



# St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter –29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## School details

Tel: 01772 729881

[www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)

E-mail [head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs. A. Brogden

## Our Parish Links

St. Mary's Lea Town, Darkinson Lane and

St. Andrew and Blessed George Haydock, Hoyles Lane Cottam.

[www.standrewscottam.org.uk](http://www.standrewscottam.org.uk)



'Loved and Inspired by Mary ....

We shine and learn as a family of God'

We marked the start of Advent in our Celebration Assembly this week spending time reflecting on the meaning of our Advent Wreath. Why it is round? Why we light candles? What each colour represents?

Today we lit our First Purple Candle. This symbolises HOPE.

Hope for all that is to come and hope for the birth of Christ.

This marks the Start of Advent and the colour purple is symbolical with Prospect and Hope.



## **Christmas Events**

### **Christmas tree light switch on and Fayre.**

On Monday we will really get into the Christmas spirit when we switch the lights on on the Christmas tree over at Church.

Pupils will finish school at the normal time of 3.15 and will be handed over to families as usual.

Staff will each be on different stations or stalls so all pupils attending must be accompanied by an adult.

Shortly after 3.15 we will make their way over to the tree and we would love you to join us for some Christmas Carols and songs.

After we have sung, we will come back to school for our annual Christmas Fayre, and once more this promises to be an amazing event and a great opportunity to help us raise lots of money for everyone in school!!

Every penny raised goes back to benefit the Pupils and covers visits, visitors, experiences and buys equipment so we are so grateful for your continued support.

The Fayre has fantastic stalls such as a tombola, Mr C's famous Hook a Bag game, delicious treats such as warm Gregg's sausage rolls and even a hot chocolate station!!!

Venture down to the Rainbow room and find a magical Santa's Grotto with brilliant Christmas crafts in classes 1 and 2...you don't want to miss this fun!!!!

Make sure you have booked your visit to Santa's grotto in advance to avoid disappointment.

### **6.12.24 – Santa Dash – Monies Raised to School Funds**

Our super Santa Dash is back again and promises to be lots of fun!!

Children will tackle obstacles, run around school and dodge snowballs in this wonderful event. EVERY child taking part receives a Santa Hat and Medal!

Your child will have brought home a sponsor form (minimum sponsor of £2.50) please return these forms to School with monies as soon as possible!



### **12.12.24 – Breakfast with Santa -£5**

This includes a delicious breakfast, chocolate treat and a story with Santa! This must be pre booked by 2.12.24

### **Creepy Crawly Roadshow**

WOW! What an AMAZING way to spend the morning with the Creepy Crawly Roadshow!

On Tuesday morning, Classes 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed an actioned, fact filled session with John and his creepy crawly friends that he had brought with him. The classes were treated with a 'Meet and Greet' to a wide range of critters, including stick insects, spiders, cockroaches, Brian the Snail and of course... Monty the Python.

John, who has been working with these animals for over 25 years and has a fantastic knowledge of these animals, how to care for them, their diets and also where they naturally live. There were some UNBELIEVABLE questions from the children throughout the session, with John commenting on how good the questions were AND how well behaved our children were.

A HUGE St Mary's THANK YOU to John for joining us this week!

Class 4, don't worry, John will be returning to school in early 2025 AND also during Insect Week 2025 in June (watch out for more details on the way), where he will be visiting all 4 classes from around school, sharing some of the same animals and some new critters for us to see and learn about!



### **Fire Safety Talk**

On Wednesday, a group of fire fighters came along to talk to class two about how to keep safe and how to make a fore plan with their families.

They shared top tips such as stay low and put pillow by doors to block smoke and they let all of the Class two friends see the Fire Engine which was really exciting!!



*We got to see the fire truck and they out the lights and siren on! We learnt what to do if there is a fire.  
Eli Heslop*

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Thank you for your continued support with attendance and punctuality.

Our School day starts at 08.45 prompt and Staff will always greet Pupils on the yard prior to this time. Pupils should be ready to commence learning time promptly and as such we will bring Pupils in to school and close our school door.



## Pupils arriving late **MUST** be signed in by an adult.

We do need to keep records and we have signing in books for Health and Safety reasons. We record minutes late, and as a School we are legally obligated to monitor attendance and punctuality of all pupils.

We will share with families, on a termly basis, our Coloured Attendance Traffic Light letter. Look out for these just before Christmas.

We will also share Minutes Late Reports, where relevant, and will ask you to work with us to ensure punctuality.

I share some information below....

To highlight even just **being 5 minutes late per day is the equivalent of missing 3.5 days of school which has a HUGE impact.**

As a school, we have tightly focused sessions within our mornings starting from 08.45 and we stream phonics and spelling. Lateness means that your child may miss out on these crucial elements of their education.



**Getting Your Child to School Really Matters**

**Did You Know... ?**

In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day By...      Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately...      or They Would Have Missed Approximately...

