

# St. Marie's Catholic Primary School



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## NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Families,

### This weekend's Gospel

In this Sunday's Gospel, the wealthy man was looking for true happiness. We all want to be happy, to have a sense of well-being and inner joy. Jesus reminds us that, if we want to be truly happy, wealth and possessions are not as important as following him and caring for those around us.

#### Adapted from the Gospel of Mark

A man came to Jesus and asked, "Master, what must I do if I want to share everlasting life with God?"

Jesus said, "First, you must obey all of God's commandments."

"I have always tried to live according to the rules of God," the man said. Jesus looked at the man kindly and saw his goodness and love. "Then you must sell everything you own and give all your money away. By doing this you will have riches in heaven, instead of here on earth."

The man left Jesus sadly, because he was a very wealthy man. Jesus said to his friends, "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven!"



#### A prayer

Lord, you see and remember every act of kindness and generosity and store them in your heart.

Help me to store up my treasure in heaven, so that I can share everlasting life with you at the end of time. Amen

**LEARNING THROUGH FAITH, LOVE AND RESPECT**

## This week in school

### Pre-School enjoying the book fair and exploring the outdoors



### Reception learning about God's Wonderful World and how to care for it and for others





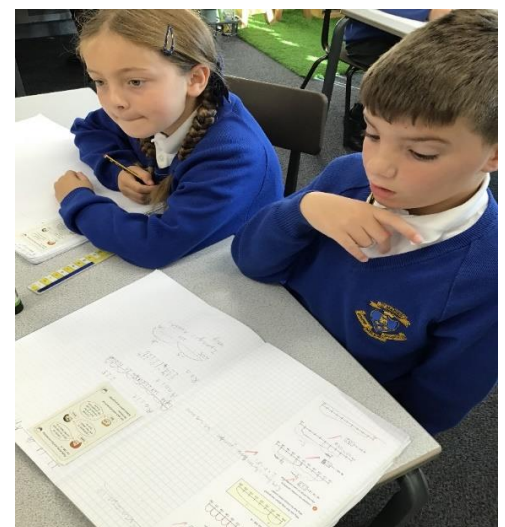
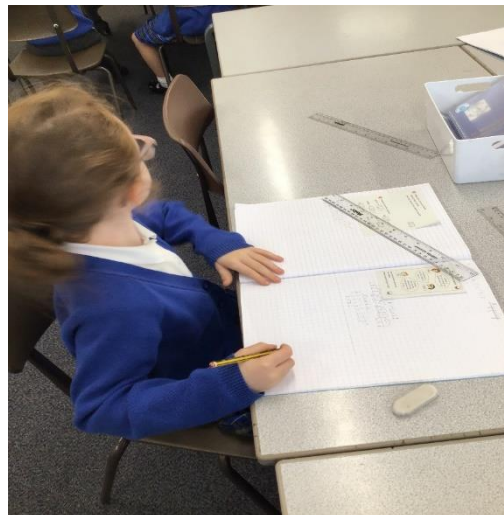
**Year 1 finding out about the past and thinking about the future**



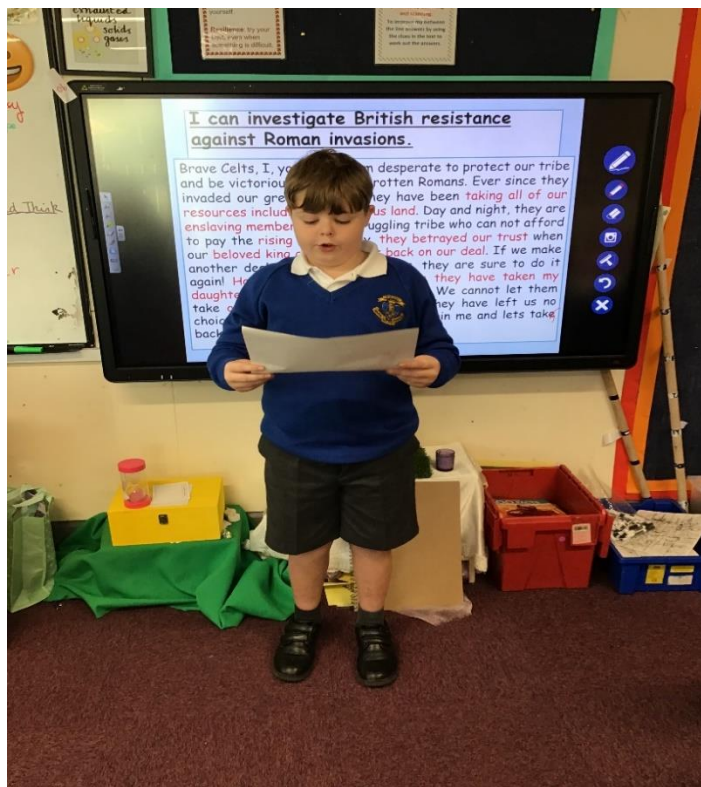
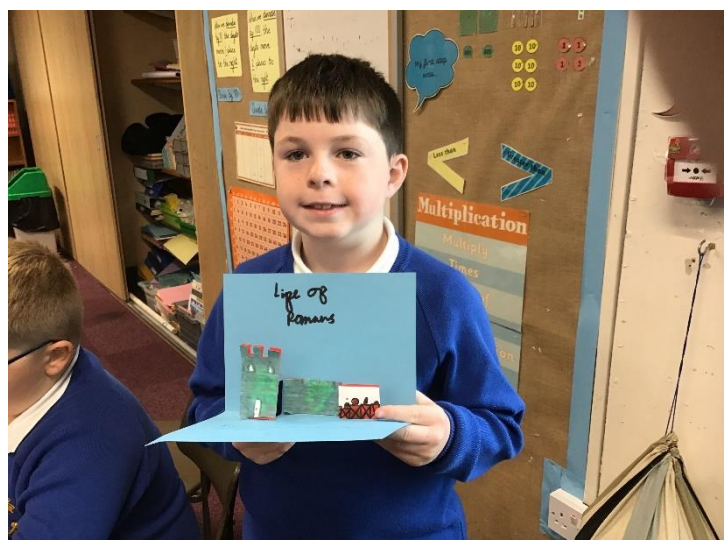
**Year 2 doing great gymnastics in their P.E lesson this week**



