



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 13th March, 2026

This Sunday we hear how Jesus helped a blind man to see again. We can see many wonderful things that God has made in our world. But we also need to open our eyes to where things have gone wrong and try to do what we can to change them.

*God of power and glory,*

*We give you thanks for the gift of sight. Open our eyes to the good things in this world. Help us also to see when things are wrong and what we can do to change them.*

*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/>

## This week in school...

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see the opening of our new front entrance this week. We are extremely grateful to the Archdiocese for funding this important project. I would also like to thank you once again for your patience and understanding as we navigated the recent changes to routine and access. Your continued cooperation and partnership were truly appreciated.



This week we have embraced our 'curiosity' whilst celebrating Science, Technology, engineering and Maths during British Science Week. We hope you enjoy reading about the wonderful learning and experiences in each of our Science classes.

*Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith*



## Science Week 2026!

### Class 1

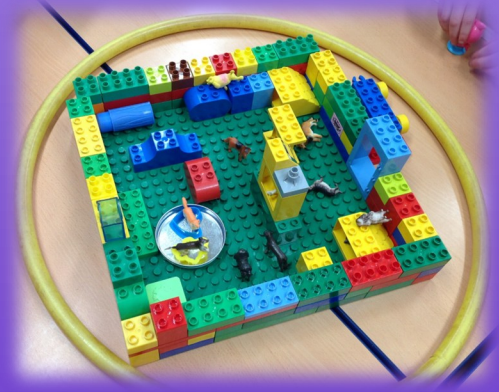
On Tuesday, Angus brought his Silkie chicks into school for us to look after for the day! The children were so curious about the sounds they made, whether they had enough food and how cuddly they were!



### Year 1 and 2

For Science week, we carried on our investigation work on materials by learning about Charles Macintosh and how he invented waterproofing. We then sorted items by whether they are water proof or not.

We had hoped to go outside and do some small world building in the Forest School area but the weather was wild and windy so we made them inside instead using the building materials. We had a dog training school, a Jurassic World and an animal sanctuary.





## Science Week 2026!

### Year 3 and 4

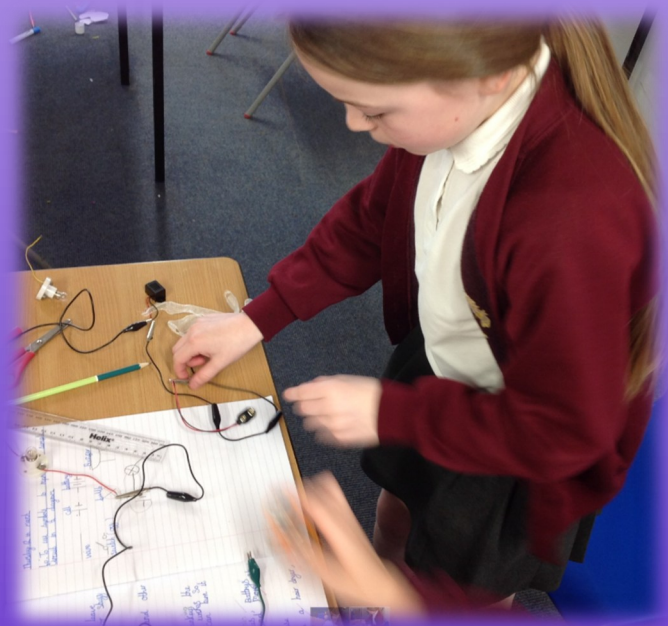
Year 3 and 4 have been investigating the water cycle in Science. This week we focused on evaporation—where it happens and why. To explore this, the children set up an experiment to grow their own sugar and salt crystals, and we're excited to observe the results next week.



### Year 5 and 6

The Year 5 and 6 science group have been busy experimenting with electrical circuits—and their curiosity led to some truly impressive results! Tasked with creating a circuit that could light a bulb, incorporate a working switch, and power a buzzer, the children rose to the challenge with determination and enthusiasm.

Throughout the activity, their resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving skills were put to the test. They investigated what happens when circuits are incomplete, experimented with different components, and persevered until their creations lit up, clicked, and buzzed just as they intended.





## Class 1 'Shining Stars'

What a busy week Class 1 have had!

On Monday, we went outside to explore the changes we see in different seasons. The children collected things that they noticed and used them in class to make a 'journey stick'!



On Wednesday, we held an exciting Easter Craft morning. Thank you to lots of our adults for coming along and having fun with us too.

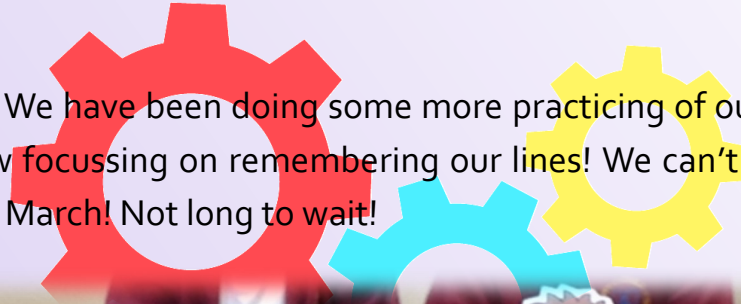
On Thursday, we had a visit from the Library Bus! We enjoyed a catch up with Victoria and explored all of the new books she had on the bus. We have chosen some to enjoy together in class too.

Throughout the week, we have also been preparing for Mother's Day by making wonderful crafts and cards for the special people in our lives.





