



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter – 28th March 2025

School details

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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'

Another busy, and sunny, week in school ending with our amazing colour stalls raising money for charity. We also had two brilliant trips with Class 3 visiting the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and Class 1 making Pizzas at Pizza Express! We will once again have Lenten Mass this coming Thursday at 8.15 am to which all our welcome. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible in attendance. Next week, we look forward to Class 3s' performance of Easter praise on Wednesday.

Academisation

As you know we have just completed our Formal Consultation period reflecting upon the Bishop's Call to ask all Catholic Schools to form Multi Academy Trusts. St. Mary's, Lea Town were invited to join the Mater Ecclesia Trust. All responses have been considered and the Governing Body met to make their decision on what they felt was best for all at St. Mary's School. I know a great deal of thought went into this decision at all steps of this journey. I share below the outcome and statement from our Chair of Governors, Deacon John.

As we continue to progress, as always, we shall keep families updated throughout.

Chair's Note

To all Parents and Carers,

On Thursday 27th Of March, we as governors of St Mary's school held our final meeting to decide whether we should follow our Bishop's vision for all catholic schools to join one of Lancaster Diocese's three Academy Trusts.

This has been a long process as we considered what was best for St. Mary's School. The decision we arrived at was that we would join and become an academy as part of the Mater Ecclesiae trust. This conversion is expected to take place on 1.9.2025. Please be assured that your child's education or school life will not change. We as governors will always strive for the best for our school and your children.

Deacon John Cliffe Chair of Governors

Museum of Science and Industry trip



On Tuesday 25th March 2025, Class 3 visited The Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, to learn more from the Textiles Department and even more about The Lancashire Cotton Industry. As you can see from our photographs, there was LOTS to see and read about all about the Cotton Industry (as well as Cottonopolis, which is what Manchester was known about). We saw some of the original machines that were used in the mills to create cotton, from field to clothes. We all had an AMAZING time there, as well as learnt some FANTASTIC facts to use back in class to complete our topic for this half term.



Here is what some of Class 3 thought about the trip:

Maxwell- I enjoyed how we explored the museum and got to know a lot about it and the things linked with our topic.

Keon- My favourite part was when we heard from the expert in the gallery, telling us about the machines.

Maisie- I liked when we got to see the tour around the museum gallery.

Sandra- I liked listening to the sound clips and music using the headphones.

Edward- My favourite part was seeing the BIG painting of the ships.

Pizza Express trip

On Thursday, Class 1 enjoyed a delicious morning out to Pizza Express in Lytham. They got to experience the busy goings on of a professional restaurant and tried many new ingredients.



Molly- I loved making the Pizzas!

Freya- I loved trying Mushrooms!

Freddie- I liked smelling the Basil leaves.

Lent- Colour Stalls

The children had a great time visiting the colour stalls today and finding some bargains. Thankyou for all the donations of items, we raised a fantastic amount of **£291.00**



Next week our Lenten Fundraiser is Tuck Shop Stalls.

After School Club – Closure of Fridays (Effective from Summer term)

The Governors, myself and Miss Harrison, as Breakfast and After School Manager, have once more reviewed attendance within Breakfast and After School Club. Unfortunately, attendance at Friday's After School Club is very low, typically only one pupil, and we cannot continue to provide this service as we have run this at a significant loss. We fully appreciate this is not ideal and apologise to the very few families that have used this service- obviously t have spoken to them personally.

As we have shared before, After School Club is a Non- profit service. Previously, to try and ensure Friday remained available, we had already reduced the staffing ratio, shortened the time of the session and reduced the cost, but we are still not getting adequate numbers to continue. It is therefore a decision we have had to take to safeguard the other days we offer.

All Bookings made for the remainder of the Spring term, so up to and Including Friday the 11th of April, will be honoured. The Friday Afterschool service will no longer be available from the start of the Summer Term.

Change to Holiday pattern 25/26

Please note due to an error in Inset days there is a minor change to the 25/26 holiday patterns. The change simply means that children will be back at school on Monday 1st September 2025 to begin the Autumn term. An updated version of the dates will be online shortly.