<b>5 Minutes</b>	<b>3.5 Days from School</b>	<b>20 Lessons</b>
<b>10 Minutes</b>	<b>7 Days from School</b>	<b>41 Lessons</b>
<b>15 Minutes</b>	<b>10 Days from School</b>	<b>55 Lessons</b>
<b>20 Minutes</b>	<b>14.5 Days from School</b>	<b>82 Lessons</b>
<b>30 Minutes</b>	<b>22 Days from School</b>	<b>123 Lessons</b>

**Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance**

900 x 334

Requests for Leave are only granted in Exceptional circumstances and families taking leave/ holidays within term time will incur a fine.

Our School has an Attendance Target of 95% or above.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

## **St. Mary's Church Christmas Raffle Tickets**

Your Child was given a Raffle Ticket booklet for the Annual St. Mary's Christmas Raffle. Thank you to all who have bought and returned them to School so far. We are very lucky that the Parish of St. Mary's kindly gives half of all the monies raised to School. This year we hope to use the monies raised towards our Helping Hands and to buy additional Reading books for School. We are so grateful of your support.

**If you do not wish to purchase the raffle ticket please return the books to school.**

More Raffle tickets have now become available to buy. Please contact the office if you wish to purchase more.

## **Staff contacts**

Staff Member	Email
Office	
Mrs Dewhurst	Bursar@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Head Teacher	
Mrs Brogden	Head@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class One	
Mrs Ellis- Class Teacher	Ellis@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Harrison	Harrison@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Hughes	Hughes@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Moss	Moss@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 2	
Mrs Sullivan- Class Teacher	Sullivan@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Nayler	Nayler@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Strahand	Strahand@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 3	
Mr Catterall - Class Teacher	Catterall@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Collins	Collins@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 4	
Mr Taylor - Class Teacher	Taylor@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Calvert	Calvert@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Breakfast / After School Club Manager	
Miss Harrison	Harrison@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

## **FOSM**



The FOSM elves have been working hard and we are so very excited for our Christmas Fayre 2024 on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

We have some AMAZING prizes for you; beauty vouchers, Ribby Hall family passes, £150 vehicle repair voucher, Breakfast With Santa tickets, after school club passes, champagne, chocolates and so much more...

We are so lucky to announce that we will be hosting the debut performance of Mrs Ellis's Singing Club!!

We also have our big prize lucky dip tombola, chocolate tombola, raffle, Mr C's famous lucky dip, Hot Chocolate bar (kindly sponsored by Staite Motors and Stephen Phoenix), Greggs Sausage Rolls, FOSM cafe and tuck shop, crafting activities, silent auction, reindeer food and of course a visit from Father Christmas himself in his festive grotto!

Make sure to join us with your friends and family on **Monday 2nd December** after the Christmas Tree Light switch on, EVERYONE is welcome.

With your support, this year we have been able to provide the buses to the Pantomime!

Please continue to help us raise as much as we can for our school; towards our long term goal of an outside classroom and smaller goals such as playground and classroom equipment. We couldn't do it without you.

If anyone is able to, we could still do with some help in the afternoon, setting up for the Fayre and tidying up afterwards. If anyone wants to help during the fayre we'd appreciate it even if you can just give us an hour of your time.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with wrapping, collecting or donating our amazing prizes

Have a great weekend!

Gillian, Michelle and Victoria

### **Dates for your diary**

2.12.24- Christmas Light switch on followed by Christmas Fayre

6.12.24- Santa Dash

9.12.24 - Whole School Trip to the Pantomime

11.12.24 – Key stage one Nativity – 10.00 am and 4.00 pm

17.12.24 – Passport for Learning Day

### **Useful Information**

#### **School times**

School Start 08.45 am

School Finish time 15.15 pm

#### **Forest School** – This commenced w/c 09.09.24

Monday: Class 1 Forest School

Wednesday: Class 3 OR class 4 Forest School – Autumn 1 Class 3 Autumn 2 Class 4

Friday: Class 2

## **PE Days**

**Class 1:** Wed pm and Fri pm

**Class 2:** Tue pm and Wed pm

**Class 3:** Monday pm and Thurs pm

**Class 4:** Tuesday (Swimming) \*\* and Thursday pm \*\* Swimming commenced from 10.9.24

## **Big School Adventures**

Big School Adventures is up and running and we have already welcomes lots of new friends. Mrs. Ellis has a Bouncy Bodies fitness theme and we now have Adrian from A Star Spots who leads a fun session too!

Each session runs from 1.15 - 3.00 pm. If you would like your child to attend, please either email or contact the school office to book their place

## **Helping Hands**

With the support of St. Mary's Parish, we have a created a '*Helping Hands Fund*' - This means we have a stock of tinned food / non-perishable items and toiletries ...So, if you ever need a little '**Helping Hand**' please just ask and we can gladly put a pack together.

## **Celebration Awards**

	<b>Faith in Action Award Winner</b>	<b>'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively</b>	<b>Welfare Award Winner</b>
Class 1	Euan Smith	Maya Anogeianakis	Thomas McMillan
Class 2	Nnedi Anakebe	Reggie Hennerley	
Class 3	Isabella Bolton-Rigby	Ellis Leigh	Maxwell Houlding
Class 4	Henry Doherty	Freddie Pye	