## Class 2 'Trailblazers'



What another busy week. We have been doing some more practicing of our Easter play. The singing is fantastic, so we are now focussing on remembering our lines! We can't wait for you to come and see it on Wednesday, 25th March! Not long to wait!



Last Friday we designed and made sock puppets in DT – we had lots of fun colouring and choosing eyes and then playing with them.

In PE we did some more running and jumping skills using the floor ladders. We also practiced standing long jump and standing high jump.

In ICT we have been learning about yes/no questions that can be used to sort information. We practiced using these questions to play games of Guess Who.





## Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

Class 3 have had a wonderful week. The children have worked incredibly hard and shown real enthusiasm as they continue exploring our current topics. Their focus, teamwork, and growing confidence have been a joy to see, and we're excited to build on this momentum in the weeks ahead.

It's been a busy and exciting week across our maths groups, with pupils diving into new concepts and showing fantastic determination. Our Year 4 and Year 5 mathematicians have been exploring decimal numbers, focusing on tenths and hundredths. They've been investigating how decimals link to fractions, using place value grids and hundred squares to deepen their understanding. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been working incredibly hard on their statistics unit. They've been interpreting line graphs, analysing data sets, and discussing what information graphs can show us.



In PE this week, the children have continued their work on health and wellbeing with Mollie. Our focus has been on developing both physical strength and emotional resilience, and the children have really embraced the challenge. Through a mix of fitness activities, teamwork tasks, and reflective discussions, they've shown determination, perseverance, and a growing understanding of how to look after their bodies and minds.





## Attendance



### Attendance for the week ending 13.03.26

	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	95.14%	3
Class 2	17	100%	1
Class 3	23	100%	1



## Celebration Assembly



	Special Award - For loving others	Good Work Award
Class 1	Eleanor B	Taylor M
Class 2	Libby Mc	Theo P
Class 3	Neveah G	Isaac F
Headteacher's award	Clay W	Otto S
Mathematician of the week	Penelope P	
Presentation award	Athea H	
Attendance Award	Class 2 & 3 — 100%	

## Important Dates



Wednesday, 25th February	Easter Craft Club (first of three sessions)
Monday, 2nd March	KS2 netball club (first of 4 sessions) - 3.20—4.15pm
Tuesday, 3rd March	Fencing (first of 5 sessions) - 8.00—8.45am
Monday, 16th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday, 25th March	Class 2 Easter Play (9.30am & 2.30pm)
Thursday, 26th March	End of term celebration assembly
Friday, 27th March	Break up for Easter (2pm)

*Happy Mother's Day! From Mrs Preston & the staff of St Mary's*

# Upcoming PTA Events

**MARCH  
16**  
*Own Clothes Day for  
Easter treats donation*

**MARCH  
18**  
3.30 - 4.30PM  
*"Easter bingo"*

**APR  
30**  
3.30 - 4.30PM  
*"Family quiz night!"*

**MAY  
21**  
3.30 - 5PM  
*"Family Fun Festival"*

**JUN  
22**  
Donation of teddies for  
the toy tombola

**JULY  
03**  
Donation of bottles for  
the tombola and gifts  
for the Rainbow Raffle

**JULY  
04**  
12.30 - 2.30PM  
*"Summer Fair"*

**JULY  
22**  
12.30 - 1PM  
*Ice cream van!*

**Thank you for  
your support!**

CAMP VENUES



TARLETON  
ACADEMY



ORMSKIRK  
SCHOOL

ONLY  
**£22.50**  
per day



ENDEAVOUR  
COMMUNITY



ACTIVITY  
CAMP

EASTER CAMP

MON 30<sup>TH</sup> MAR-

THU 2<sup>ND</sup> APR

TUE 7<sup>TH</sup> - FRI 10<sup>TH</sup> APR

Arts & Crafts, Athletics,  
Basketball, Dance,  
Dodgeball, Football,  
Invasion and  
Target Games, Swimming\*  
and much more!

\*Tarleton only



with  
WEST LANCASHIRE  
SPORT PARTNERSHIP



EASTER

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  
[holidaycamps@endeavourlearning.org](mailto:holidaycamps@endeavourlearning.org)



# Learn to Ride



The WLSP Learn to Ride and Level 1 programme is a great introduction to cycling for primary aged children.

**Available for ages 7+**

## ABOUT

Our fully qualified and experienced instructors will aim to improve the participants riding ability and overall confidence.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Sessions take place on the tennis courts at Burscough Priory Academy. Please access the Main Car Park and make your way to the school's reception where our instructor will be there to greet you.

Please feel free to book multiple sessions and for more practice!

\*\*\* A limited number of helmets can be provided, but we encourage you to bring your own if possible - please contact us first before booking if you require a helmet

\*\*\*

**\*\*\* Children must bring their own bike \*\*\***



## LOCATIONS AND DATES

Burscough Priory Academy,  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Learn To Ride, 9am - 12pm (3 x 1 hour sessions)  
Level 1, 1pm - 2.30pm (£7.50)

**£5 PER 1 HOUR SESSION**

To book; <https://ec.schoolactivity.co.uk/>  
For more info call: 01704 377982

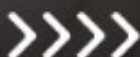


# Parents and Carers, tell us about your experience of using childcare in Lancashire



Scan the QR code to  
access our short survey

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





## 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, 7<sup>th</sup> 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**  
*(5<sup>TH</sup> January – 13<sup>th</sup> 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**  
*(23<sup>rd</sup> February – 27<sup>th</sup> 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](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)



[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)**