



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

A celebration of 2023-24 and a look ahead to 2024-25

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are embarking on a new school year. The end of last term was a time to celebrate all that is St Mary's – the children's talents, their love of learning, and their achievements, which are all rooted in our faith.

All classes went on trips; our Y6 pupils amazed us with their talents; the whole school celebrated in a service in St Elizabeth's church; 15 of our children journeyed through their sacraments; and 20 children received special recognition for their academic progress and achievement.

Please read on to reflect on a year of St Mary's celebrations ...



End of term awards

On the final day of term we gathered together, with great pride, as a school family to celebrate the achievements of the following children:

Achievement	Progress
Eleanor B	Joe R
Ella C-Mc	Jenson L
Elliot H	Marci C
Poppy P	Maisy S
Violet P	Ella R
Erin C	Poppy G
Jed M	Evie H
James R	James W

End of year special awards

Lady Scarisbrick	Troy P
British values	Penelope P
Arthur Halsall – Sporting Achievement	James W
Wilfred Johnson Cup – Sporting Endeavour	Charlotte D

End of year attendance

Attendance for the year ending 19.07.24			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Reception	14	93.53%	2
Year 1/ 2	22	94%	1
Year 3/ 4	19	93.01%	3
Year 5/ 6	32	92.59%	4

Sacramental Programme

On Sunday, 21st July, 15 of our Y3 -5 children took the next step in their faith journey by making the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion. They prepared for the sacraments with such reverence and respect, awe and wonder. We are so proud of them.

I would like to give a special mention to Mrs Priestner, Mrs Ormsby, Mrs Halsall and Father Hugh for their spiritual guidance throughout the preparation and making their sacramental mass such a special occasion for all the children and their families.



'Shining in our faith'

As a Catholic school, our mission is to 'live out' our faith. I am so proud of the way that our children do this day after day in the way that they care for the members of their school family and community. They have supported various charities: Downs Syndrome Association and Children in Need to name but a few.

In the Autumn Term we participated in the Community Connectors 'Wrap Up' project by collecting outdoor coats for families who were less fortunate. The School Council were then invited to a presentation at the Council offices as a way of thanking them for their support.



During Holy Week the whole school family gathered together in support of the CAFOD Big Lent Charity Walk. What a wonderful occasion it was and also a wonderful way to support our global brothers and sisters.



Many thanks to all the families who continue to support sustainability by exchanging pre-loved uniforms. We are hoping to extend this mission by opening a school foodbank where families can donate provisions for the local community.

School trips

A huge thank you to the PTFA who supported the school trips. The EYFS and Y1/ 2 children had a wonderful day at Knowsley Safari Park, whilst enhancing their knowledge of the science curriculum.



The Year 3/ 4 children also developed their science topic while visiting Martin Mere.



The Y5 children had a wonderful experience on their 'Camp Out': cooking, making s'mores, archery competitions to name but a few!



The Y6 children left St Mary's with the fantastic memories of their three days at Waddecar Adventure Centre. Their participation, positivity, resilience and togetherness were certainly themes of the residential!



Extra-curricular

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the teaching staff who have given the children some fantastic experiences outside curriculum time. Their commitment is greatly appreciated by all. The children have loved participating in:

- Christmas Craft club
- Phonics & Reading clubs
- Y6 SATs club
- Mad Science
- KS2 Fencing
- Y5 Tag Rugby
- Benchball
- Dodgeball
- KS2 Cross Country

- KS2 Swimming gala
- Y1/2 Euro Football
- Olympic Games



School Games award

I am delighted to announce that, at the end of term, we were awarded the Silver School Games mark!

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.



Pace to Paris

On the weekly newsletters I kept you updated on our 506 mile 'journey' from Ormskirk to Paris to celebrate the summer Olympic Games. With the dedication of Mrs McGrath, Mr Doyle and the Friday morning running club, we completed a staggering 2258 miles! We were one of only 7 schools in whole of West Lancs to complete the challenge. What an achievement!



PTFA

The staff and pupils would like to express their sincere thanks to the PTFA for working tirelessly to provide the school community with wonderful experiences, whilst raising money for the school. The children loved:

- Movie nights
- Children in Need
- Santa dash
- Bingo nights
- Bake Off
- Mother's & Father's Day shops
- Easter Hat parade
- Summer Fair and Ice Cream treats!



