



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 16th October 2026

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' enemies are plotting his downfall and try to trick him with a devious question about paying taxes.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Help us to be always grateful to you and to show our gratitude by loving 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...

It has been another wonderfully busy and positive week at St Mary's, and I have been incredibly proud of our children. We have welcomed a number of visitors to school this week, including local headteachers, prospective parents and representatives from the Pope Francis Catholic Academy Trust. Wherever they went, our children were exceptional ambassadors for St Mary's. They greeted visitors warmly, spoke politely and confidently about their learning, and demonstrated the kindness, respect and enthusiasm that make our school such a special place. Their pride in their school shone through, and they gave everyone a truly wonderful St Mary's welcome.

A huge thank you also goes to all the parents and family members who joined us for Class 3's Reading Café. It was lovely to see so many people sharing books and learning together. We are incredibly grateful for the support you have shown to the school and to the children over the last three weeks. Your encouragement, involvement and partnership make such a difference, and we sincerely thank you for continuing to work with us to help our children flourish.



Living and Learning Together – Shining in our Faith



Class 1 'Shining Stars'

This week, Class 1 have been looking for the early signs of autumn and exploring the changes we can see around us. Nursery and Reception children used autumn-coloured paints to create finger painted trees, while Year 1 children explored negative space art by using leaves and paint to make wonderful autumn prints.



In English, we began our new focus text, 'Room on the Broom'. We enjoyed getting to know the characters, describing their appearances and actions. We also discussed the beginning, middle, and end of the story and worked hard to sequence the main events in the correct order.

Our Nursery children have been working hard on their fine and gross motor skills this week. They have been wrapping string around pinecones, brushing leaves into different areas, rolling large tyres and reels outside and enjoying 'Dough Disco' to strengthen all of their muscles.



Class 2 'Trailblazers'

This week we have moved on to a non-fiction topic in English. We have been learning all about the main features of non-fiction texts. We then wrote in pairs some introductions for different animals and then moved around the classroom testing other groups to see if they could guess our animals from our introduction.



In History we are nearly at the end of our topic on Florence Nightingale so we have been looking at why she was such a significant person and how the things she did have made a difference to nursing, hospitals and how women are treated today compared with the past.



In Science we collected and sorted seeds and bulbs and looked at the difference. We are going to plant our bulbs in our new planter and wait to see what grows in the spring time.

In RE we have watched a lovely video all about St Francis of Assisi and the song he wrote called the Canticle of the Creatures. We learnt about how he felt about the world and how he wanted everyone to look after it. So, we decided to write our own rules for looking after our wonderful world.



Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

Class 3 has had another fantastic week in school. We are so proud of how hard the children are working and how well they are listening and responding to instructions.

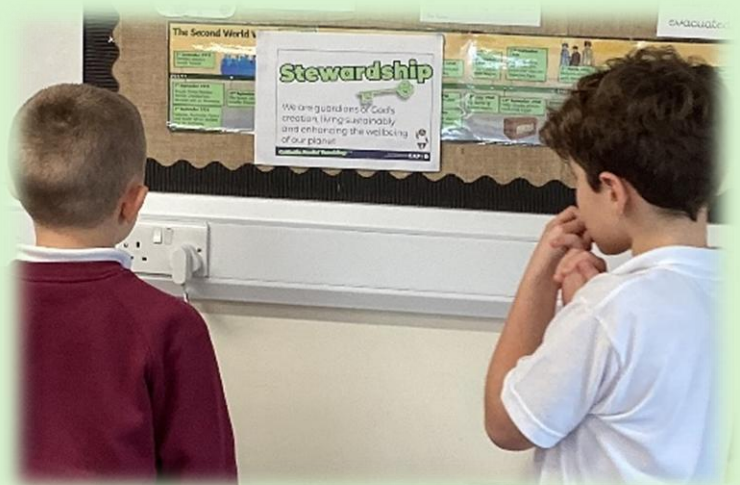
In English, the children have continued to develop their story-writing skills. We have been exploring ambitious vocabulary, considering how authors engage their readers, and learning about story structure. The children have also been developing their own story-writing toolkit to support them in creating engaging and imaginative narratives.

The children are continuing to work hard to develop their addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. They are also developing a secure understanding of their times tables and becoming increasingly confident when applying these skills to solve problems.



A huge thank you to all the parents who came along to our Reading Café. Your support makes a real difference, and we loved sharing this special time with you. The children enjoyed reading and sharing their reading experiences with family and friends.

In RE, the children have continued to explore virtues and values. This week, we investigated the CAFOD values of stewardship, solidarity, humanity, subsidiarity and the common good. Through discussion and reflection, the children considered how these values can help us to live out our faith and make a positive difference in our communities and the wider world.





Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 16.10.26			
	No of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	14	100%	1
Class 2	19	100%	1
Class 3	23	95.17%	2



Award winners



	Special Award – For being responsible	Good work award
Class 1	Evelyn D	Clay W
Class 2	Oscar S	Reuben W-D
Class 3	Violet P	Iris D
Headteacher' award	Cooper G	Eric H
Mathematician of the week	Lillian O	
Presentation award	Lila G	
Attendance award	Class 1 & 2 – 100%	



Dates for your diary



Friday, 25th September	Friday Fitness begins (8.15 am for Years 3-6)
Thursday 22 nd October	Halloween Disco (3.30 – 5pm)
Friday, 23rd October	Break up for the half term holiday
Monday, 2nd November	INSET day (staff only)
Tuesday, 3rd November	Back to school (8:55am)
Wednesday, 4 th November	Class 3 swimming begins (AM) for 6 weeks
Friday, 13 th November	Children in Need raffle



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

**Do you have a child starting
primary school in September 2027
and living in Lancashire?**

Closing date: 15 January 2027

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school,
or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

Apply for a school place now by scanning
the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference,
please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

**Have
your say**

*Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with
you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs.
To find out more please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces
and click 'school admission policies'.*

lancashire.gov.uk





Lancashire Health Visiting
and School Nursing

Access School Health in a drop in session Support for children, young people, parents and carers

HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT

- ✓ Emotional health and wellbeing
- ✓ Healthy lifestyles
- ✓ Sleep concerns/ Toileting issues
- ✓ Behaviour support
- ✓ Growth and development
- ✓ School-related health concerns
- ✓ General health and wellbeing questions

DROP-IN SESSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

📍 1 October 2026 | 9:30am-12:00pm
The Zone (next to Skelmersdale Library), WN8 6PZ

📍 15 October 2026 09:00-12:00
Coppull Library PR7 5BZ

📍 08 October 2026 2:00-4:00pm
Preston West Family Hub, PR2 1TU

📍 21 October 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am
West Paddock, PR25 1HR

📍 27 October 2026 | 2:00pm-4:00pm
Ribbleton Family Hub, PR2 6EE

ACCESS TO WIDER SUPPORT

Delivered as part of the One Stop Shop in partnership with the Early Help Partnership, helping families access advice, guidance and local services.

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Simply come along to a session that suits you.

★ MORE LOCATIONS • MORE DATES • BETTER ACCESS TO SUPPORT ★



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



**Scan the QR code or visit:
School Age Childcare Survey**

lancashire.gov.uk/childcare







Book now:

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

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