Punctuality – Polite reminder – School Starts promptly at 8.45

We ask for your continued support in ensuring pupils arrive punctually and ready for school to start at 8.45 am. Any pupils arriving after this time will need to be signed in by an adult.



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...
5 Minutes	3.5 Days from School	20 Lessons
10 Minutes	7 Days from School	41 Lessons
15 Minutes	10 Days from School	55 Lessons
20 Minutes	14.5 Days from School	82 Lessons
30 Minutes	22 Days from School	123 Lessons

Please Encourage Punctuality to Maintain Attendance

Classes are completing posters on the importance of punctuality and how being even just five minutes late a day has a HUGE impact on learning!! We look forward to sharing these with you very soon.

In the morning all classes deliver focused sessions from 8.45 on phonics, 1:1 readings, Maths interventions etc. and being late means some pupils are missing these learning opportunities. We thank you for your ongoing support. Typically we will aim to start bringing pupils into school from 8.40 so they are ready to commence learning at 8.45.

We also politely remind families that staff will not provide supervision on the yard before this point. We have had instances of pupils being left on the school yard without supervision from 8.30 and obviously this leaves the pupils vulnerable. We are able to offer Breakfast club from 7.45 should this be required.

Uniform- Thank you for your ongoing support

We thank families for ensuring all pupils are in full uniform at all times. Any exceptions to this must be discussed in advance. Trainers are not permitted except for PE lessons/ playtimes/ Extra Curricular clubs.

Forest School Uniform is to be Navy only. Items may not have any logos.

Full details of correct uniform can be found on our school website and for your convenience is included below.

If you are short of any uniform items Bang Bang Uniform suppliers will be in attendance at school again next Friday, 28th March by the hall from 2.30 pm.

Uniform

Plain White Shirt with School Tie, School Jumper with School Logo, Tailored Grey Trousers , Grey ankle socks, Black Shoes

- Or –

Plain White Shirt with School Tie School Jumper/ cardigan with School Logo, Royal Blue Tartan Pinafore /Skirt ,Grey knee socks or grey tights, Black Shoes.

Forest School Kit

- **Navy School hoody-** with school logo. (plain no branding/logos).
- **Trousers-** Navy joggers/ leggings (plain no branding/logos) for the cooler months, navy school shorts may be worn in the summer.
- **Wellies-** which need to be clearly labelled and kept in school.
- **Trainers-** to arrive in school for the day (we may wear trainers in the dry warmer months) sandals and snow boots are not suitable. Warm socks and a spare pair. We ask that the children bring their wellies in a separate bag.
- **Warm layer in winter** – vests, socks, thermals it is much better to have several thinner layers than one thick layer.
- **Tops** – light layers for warmth, children to wear navy t-shirt only NO logos or other badges.
- **Good quality waterproof coat (with a hood) and trousers or all in one puddle suit–** the children will be out for up to 3 hours. So keeping warm and dry is a way to have more fun.
- **Warm hat and gloves** – in winter the children will need a pair of gloves and a spare pair in case they get wet.
- **Sunhat and Sun cream–** (separate forms to be obtained from the office) when it is sunny we have some coverage from the trees and canopy however, the greenway is very open.

Dates for your diary

2.4.25 – Class 3 Easter Performance “Easter Praise” at 10.00 am and 4.00 pm (Tickets on sale in the office)

8.4.25 – Passport for Learning Day

9.4.25- Pilgrims of Grace Statue Arrives

10.4.25- Easter Dinner whole school

11.4.25 – School Closes for Easter at 3.15

21.4.25 – Easter Monday – School Closed

22.4.25- School Re opens for pupils at 08.45 – Summer Uniform

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

Please note that from the Summer term, Class 3 will go Swimming instead of Class 4. Letters have already been sent home.

Big School Adventures

Big School Adventures takes place every Thursday from 1.15 pm until 3pm

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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
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 Hughes	Hughes@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

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	Nevaeh Sayers	Sadie Lewis	James Johnson
Class 2	Charlie Harrison	Thomas McMillian	
Class 3	Sandra Stec	Louisa Nelson	Jamie Bass
Class 4	Lilianna Conway	Leos Koutsokostas	