Year 3 working hard in maths on using number lines



Year 4 celebrating their knowledge of the Romans in History



## Year 5 in Circle Time



## Year 6 leading the younger children in praying the Rosary and in their Dance Club



**Miss Shaw took the football team to a tournament where there were 34 other schools competing. We came second in our group and qualified for the quarter finals. The behaviour and attitude of the team was exemplary. Thank you to the children for representing St. Marie's so well. We are very proud.**



## **Story Time Box: Reading**

As part of a project to boost reading for enjoyment, we introduced a 'Story Time Box' to each class. Due to the success of this project, we would like to continue this year.

A box will come home with each member of the class at some point within the year. You will be given your date for this in advance. The aim of the box is just to enjoy a book, and snuggle up with your child, a teddy, a hot chocolate and a blanket. If your child feels inspired, they can complete some written or drawn work about the book and you are welcome to take a picture of your children reading for our display in school.

Boxes will go home on a Friday and must be returned to school by Monday so they can be cleaned and replenished for the next child.

We hope you will continue to enjoy the box and send us lots of pictures to

[sstyles@saintmaries.org.uk](mailto:sstyles@saintmaries.org.uk)

Many thanks.

## **Book Fair**

Thank you to Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Keating, Mrs Cheap and the team of volunteers who ran the book fair this week, and also to families for supporting this. Encouraging children with their reading and developing their love of books is so important – it is one of our school priorities this year. The book fair also helped to raise money for free books for our school library. We took nearly £1000 over the week in book sales, which means £200 of free books for our non-fiction library.



**Arts Celebration - What a fantastic celebration of the arts at St. Marie's on Wednesday!**



The children made us all very proud on Wednesday when they showcased their visual and performing arts to their families. The singing and dancing were brilliant, and the art work on the theme of 'portraits' was excellent. Everyone who came enjoyed the celebration and we managed to raise some money for our new art project. Thank you everyone, and especially Mrs Whittle and Mrs Styles for their organisation and creative talents which helped the children achieve!



## Homework

At St Marie's, teachers value homework as a means of developing understanding and practising skills the children have learnt in class. In Key stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) over the week the children have a spelling sheet, spelling list to learn and also their reading books and Doodle Maths. Reception Class have reading and there is a phonics help sheet on the class page of the website. Year 1 have reading, Doodle Maths and 'tricky words' to read which turn into spellings in the Spring term. Year 2 have reading, spelling and Doodle Maths. Children in Years 1-6 are also **invited** to do pre-learning tasks before embarking on a new History or Geography topic each half term so that they have some knowledge of the topic before it begins.

During 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, teachers set out their expectations for homework. If you were unable to attend the sessions, copies of the teachers' PowerPoints are available on the class pages of the school website.

Here are 5 top tips which may be helpful –

1. Split the homework up – do not try to do it all in one night, spread it across the week/weekend
2. Create a calm, quiet space to work where there are no distractions
3. Get a routine going
4. Encourage independence where possible so that you are not doing the homework for your child, but give them support when needed – especially for the younger ones!
5. Praise and reward your child for their effort and enthusiasm

If you have a concern about your child's homework, please see the class teacher – this is the most appropriate way of dealing with queries. Thank you.

## Open Days – 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October

Please pass the message on to families you know who have a child starting Reception in September 2025. We invite them to come along and join us at our open days. We are holding individual tours of the school – they can choose a time slot online via [www.saintmaries.wigan.sch.uk/event\\_booking](http://www.saintmaries.wigan.sch.uk/event_booking).