Thank you to all the parents who gave their time to help at events and also bring their children to participate. We would be so grateful if you could continue this support as the PTFA continue to raise funds to update the playground equipment.

A new school year!

We start the new school year with great excitement! Many of the children have moved to their new classes, and we wish them every happiness and success.

We have a number of children who are starting St Mary's for the first time, and we have loved welcoming them into our school family.

We are very excited about our new Early Years class, with Miss Wade and Mrs Byrne nurturing and growing the children in their love of learning as they begin their school journey.

The class structure for 2024-25 will be:

- EYFS – Miss Wade & Mrs Byrne
- Y1/ 2 – Mrs McGrath
- Y3/ 4 – Mrs Priestner
- Y5/ 6 – Mrs Sykes, Mrs Burton-Duff, Mrs Geldart

Term dates

Autumn Term 2024

INSET Training - Monday, 2nd September

Open on - Tuesday, 3rd September

Mid-term Closure - 21st October to 25th October (Inclusive)

Closure after school - Friday, 20th December

Spring Term 2025

Re-Open on - Monday, 6th January

Mid-term Closure - 17th to 21st February (Inclusive)

Closure after school - Friday, 4th April

Summer Term 2025

Re-Open on - Tuesday, 22nd April

May Day Holiday - Monday, 5th May

Mid-term Closure - 26th May to 6th June (Inclusive)

Closure after school - Wednesday, 23rd July

INSET Training - Thursday 24th July

A new school curriculum

Throughout the summer term, the staff have been working hard on re-designing the curriculum for the new school year. The new, exciting curriculum is designed to provide the children with as many opportunities as possible to connect their learning, which will help them to remember and apply knowledge and build upon their skills. Here are the new 'curriculum connectors' for each year group:

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS	All About Me	Celebrations	People Who Help Us	Spring – Lifecycles (Chicks/Ducks)	Things that move	The Seaside
	Autumn	Special Interests	On The Farm	Special Interests	Minibeasts	Special Interests
Year 1/ 2	Hot and Cold Places	Animal Antics	Fire! Fire!	The Great Outdoors	Our World	Wonderful Colours
Year 3/ 4	The Stone Age	Staying Healthy	Volcanoes and Earthquakes	The Romans	Plant Life	Our Local Area
Year 5/6	World Trade	Movement	Around The World	The Ancient Greeks	The Amazon Basin	Food

Within each curriculum connector, the children will be exploring a range of writing genres, driven by some good quality, rich texts. We will keep you informed about these books so that the children can extend their reading and exposure to new authors outside, as well as, inside the classroom.

Information will be posted on the school website to keep you informed about the school curriculum.

Catholic Life

Sadly we said goodbye to Father Hugh at the end of the school year as he begins his new role at Douai Abbey. I am extremely grateful to him for his support on the Governing Body as well as with the sacramental programme.

We are now going to welcome Father Godric back to St Elizabeth's parish and to our school. We will be regularly celebrating school masses with him. I will continue to extend the invitation to the masses and keep you informed of their dates and times.

Modern Foreign Languages

In Key Stage 2, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is part of the National Curriculum. In the new academic year, we will be launching the teaching of Spanish as our chosen MFL. The lessons will be largely based on speaking and listening, reading and writing, learning songs, stories and poems and will then progress onto learning grammar based rules. Estoy emocionada! How exciting!



West Lancs Sports Partnership

West Lancs Sports Partnership will continue to provide one PE session per week for all classes, teaching a range of skills from gymnastics, striking and fielding games, dance and Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

This year we have also invested in 'bolt on' programmes for each of the classes: mini-wheelers and yoga (EYFS and KS1), rugby, swimming and health and fitness (for KS2).

The class teachers will inform you of the PE days each term. The children will continue to come into school in their PE kits on PE days. As you know, we are rolling out the new school PE kit (t-shirt, shorts and an optional PE hoodie) over the next two years. It is now available in the Premier Sports store on Aughton Street, Ormskirk or on their website [St Marys Catholic Primary School Scarisbrick – Premier Sports And School Wear Ltd \(premierwearuk.net\)](https://www.premiersports.com).

Looking ahead to the new school year with excitement.

Mrs Preston & the staff of St Mary's