

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter 14th November 2025

School details

Tel: 01772 729881

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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'

We shared a lovely Remembrance service, celebrating all those whom we love and respect that are no longer with us. We prayed for the soldiers and veterans, doctors and nurses, as well as those who are near and dear to us. May they rest in peace and never be forgotten.



A Sonnet For Us All

When you speak of our country, do not speak of war.

Speak of the nurse who held a hand like her own father's,

A lieutenant who embraced a soldier like his own brother.

Remember, sometimes those who go into burning buildings burn brighter than the fire inside.

Those who rise from burning buildings carry scars we cannot see.

If you speak of this country, speak of the widow who never stopped waiting, the sailor

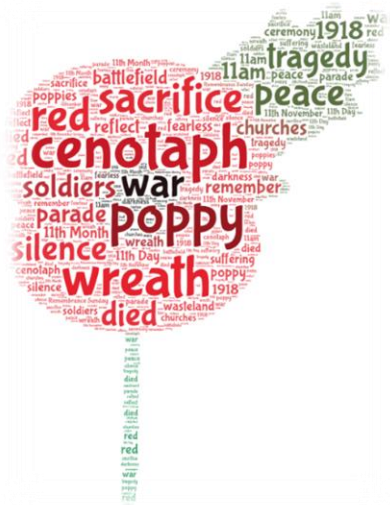
who kissed a photo till it turned to ash in his hands, or the pilots who meet in the pub to talk of anything but war.

You see love is a compass, love is a bugle mourning.

Love is sacrificing tomorrow so that a stranger can live today.

So when you speak of this country, do not think of it as a place.

Think of it as a feeling, the feeling of being loved, the duty to pass that love to whoever needs it.



Parking – Important plea for support!

I am receiving a number of complaints from upset parents and grandparents, explaining that some people, who are choosing to still park on Darkinson Lane, rather than using Westinghouse, are creating a danger to our pupils and families. We really do need your support!

Tonight, after school, I witnessed several near misses. It is a genuine concern when we have pupils as young as 4 crossing the roads, as well as families with prams and toddlers.

I ask families to park at Westinghouse and walk down to school for the safety of all.

I appreciate this is tricky when the weather is poor and when you are juggling young children, but parking on the lane is creating a narrowing of the road, which is unsafe. It means two vehicles cannot pass and prevents access for emergency vehicles.

I would once more ask for your continued consideration with the Church drive as the Sister's drive is private and is their home. Please be mindful of not causing any blockages. The same access for any emergency vehicles is required at all times.

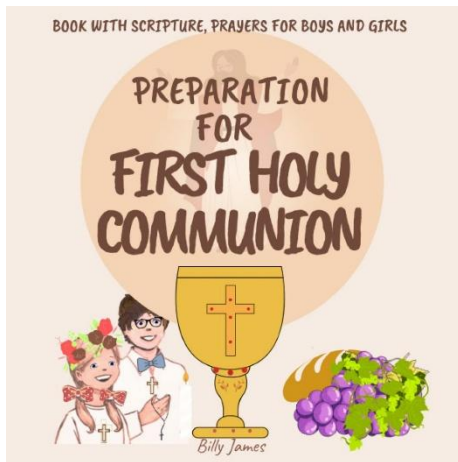
FOSM AGM New date -

Wednesday 19th of November at 8.45 – At drop off we will hold our AGM. Please come along if you can so we can look forward to how we can make the Friends of St Mary's work in the most effective way.

Chair, Treasurer and Secretary roles would also be assigned within this meeting. If you would like to put yourself forward and are keen to help please join us. Thank you as always for your support.



Holy Communion 2026



If your child is in Year 3 or above and a Baptised Catholic, we would like to invite them to take their next step on their Sacramental journey and prepare to make their First Holy Communion. Letters have been issued and should be returned as quickly as possible. If you need any additional information, please ask.

Year of Hope – Jubilee Celebration Day -21.11.25

Pope Francis challenged us to be Pilgrims of Hope, by being Beacons of Hope to others. This began when we had our launch day, all the children watched a special clip from Pope Francis setting them the Hope challenge and we unveiled our banner which is outside school.

All classes made jars of hope in which they considered how we can spread hope to others. Later in the Year, we had our special time with the Our Lady of Lourdes statue. This statue was travelling between all the Catholic Schools in the Lancaster Diocese. We held an assembly to receive the statue and then each class had calm reflective prayer time learning about its importance. Our head boy and head girl were our ambassadors as they took the Statue to the next school.

We also, as part of the year of Hope, took part in a Lenten Walk. Due to our existing charity commitments this did take place after Lent where we raised money for North West Air Ambulance, a charity which greatly supported a family in our school. We raised the amazing total of £1130.

Towards the end of the last academic year, we held our Year of Hope pledge day. Each class made a pledge suggesting how they can continue to be Pilgrims of Hope beyond this special year.

The next event, for our year of Hope, is the Jubilee celebration day on Friday 21st November. I will lead an assembly on Thursday, during the Gospel assembly slot, in which I will explain the importance of the celebration day and remind the children about all we have done for the Year of Hope. Mr. Taylor



Consultation Admissions Policy 27/28

As we have joined a Multi Academy Trust – Mater Ecclesiae we are required to consult on our Admission policy. Full details can be found on our school website.

Church Raffle Tickets

Your child will have brought home their annual Christmas Raffle tickets from St. Mary's Parish. We would be so grateful if you feel you can support this raffle. Books are priced at £1.00. Please return any books you do not require. Should you require any additional booklets simply ask at the Office. We are very blessed that each year the Parish generously donate some of the monies raised back to our school.