We would like to invite our children to help at open evenings if they would like to (Years 1-6). The children are invited to stay behind after school until 4.30pm and should bring a drink and snack with them. Different classes are invited to stay behind on different days –

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 and Year 4

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Year 5

Year 6 will be invited over the all 3 sessions.

The children will be involved in different tasks and activities. Please complete the permission form which can be found on Parent Pay **from the middle of next week**, if you would like your child to participate.

## Parents' Evening

Teachers would like to meet Parents/Carers and discuss how your children have settled into their new classes. **Time slots are available to book on the school website under 'Events'** for 10 minute appointments in school. English, Maths, R.E and History books will be available for you to look through so that you can get a flavour of what your child has been learning so far.

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Pre School and Year 3

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6



## Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. We are praying the Rosary at lunchtimes in our library with the children if they want to join in. They can bring their own Rosary beads if they have them.

## Clubs

As well as our after-school sports clubs, choir and computing club, next week Chess Club with Mr Farley will begin on Tuesday lunchtimes and Reading Club will begin on Wednesday lunchtimes with Mrs A Smith. Some of our older children are also organising a dance club at lunchtimes. Thank you for giving up your time everyone.

**Dates for your diary** - the highlighted dates show new information that has been added since last week's newsletter.

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	First session of Year 4 Sacramental Programme begins in church 6 –7pm (Please send in the forms as soon as possible)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 visit Chester Grosvenor Museum to learn about the Romans (separate letter)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 invited to St. Peter's High School to watch a musical (separate letter)
<b>Week of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Mapping week in Geography</b>
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 Trip to Liverpool to learn about The Titanic for their History unit
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Football competition for girls with Miss Shaw (Year 5/6)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Artist in school working with groups
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>  October (times to be confirmed)	Parents' Evening for R, Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5Y6 on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October  Parent's Evening for Y3 on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Hot Dogs for sale (PTFA)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	INSET Day (only teachers in school)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Open day/evening for prospective families

## Mapping Week

Next week will be 'Mapping Week' when all classes will work as Geographers and use their skills to explore and create maps. Our younger children will work on maps of their classroom, school or school grounds and our older children will explore maps of Standish. Please make sure your child brings their waterproof coat as there will be field work outside. Mrs Bunting would like Reception children to bring their wellingtons next week so that they can go outside in the St. Marie's garden.



## Attendance Matters

Attendance is extremely important at St Marie's. Here are the figures for last week (30/9/24 – 4/10/24).

Class	Attendance for last week	Number of lates
Reception	95%	1
Year 1	98%	0
Year 2	98%	0
Year 3	94%	2
Year 4	93%	4
Year 5	96%	6
Year 6	92%	0

Our school target is 96.5%. Our average for the week beginning the 30/9/2024 was 95%.

### This week's Golden Book Children

**Pre School** – Jamie for joining in with play and making new friends.

**Reception** – Florence for coming into school with a big smile on her face.

**Year 1** – Isla for excellent responses in shared writing.

**Year 2** - Isaac for participating in all areas of school and trying hard with handwriting.

**Year 3** – Eva for working hard at home and in school.

**Year 4** – Anna for incredible grammar skills applied in writing and good behaviour.

**Year 5** - Jewel for working hard, being a shining example and having a lovely sense of humour.

**Year 6** – Lizzie for using initiative to join groups and help out, and listening to feedback to improve work.

**Well done children!**

## Vision

This week in assembly I shared our vision with the children. We talked about what this means for our school.

*'A growing, welcoming Catholic school  
Inviting all to know Jesus,  
Where we thrive and become our very best.'*

I also had a meeting with our Leadership Team from Key Stage 1 and 2. The children had some fantastic ideas for St. Marie's going forward. I will take these ideas to the staff meeting and will keep you posted.

## Nativity Painting Competition

The Knights of St. Columba are inviting children to enter a Nativity Scene Painting Competition, and the theme is : Nativity Scene of Our Lord. Drawings/paintings should be on either A4 or A3 and the Bible chapter and Verse that best relates to the drawing needs to be written on it or on the reverse. There are 2 age groups :

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Years 3, 4, 5, 6

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners and their school.

If your child would like to enter, please bring your completed pictures to the office before we break up for the Christmas break.

## Mrs O'Neill's Wellbeing words of the week

***"Try to make at least one person happy every day. If you cannot do a kind deed, speak a kind word. If you cannot speak a kind word, think a kind thought."***

**(Lawrence G Lovasik)**

**Start your day with a kind thought and turn it into a kind word or deed. We all have the power to spread kindness with our actions.  
You will never regret being kind!**



**Thank you Mrs O'Neill. What a great way to spread the message from Mental Health Day!**

**Have a lovely weekend everyone.**

**Best wishes *Mrs Jackson***