



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, 8th May, 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that, when he returns to heaven, he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be their helper. The Holy Spirit is God's loving gift to every believer, helping us understand Jesus' words and reminding us that God is always close to us.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Please send your Holy Spirit into our lives to be our helper and to guide us, so that we can be a great help to those around us.

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 and Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Bank Holiday weekend. Although it has made this a shorter week, it has certainly been a busy and hardworking one across school, as you will see from our class news pages.

May is a special month in the life of the Church, as we honour Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who holds a very special place in the heart of our parish and school community.

This week, we came together to celebrate a beautiful Mass dedicated to Mary. Class 3 led the Mass so reverently and confidently, with a warm welcome, thoughtful readings, and a prayerful offertory procession. Class 2 also played a special role by teaching the parish our new Makaton song and signing of the Hail Mary. We were incredibly proud of all the children for the respect, confidence and joy they showed throughout the celebration. Many thanks to all the families who were able to come and join in this special occasion.

Thank you for your continued support .

Mrs Preston



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Congratulations!

St Mary's Catholic Primary School achieves the CAFOD Live Simply award

We are incredibly proud to share that our pupils and staff have achieved the CAFOD Live Simply Award, recognising our commitment to living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with communities around the world who experience poverty.

Since launching the campaign, our children, staff and families have embraced a wide range of meaningful initiatives. From taking part in the Big Lent Walk, to launching a whole school recycling programme, supporting local food and clothing banks, and exploring climate change through inspiring Earth Day projects, our community has worked together to make a real difference – locally, nationally and globally.

These actions have had a positive impact not only within our school, but far beyond it, helping our children to understand that even small choices can have a big impact on the lives of others and on our shared world.



CAFOD's Live Simply Coordinator for Schools, Siobhan Farnell, praised the achievement, saying: "Congratulations to the pupils and staff on achieving the Live Simply Award. What a wonderful school and community you have! Your actions are wonderful examples of caring for others and our common home, and we wish you well as you continue to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with communities around the world experiencing poverty."

This award is a wonderful reflection of our school values in action, and we are immensely proud of our pupils, staff and families for the compassion and commitment they continue to show every day. A huge thanks to Mrs Priestner for co-ordinating this wonderful project!





Class 1 'Shining Stars'

Class 1 have packed a lot of learning and excitement into 4 days! We started the week by noticing that our caterpillars had all transitioned into a chrysalis. This meant that we had to be extremely careful moving them into their new home and wait for them to be ready to turn into butterflies over the next couple of weeks.



In RE, we have been learning about Jesus sending a special gift of the Holy Spirit to his friends. We discussed what happened and what the Holy Spirit represents. Year 1 have written diary entries as if they were there, Reception thought about how you would have felt being there. All of the children in Class 1 made wind streamers to represent the wind of the Holy Spirit.

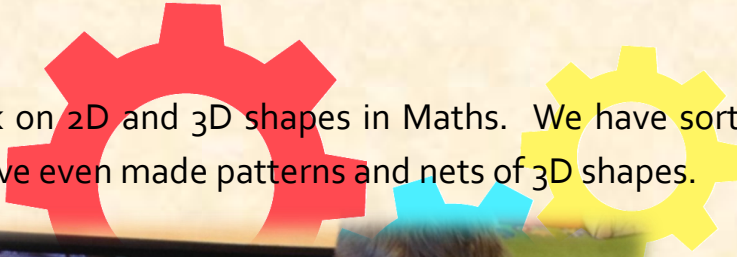
In English, we have been introduced to a new text, 'Goat and Donkey in the Great Outdoors'. We have read the story together, discussing what you would need to take on a camping trip.

The children were amazed on Wednesday to see another addition to their outdoor learning area. We now have a wonderful awning to use for those rainy and sunny days to give us shelter.

