

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – 7th February 2025

School details

Tel: 01772 729881

www.lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk

E-mail 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

'Loved and Inspired by Mary

We shine and learn as a family of God'

This week we have celebrated Children's Mental Health Week in school with lots of extra activities and workshops – crafts, mindfulness, incense, PCSO visits and lots more!!

I am sure you will enjoy looking at the pictures and information below.



Mental Health Week activities

Children's Mental Health Week

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week with the theme 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' On Monday, all children completed an activity with Leigh, our school councillor. All the activities were based around the emotions from the film 'Inside Out' and included a fun hunt around the school!

During PSHE lessons children reflected on the theme and completed mindfulness activities. Class One enjoyed a nature walk, Class Two made some super posters, Class Three created their own personality islands and Class Four produced some beautiful 3D personalised, positive affirmation flowers.

*All children enjoyed the opportunity to have mindfulness time in the rainbow room with a lovely range of activities such as; chess, colouring, Lego, reading, sand and sensory toys.
Mrs. Sullivan PSHE Lead*



PCSO visit- Class 4 – 3.2.25

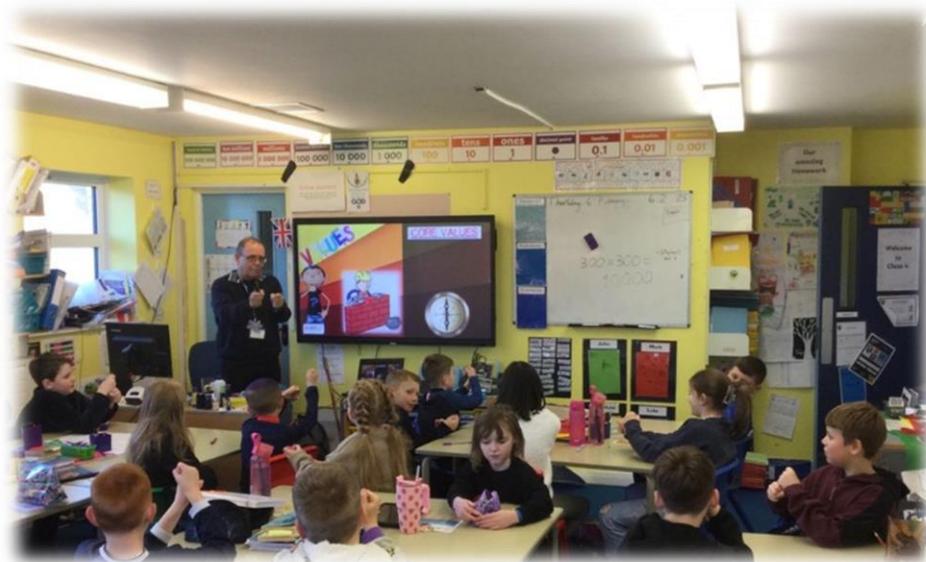


On Monday the PCSO taught us about E Safety and they told us about ages for things like Instagram and Facebook. They talked to us about what is good and bad. They told us about the age of Criminal responsibility. I learnt that you should always talk to an adult if you have any worries. Darcey Chambers

**** NEXT PARENT WORKSHOP IS 12.2.25 FROM 2.45-3.15pm - ALL WELCOME ****

PREVENT Workshop – Class 4 – 6.2.25

Today we have a visitor and we learnt about British values. We learnt about Democracy, the Rule of Law, Tolerance, Respect and Liberty. We learnt what makes us British. Treat people as good as you would like to be treated. Everyone is special – You are special as God chose you to be in our world. Rome Heaton



Charity Fundraiser- Ella Jackson's Challenge

I am doing 100 squats a day to raise money for Cancer Research. This is a very special Charity because lots of my family have had cancer and I want to be able to help other people. Ella Jackson, Class 4

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/vickys-giving-page-481815>

Class Three - Holy Communion

On Tuesday some of the Pupils in Class 3 will bring their Sacramental preparations for their First Holy Communion. Mrs. Fitzpatrick shares the message below;

We are looking forward to seeing all the pupils who are going to be preparing to make their First Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion on Tuesday straight after school. We will collect the children from school and take them over to the annex behind church. We welcome the children with a drink and a biscuit.

Pupils will need to be collected from the Church Annex at 4.20pm and the nominated password is to be given to Mrs. Fitzpatrick

Acadamisation- The Bishop's Vision

As I have shared previously, the Bishop has a vision for all Catholic Schools to become a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) by the end of the Academic Year 2025-2026

At present, 10 Catholic Schools are part of the 'Mater Ecclesiae' MAT and the vision is an additional 7 schools will join in the next wave. I shall keep you updated as soon as we receive any additional information, and of course ensure families are fully informed at all points. I have included the website below should you require any additional information...

<https://mater-ecclesiae-trust.co.uk/>

Online Safety and Parental Guidance

We have had a number of Parents ask for additional guidance around concerns with pupils using phones and gaming.