Outdoor planting area- Thank you to our Parish Council

We are so grateful to our Parish Council for their support in developing an outdoor planting area. They have given their time for free and have already made a great transformation of this area. Our Vision is to be able to further enhance our outdoor area and grown our own plants and vegetables!!

It is already looking so much better – we will keep sharing the progress with you all.



Whole Year of Catholicity Events



Whole years list of Catholicity events- 2025-2026

Loved and inspired by Mary... We shine and learn as a family of God.

Celebration	Date
Welcome Mass	9.10.25 at 11.00 AM St Mary's Church.
Feast day of St Matthew	26.9.25 All children to wear yellow for Matthew house team. Children will hear from the Gospel of Matthew and learn about him.
Praying the Rosary- A million children to say the Rosary at the same time	7.10.25 – 9:30 AM
Feast day of St Luke	17.10.25 All children to wear blue for Luke house team. Children will hear from the Gospel of Luke and learn about him.
Harvest/ SVP/Helping hands assembly	10.10.25 at 2.45PM.
Catholicity/ Remembrance Week	10.11.25 - 15.11.25
Remembrance Service	11.11.25 – 9.00am
Christmas tree light switch on and Fayre	1.12.25
KS1 Nativity	9.12.25
Ash Wednesday	Falls during half term. 18.2.26
Lenten Breakfasts- Mass at 8.15AM	19.2.26 (1) Crazy hair day 26.2.26 (2) Reverse Day (children to dress as teachers and teachers to dress as children). 5.3.26 (3) World book day 12.3.26 (4) Colour stalls 19.3.26 (5) Tuck shop stall 26.3.26 (6) Design an Easter Cross
Year 3 & 4 Easter Production	18.3.26
Stations of the Cross in the Hall.	1.4.26
Feast day of St Mark	24.4.26 All children wear red for Mark house team. Children will hear from the Gospel of Mark and learn about him.
Marian week	WB 18.5.26
Crown Mary	21.5.26
KS2 Pilgrimage to Ladyewell	18.5.26 Within this week KS1 to have an experience too (Possibly Metanoia)
World Faith Week	WB 22.6.26
Feast day of St John	24.6.26 All children wear green for John house team. Children will hear from the Gospel of John and learn about him.
Leavers awards and Mass	16.7.25 Mass at 11.00AM

Big School Adventures

Big School Adventures runs every Thursday from 1.15 – 3.00 pm.

For more information or to book on please ask in the School Office or as a member of the Class 1 team.

Christmas events



We have lots of exciting events at this time of year so here are some key save the dates!!

- 20.11.25 – Non Uniform Bring a bottle in a bottle bag!
- 28.11.25 – Non Uniform day bring a Chocolate item for the Tombola
- 1.12.25 – Christmas light Switch on and Christmas Fayre
 - Elf Behaving badly lunch (Meals must be pre ordered)
- 5.12.25 – Santa Dash
- 8.12.25 – Whole School Visit to the Pantomime
- 9.12.25 – Nativity at 10.00 and 4.00 (Tickets pre sold only)
- 11.12.25 – Breakfast with Santa from 8.00 am (pre booked only)
- 15.12.25 – Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day (Meals must be pre ordered)
 - Maybe a 'Special visitor could arrive ?'
- 17.12.25 – School Closes for Christmas at 3.15 pm

Santa Dash – 5.12.25

What is the Santa Dash?

This is an amazing fun run at school where pupils get to RUN through school!!! School will be decorated, we have bubble machines, obstacle courses and even snowballs!!

It will be Snooooooooow much fun!!



Why is there a Minimum Sponsorship amount ?

We ask for a minimum sponsorship of £3 to cover the costs of our Santa Hats and medals. Every penny we raise will be used to benefit all our pupils...We really want to develop our outdoor area and plant and grow our own vegetables. We have talked about our own chickens too... so we need some new resources! Please help us raise as much as possible so we can provide new items and experiences for all pupils!

Dates for your diary

20.11.25 – Non Uniform day – Bring a bottle in a bottle bag!
21.11.25 – Jubilee Celebration day
21.11.25 – Year 2 and Year 3 Bikeability (permission letters have already been sent out)
w/c 24.11.25 – Forest School Week for ALL classes
24.11.25 – Class 1
25.11.25 – Class 2
26.11.25 – Class 3
27.11.25 – Class 4
1.12.25 – Christmas Light Switch on and Christmas Fayre from 3.30 pm
5.12.25 – Santa Dash in school
8.12.25 – Whole School Visit to the Pantomime- am
9.12.25 – Key Stage one Nativity at 10.00 am and 4.00 pm
12.12.25 – Class 3 History Workshop
 - Church Carol concert from 6.30 pm
17.12.25- School closes for Christmas at 3.15 pm

School times

School Start 08.45 am
School Finish time 15.15 pm

PE Days

Class 1: Tue pm and Wed pm

Class 2: Tue pm and Wed pm

Class 3: Monday pm and Thursday pm

Class 4: Swimming Tuesday pm (commencing 9/9/25) and Thurs pm

Staff Contact details

Office	
Miss Calvert	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
Miss Haworth	Howarth@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 2	
Mrs Sullivan- Class Teacher	Sullivan@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Collins	Collins@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Miss Strahand	Strahand@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Gibson	Gibson@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 Shaw	Shaw@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Class 4	
Mr Taylor - Class Teacher	Taylor@lea-st-marys.lancs.sch.uk
Mrs Nayler	Nayler@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	Dora Allen	Evie Bolton-Rigby	Bella Melling-Smith
Class 2	Freya Diamond	Freddie Phoenix	
Class 3	Matilda Tidmarsh	Sebby Allen	Jamie Bass
Class 4	Harry Davies	Maisie Lawson	