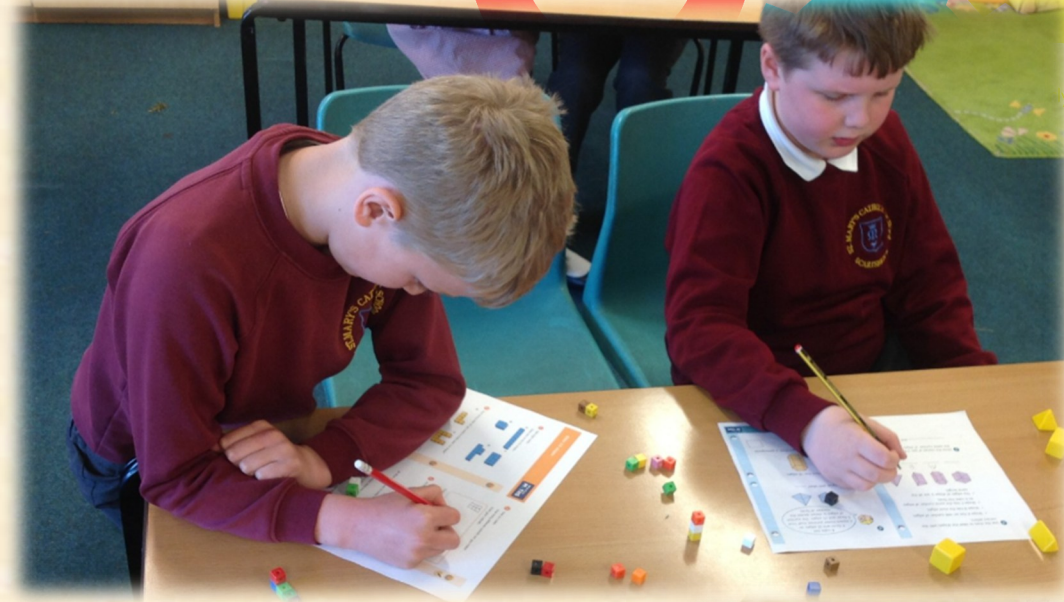




Class 2 'Trailblazers'



Lots more work this week on 2D and 3D shapes in Maths. We have sorted, counted sides, edges, faces, and vertices. We have even made patterns and nets of 3D shapes.

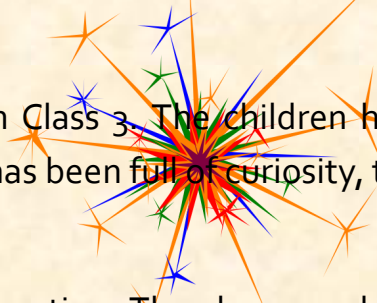


Lots of lovely practical work all week. In Science we learnt about the diets of different animals and how we can tell what an animal eats by the size and shape of its teeth. We had lots of fun trying to match animals to their diets using an online quiz.

We have finished reading 'The Wind in the Willows' in English and after writing our own chapter for how Toad escapes jail we finished the topic by giving our own opinions in a book review. Next week we start a short topic on letter writing.



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



What a fantastic week it has been in Class 3. The children have shown real enthusiasm across all areas of learning, and the classroom has been full of curiosity, teamwork and determination.

Our Year 6 pupils deserve a special mention. They have worked incredibly hard as they prepare for their SATs tests, showing maturity, focus and a positive attitude. Their commitment has been impressive, and we are very proud of the effort they are putting in each day.



We enjoyed a sunny afternoon of cricket coaching with Andy this week. Pupils demonstrated excellent effort and engagement throughout the session, with several showing real natural ability.

On Tuesday, Year 4 joined Year 3 for a hands-on science lesson exploring how we can change the pitch of sound. Using elastic bands, saucepan lids and straws, the children experimented with stretching, tapping and blowing to discover how vibrations create different pitches.





Awards Assembly



	Special Award - For being caring and compassionate like St Mary	Good Work Award
Class 1	Elsie M	Taylor M
Class 2	Lila G	Alexandra B
Class 3	Ella R	Neveah G
Headteacher's award	Poppie H	Rafael H
Mathematician of the week	Tommy G	
Presentation award	Erin C	
Attendance Award	Class 2 — 98.41%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 08.05.26			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	16	93.75%	3
Class 2	18	98.41%	1
Class 3	23	95.65%	2

Important Dates

Monday, 11th May	Key Stage 2 SATs week
Monday, 18th May	School photographs (AM)
Wednesday, 20th May	Whole School Sports Day (9.15am)
Friday, 22nd May	PTFA Break the Rules Day
Monday, 25th May— Friday, 5th June	School is closed for the half term break

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

St Mary's PTA Presents

BREAK

THE RULES DAY!