As we know, technology brings many exciting advances and opportunities but it also creates opportunities for pupils to say things they may not say directly to another person whilst on Messenger/ WhatsApp etc. and/or in Gaming 'parties' or Forums.

As a school we have no control what pupils do/say on such platforms and permissions / consequences remain a Parental decision. Within school PSHE sessions we focus upon providing Pupils with the skills to make sensible and informed choices, reflect on how their actions affect others and to give pupils the skills to know who to talk to when they have worries.

Many of our older pupils may use sites/ apps/ games which have age guidelines which are older than their chronological age .This guide below may be of assistance for families when supporting pupils with any issues.

13+		16+	
Facebook	Snapchat	WhatsApp	
Instagram	Twitter	17+	18+
TikTok	Kik	Sarahah	MeetMe
YouNow	Yubo	YOLO	LiveMe
House Party	Monkey		

On our website we have links to a variety of Parent Guides as shown below, and we have printed copies of these available in our entrance Foyer too. Please feel free to have a look, and if we can signpost you further do ask.

The next PCSO session will be 12.2.24 from 2.45 pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
Your site is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without connecting to YouTube accounts. Some content is inappropriate for children (e.g., violence, sexual content, drug use, etc.), but children can still view content if they are not logged in. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS
YouTube recommends videos suggested to the user that are previously watched. These can be used to connect with strangers, which can lead to being "strung out" and screen capture, especially at school. It is possible to watch popular videos from the last 24 hours, which may not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION
YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that is getting the most views, which can be true for extremist content. This can lead to radicalisation, which is the process of making someone more extreme in their beliefs. This can be dangerous for children, especially if they are recommended more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other users. Children can leave comments on any video they have access to, and can connect with other users privately. Connecting with strangers online can be dangerous, especially if the user is a child. Children should be encouraged to tell a trusted adult if they are contacted by someone they don't know.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
YouTube is famous for trending content, especially "challenges". Children should be aware that these trends can be dangerous and might lead to physical harm. Some challenges may involve using dangerous objects or substances, or putting themselves in dangerous situations. Children should be encouraged to avoid these challenges and to tell a trusted adult if they are tempted to participate.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS
YouTube comments sections are a common place for scammers to hide. Scammers may be trying to lure children into clicking on links that lead to phishing, malware, or other scams. Children should be encouraged to avoid clicking on links from strangers and to tell a trusted adult if they are contacted by someone they don't know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE
For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from recommending or displaying content that is inappropriate for children. To apply Restricted Mode, go to your account settings and turn on Restricted Mode. You can also turn on Restricted Mode for your child's account.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY
Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, searching, and sharing online. This can help parents and carers to ensure that their child is safe and to block inappropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT
YouTube is a social media platform, and children may be tempted to engage with content that is inappropriate for them. Parents and carers should monitor their child's engagement with YouTube and encourage them to avoid inappropriate content.

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
It's possible to identify most inappropriate content and completely remove it from YouTube Kids. YouTube Kids is a separate app for children aged 13 and under, which is designed to be safe and suitable for children. Parents and carers should consider using YouTube Kids for their child's YouTube account.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS
YouTube Kids uses the option of allowing videos to be private or unlisted. Parents and carers should check their child's privacy settings to ensure that their child's videos are only shared with trusted contacts.

LIMIT SPENDING
Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent movies for a limited period to watch. Parents and carers should monitor their child's spending on YouTube and encourage them to avoid in-app purchases.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the BBC, New Scientist, Tech Radar, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds | Facebook: /wakeupwednesday | Instagram: @wakeupwednesday | YouTube: @wakeupweds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 20.01.2023 Last reviewed: 21.02.2024

Lenten Planner

Your Child will have brought home our Lenten Planner and this can also be found on our School website and in our entrance Foyer – Thank you

AFC Fylde – Half Term Activities



If you are in receipt of Free School Meals and are eligible for the HAF funding, please contact Dan Monckton via email [dan.monckton@afcfylde.co.uk] and we can support you to receive a small discount towards some costs.

The website link to book on to our holiday provision is as below:

www.afcfyldefoundation.co.uk/half-term

If you would like any more information regarding our half terms camps, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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

Dates for your diary

10.2.25 – Work Experience pupils from Our Lady’s join us
11.2.25 – Class 2 – Group of pupil Mini Skills pm
12.2.25 – PCSO session for Parents 2.45 -3.15 pm
14.2.25- PCSO session for Class 1
14.2.24- School closes for half term at 3.15 pm

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 takes place every Thursday from 1.15 pm until 3pm

Helping Hands

With the support of St. Mary’s Parish, we have 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

	Faith in Action Award Winner	'EAT' Award Winner Explore, Active, Think creatively	Welfare Award Winner
Class 1	Freddie Phoenix	Sadie Lewis	Xavier Qereqeretabua
Class 2	Florrie Abram-Jebb	Bella Melling-Smith	
Class 3	Imaan Khan	Maxwell Houlding	Amelia Patel
Class 4	Edie Robinson	Nabila Malek	

