions can be tricky, but their determination is shining.

The class has been developing imaginative characters, settings, and plots within the sci-fi genre. They explored how futuristic worlds and “what if” ideas can shape a compelling narrative, and it's been exciting to see their creativity come alive through detailed planning and descriptive writing. We will begin drafting their science fiction stories, focusing on dialogue and action verbs with descriptive language, I cannot wait to read their final pieces.

Class 3 investigated why and how the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain. They examined the decline of Roman rule, the search for new land and resources, and the journeys different groups made across the North Sea. Using maps, timelines, and historical sources, they pieced together how these settlers' established communities across Britain. Our history lessons have been full of collaboration, with the children sharing ideas and supporting each other during research tasks.





Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 16.01.26			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	97.20%	2
Class 2	17	95.42%	3
Class 3	23	98.55%	1



Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For being 'ready to learn'	Good Work Award
Class 1	Ashton H	Eleanor B
Class 2	Fia H	Connie Mc
Class 3	Isaac F	Bowen S
Headteacher's award	Isabella E	Xander L
Mathematician of the week	Caleb S	
Presentation award	Elsie G	
Attendance Award	Class 3 - 98.55 %	

Important Dates



Wednesday, 14th January	KS2 Rugby Club begins (until 11th February)
Friday, 16th January	Friday Fitness Club begins
Tuesday, 27th January	Fencing assembly
10th—13th February	Scholastic Book Fair
Friday, 13th February	Break up for half term

Have a wonderful weekend! From Mrs Preston & the staff of St Mary's

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





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



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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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)