Friday 22nd May

RULES THAT CAN BE BROKEN



Wear your own clothes



Have odd socks



Wear your trainers



Take a teddy or small toy to school



Crazy hair – styles/colours/glitter



Treat based snack – but please **NO NUTS**



Squash in water bottles

£1

for each rule
you decide
to break!

OR

£5

for all!



Fines to be paid by cash in **NAMED** envelopes
at school drop off on the day!

Please join in the fun & support our event

Money raised through PTA organised events
contributes towards school trips, equipment
and **future fun** for the children!

UPCOMING PTA EVENTS

MARCH

16TH

'OWN CLOTHES DAY'
for Easter treats donation



MARCH

18TH

'EASTER BINGO'
3:30-4:30pm



APRIL

30TH

'FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT'
3:30-4:30pm



MAY

22ND

'BREAK THE RULES DAY'
£1 per rule or £5 for all!



JUNE

25TH

'OWN CLOTHES DAY'
for donation of teddies
(summer fair tombola)



JULY

3RD

DONATIONS OF BOTTLES
(for tombola) & colour gifts
for **'RAINBOW RAFFLE'**



JULY

4TH

'SUMMER FAIR'
11:30am-2:30pm



JULY

22ND

'ICE CREAM VAN'
for end of term
12:30-1pm



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Money raised through PTA organised events
contributes towards school trips, equipment
and **future fun** for the children!

CAMP VENUES



TARLETON
ACADEMY



ORMSKIRK
SCHOOL

ONLY

£22.50

per day



ENDEAVOUR
COMMUNITY



ACTIVITY
CAMP



with

WEST LANCASHIRE
SPORT PARTNERSHIP



MAY HALF TERM

TUE 26TH - FRI 29TH

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

*Tarleton only

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

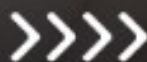


Parents and Carers, tell us about your experience of using childcare in Lancashire



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 Summer Term Newsletter 2026

Important dates this term

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady.

There will be mass on Wednesday, 6th May St Elizabeth's Church at 9.30am for families and children from Nursery - Y6.



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

14th May

After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of forty days.

Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father in Heaven.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

24th May

This is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church.

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

31st May

Today we celebrate our belief in the Trinity, the three persons of God:

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

7th June

On this feast we give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

12th June

On this day we remember how much Jesus loves us all.

FATHER'S DAY

15th June

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

29th June

We celebrate the lives of these important saints who helped establish the Christian Church

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SUMMER 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 'To the Ends of the Earth' and 'Dialogue and Encounter'.

'TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH'

(13th April – 22nd May)

Class 1 – The children will retell the story of Pentecost – a special celebration in the Church.

Class 2 - The children will sequence the events from Jesus' Resurrection to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They will also retell the story of the Conversion of Saul and learn about how the fruits of the Holy Spirit can transform their lives.

Class 3 – The children will study the Resurrection told in St John's gospel and make links with Matthew's account of Peter's declaration of faith. By looking at the Apostles Creed, they will explore their beliefs as Christians. Throughout May they will reflect on Mary being the Mother of the Church.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

Talk about good news in your family and how you shared it.

Ask your child to tell you the story of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit.

'DIALOGUE & ENCOUNTER'

(8th June – 22nd July)

Class 1– The children will learn about the lives of St Peter and St Paul, and how they were friends of Jesus.

They will then explore the music, food, smells, tastes and clothing from the Jewish faith.

Class 2– The children will start by studying the story of the Good Samaritan, thinking about Jesus' question 'Who is my neighbour?'

They will then learn about the traditions of the Jewish laws, beliefs, worship and life.

Class 3– The children will begin the branch by looking at the life and work of St Paul.

Later in the theme, they will learn about the five pillars of Islam and understand how Muslims in Britain today live out their beliefs.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
HOME ACTIVITIES**

Look at a globe or an atlas. Find a special place and pray for the people of that country.

Discuss how we can look after our world and support our neighbours, near and far.

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

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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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)