St. Mary' s Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Joanne Preston

Friday, 27th November

This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'

God of love,

You sent your Son Jesus into the world to show us how to live. Help us to be ready when he comes again.

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…

There is definitely a festive feel beginning to spread throughout school as we look ahead to the exciting weeks before Christmas. Classes 1 and 3 are already busy rehearsing for their Nativity and Carol Concert respectively, while Class 2 will be leading our Advent Mass and, alongside the rest of the school, will play an important role in our Carol Service with St Mark's School. Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but it can also be a very busy one for families. Please keep an eye on the newsletter, the school website calendar and the posters displayed around school and sent home for details of all our upcoming events and key dates.

This week, I met with our School Attendance Officer, who praised our pupils, families and staff for their commitment to excellent attendance. Thank you for your continued support. If you are ever unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, please refer to the NHS guidance: Is my child too ill for school? - NHS or contact school to speak with Mrs Preston or Miss Wade, our recently appointed Attendance Champion, who will be happy to help.



Class 1 'Shining Stars'



Class 1 have been polishing up their singing and acting skills this week! The children are extremely excited practising their upcoming Christmas performance of 'The Sleepy Shepherd'. We have been so proud of the children learning all of the songs and even their own lines too!

Nursery have loved the dip in temperature this week. Despite being super cold, they have been searching for ice and exploring what they can find frozen in our outdoor area.

In Maths, Year 1 have been continuing their addition and subtraction topic. The children have been working hard to use different resources to help them add and subtract.



Class 1 children have also been excited as the December buzz begins to fill the air. We are beginning to write lists for Father Christmas and even spot some decorations around school too!

Class 2 'Trailblazers'

Well its racing through this term and we are all still working hard and learning lots of new things.



Mrs Duff has been working with Year 2 this week on drawing subtraction problems and everyone is starting to get much more confident.



On Monday we used our yoga pretzel cards to plan our own yoga session with lots of different poses, some breathing exercises and ending with a relaxation time. Some of our chosen poses were really difficult but we all had a go and were surprised at what we could achieve.

This week has been independent writing week as we have planned and written a story based on Jack and the Beanstalk but with a twist. It's great to see everyone writing with such confidence and including lots of ideas from everything we have covered in this topic.

On Thursday we made another paper plane – The Skater, which was quite complicated but did some turns and spirals when we flew it.

We are all looking forward to December so that we can start all our Christmas activities and hopefully an elf will come through our new elf door which appeared on Wednesday!

Class 3 'Bright Sparks'

Class 3 continue to work hard and approach their learning with enthusiasm every day.

Our swimming lessons are going amazingly well. We were delighted to have four children receive swimming awards from the swimming coaches. Well done to everyone who earned an award, and to all the children for their effort, determination and positive attitude in the pool.

In Geography, we have been learning about Fairtrade and thinking carefully about how far our food travels before it reaches our shops. The children have explored the environmental impact of food miles and investigated foods from different countries around the world, developing their understanding of where our food comes from and how our choices can affect the planet.

In Maths, the children have been applying their place value knowledge and times table skills to support their learning in multiplication and division. They have worked hard to solve a range of problems and explain their methods clearly. Year 6 have also been developing their algebra skills, showing resilience and determination as they tackle new mathematical challenges.

The children have been enjoying their DT lessons, where they have been exploring levers and pulleys. This week, they designed and made a selection of their own levers and pulley mechanisms, investigating how they work and experimenting with attaching them to card. Through this hands-on research, the children developed their understanding of different mechanisms and how they can be used effectively. This will help them as they begin designing and creating their final piece.



St Mary' s Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Attendance



Attendance for the week ending 27.11.26			
	No of pupils	Attendance (%)	Rank
Class 1	14	95.73%	2
Class 2	19	99.38%	1
Class 3	23	93.72%	3



Award winners



	Special Award – For putting other people first	Good work award
Class 1	Lillian O	James B
Class 2	Arabella F	James R
Class 3	Bailey H	Frankie U
Headteacher' award	Connie McC	Georgia C
Mathematician of the week	Poppy P	
Presentation award	Henry M	
Attendance award	Class 2 – 99.38%	



Dates for your diary



Tuesday, 1st December	Flu immunisations
Thursday, 3rd December	PTFA Christmas Quiz
Monday, 7th December	Class 3 Carol Concert for all parents (4.30pm)
Thursday, 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day/ Breakfast with Santa/ Santa Dash
Tuesday, 15th December	Class 1 Christmas Play (9.30)
Tuesday, 15th December	A joint Carol Service for all families with St Mark's School (4pm)
Wednesday, 16th December	Whole School Advent Mass (9.30am) St Elizabeth's Church
Thursday, 17th December	End of term awards assembly (9.15am)



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 County Council

Christmas

CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday, 15th December

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

at St Mark's Church

A festive evening of Christmas music, scripture & prayer presented by the pupils of St Mark's & St Mary's schools.




ST MARY'S
Christmas Dates
FRIDAY 27 NOV: OWN CLOTHES & DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS QUIZ
THURS 3 DEC: CHRISTMAS FAMILY QUIZ 3:30PM
MON 7 DEC: CLASS 1 CHRISTMAS CRAFTS 2-3PM
CLASS 3 CHRISTMAS CAROLS 4:30PM
THURS 10 DEC: BREAKFAST WITH SANTA, CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY, CHRISTMAS DINNER & SANTA DASH
TUES 15 DEC: CLASS 1 NATIVITY 9:30AM
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT @ ST MARK'S CHURCH 4:00PM
WEDS 16 DEC: ADVENT MASS @ ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH 9:30AM
THURS 17 DEC: END OF TERM AWARDS ASSEMBLY 9:15AM

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 November

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

19 November 2026 09:00-12:00
Inspire Youth Zone PR7 1BS

12 November 2026 2:00-4:00pm
Preston West Family Hub, PR2 1TU

18 November 2026 | 9:30am-11:30am
West Paddock, PR25 1HR

24 November 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.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

PTFA Presents...

Remaining Events of 2026

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 10th November • 5:30pm

Meeting at school, come & join us to hear about recent fundraising & upcoming plans for 2026/27!

Christmas Family Quiz Night

Thursday 3rd December • 3:30pm

Join us for some festive fun & refreshments!



Annual Santa Dash

Thursday 10th December • 2:30pm

Get ready to cheer on the children & enjoy some warming treats from the sidelines!

We look forward to seeing you there!