



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 22nd May, 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples, to help them be brave enough to share God's message with others. Let's think a bit about what the Holy Spirit does in our lives today.

God of all,

You sent your Spirit to be with the disciples, filling them with joy, peace and courage. May we also be filled with your Spirit, be brave and share your peace in our world.

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,

It has been a truly wonderful half term in school, filled with hard work, determination and so many moments to celebrate. I have been incredibly proud of all our children, and especially our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with such maturity, resilience and positivity. They have been a real credit to themselves and to our school community.

As we look ahead, the final half term promises to be just as important. Our Year 1 children will be taking part in their Phonics Screening Check, our Year 2 children will sit their SATs, and our Year 4 pupils will complete their Multiplication Times Tables Check. We know they will give their very best, and we will be supporting and encouraging them every step of the way.

For now, I hope that you all enjoy a well-earned and restful half term break. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—it makes such a difference.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for a happy and successful final half term of the school year.

Mrs Preston



Living and Learning Together - Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

This week, Class 1 have had a fantastic end to the half term! We have been learning all about the United Kingdom, including the four countries and their flags, landmarks and foods. The children have enjoyed making magical potions in the mud kitchen using petals and other natural materials.



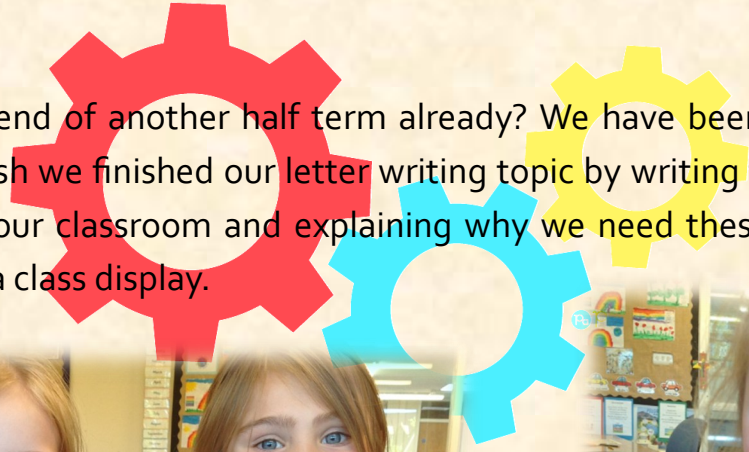
Nursery have been practising their name writing, Reception have been focusing on tricky words, and Year 1 have been working incredibly hard on their phonics. We are very proud of you all!

In Maths, Year 1 have been focusing on addition and subtraction calculations with missing numbers, using number lines to help them solve problems. Nursery and Reception have been learning about sequencing, discussing the correct order for everyday activities such as getting ready for school, brushing their teeth, and even making a sandwich!

Well done everyone for a wonderful week and a great end to the half term!



Class 2 'Trailblazers'



Can you believe it is the end of another half term already? We have been really busy finishing off topics this week. In English we finished our letter writing topic by writing to Mrs Preston to ask her for some new things for our classroom and explaining why we need these. In History we created cave paintings and made a class display.



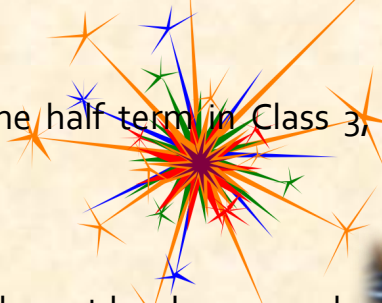
When Sports Day was cancelled we decided to have an archery competition instead. We stuck different animals that the Stone Age people would have hunted to our targets and tried to hit them. We all had a great time and lots of mammoths, glyptodons and sabre-toothed tigers were hunted!



We finished the week looking at the least of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in RE and showing how we can put each of these gifts into practice in our lives.



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'



We've had a brilliant last week of the half term in Class 3, and the children have been working incredibly hard.

Our History topic on Crime and Punishment has been a real highlight this term. Class 3 explored how laws, crimes, and punishments have changed over the centuries — from Roman Britain and medieval stocks to Victorian prisons and modern-day justice. The children were fascinated by the contrasts between past and present and asked thoughtful questions throughout.



Class 3 have really enjoyed working on their art this week and are now completing their final pieces inspired by the conceptual artwork of Yayoi Kusama. We can't wait to see their final pieces completed.

We were delighted to work with Izzy from West Lancs this half term for gymnastics. Class 3 threw themselves into the activities with great enthusiasm, practising balances, jumps, teamwork routines, and sequences. The children showed brilliant energy and determination throughout.





Awards Assembly



	Special Award - For being	Good Work Award
Class 1	Cooper S	Eleanor B
Class 2	Ella C-McD	Trystan McC
Class 3	Kacper L	Isaac F
Headteacher's award	Elliot H	Neveah G
Mathematician of the week	Caleb S	
Presentation award	Lillian O	
Attendance Award	Class 2 — 92.59%	



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 22.05.26			
	No. of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	15	75.56%	3
Class 2	19	92.59%	1
Class 3	23	90.34%	2

Important Dates



Monday, 8th June	Back to school for Summer 2
Week beginning 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Week beginning 8th June	Y4 Multiplication Times Tables Check
Friday, 12th June	Sports Day
Wednesday, 17th June	West Lancs Family Hub - Family Drop In session (2.20-4.30pm)

Have a lovely half term break! From Mrs Preston & the staff of St Mary's

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!



**£22.50
A DAY**


ENDEAVOUR
COMMUNITY

ORMSKIRK SCHOOL CAMP



- ✔ Sports and craft activities
- ✔ Led by West Lancs Sports Partnership specialist coaches
- ✔ Access to multiple sports facilities
- ✔ Open to 5-12 year olds

More Information

 <https://ec.schoolactivity.co.uk>



NEW

SWIM SCHOOL

at Tarleton Academy
starting 1st June 2026

- State of the art facilities
- Group lessons
- 1 to 1 lessons
- Evenings and weekends

4
WEEKS
FREE
for bookings made
before 19th June



Swim England
Learn to Swim
Programme

For more information and to
register email:
swim@endeavourcommunity.org

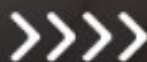


Parents and Carers, tell us about your experience of using childcare in Lancashire



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

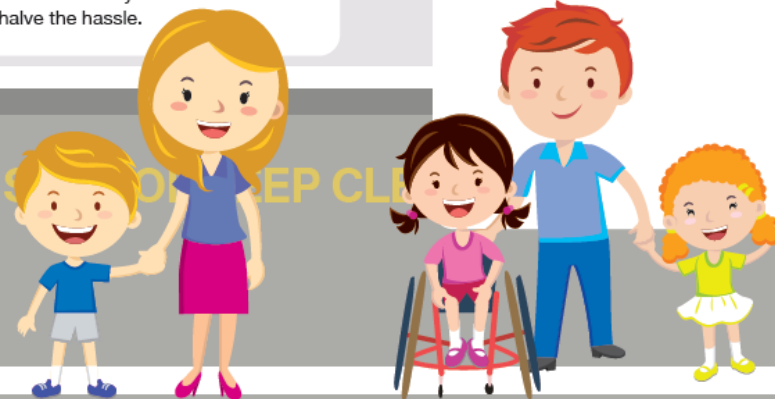


Better Health healthier families

Sign up at nhs.uk/betterhealth



SCHOOL



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)