

# St. Marie's Catholic Primary School

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## NEWSLETTER

5th September 2024

*Guiding Lord, may we love you and follow you all the days of our lives. Amen.*

Dear Families,



Welcome back everyone!

I hope you had a lovely summer with your families, and everyone is well rested and ready for the new academic year ahead!

A very special welcome to our new families who have joined us in Pre-School and Reception Class this time. The children are already settling in, making friends and getting used to our routines.

All of our children across school have come back looking so smart – thank you to parents for supporting our uniform policy!



**LEARNING THROUGH FAITH, LOVE AND RESPECT**

It has been a fantastic first week back at Saint Marie's with lots of fun, learning and smiles!

To meet your child's class teacher and to find out more about the year ahead – please come to our 'Meet the teacher' sessions next week (see dates/times later in this newsletter).

## **This Week's Gospel – from Luke**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'



***Guiding Lord,***

***Give us courage to know you, to love you, to follow you always in how we treat others and care for our world.***

***Amen.***



## This week at St Marie's

Reception - Reception have met their buddies and had lunch with them.



Year 1 – have been ordering the days of the week



**Year 2** - have been settling into their new classroom and learning all about The Titanic in History.



**Year 5** - have been working on communication and team building skills. They were challenged to place themselves in birthday order, without talking!



**Year 6** - A wonderful start for our new Year 6. They have been getting to know more about one another and thinking about the teamwork involved in the year ahead. They looked at how to get the toothpaste back in the tube once it was out. This was an analogy for how much power our words will have this year.





## Change to Modern Foreign Languages



This year, we are excited to announce that our Key Stage 2 children will learn Spanish!

Senora Interion will be joining our staff team each Tuesday and teaching Spanish to Year 3 and 4 one week and Year 5 and 6 the next.



## Musical Instruments

Just a reminder that Wigan Music Service offer a range of additional music tuition from specialist music teachers who come into school. At a cost, they provide lessons in: stringed instruments, brass, woodwind, recorder, percussion, piano, keyboard, guitar and vocal coaching. If you are interested, please contact the school office for more information.



## **PTFA**

Our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) is a dedicated group of Parents, Teachers and Friends who meet to organise, plan, support and help out at various fundraising events throughout the year. All parents are included in our PTFA and any time you can give is much appreciated as we know you cannot everyone has busy lives. Please just do what you can to support when/where you can!

Our next meeting is in school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 9am and you are all very welcome.

Last year the PTFA organised some wonderful events including Easter Bingo, Silent Disco, Christmas parties, summer picnic, hamper raffle, Mothers' Day gifts and hot dog Wednesdays.

The PTFA raised funds to help school trips, the purchase of new chess boards, microphone set for the hall, gazebos and a bench for the prayer garden.

This year we are hoping to raise enough money for an outside trim trail for all the children to enjoy!

## **P.E**

P.E lessons with class teachers and Wigan Athletic will be on the following days -

Year 1 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 2 - Thursday and Friday

Year 3 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 4 - Monday and Wednesday

Year 5 - Thursday

Year 6 - Thursday and Friday

Children will need to wear their P.E kits for school on these days.

Year 5's other P.E lesson is swimming and this will begin next week (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September)

## **Bright Beginnings**

We will once again be running our Bright Beginnings group for children and carers (children aged 0-3 years old). This will be on Wednesdays from 9.15 - 10.15 am with refreshments provided. It is a chance to meet others and join in play, songs, craft and snack time. Bright Beginnings will begin on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> November, by which time our Pre School children will be settled and ready to spend time in the Year 1 classroom whilst 'Bright Beginnings' use the pre - school room.

We look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> November! Please spread the word and contact the office if you have any queries.

## This week's Golden Book Children



**Reception** – **Joseph** for settling in so well to St. Marie's school life

**Year 1** – **Mollie** for showing kindness to all

**Year 2** – **Michael** for trying his best and being ready

**Eddie** for lovely listening

**Year 3** – **Loki** for settling back to school really well and having a lovely start

**Year 4** – **Jessie** for a lovely start to Year 4 and being noticed for her positive attitude and manners

**Year 5** - **Daisy** for super work and enthusiasm in history

**Year 6** – **Jaxon** for putting his hand up and being really involved in every lesson

**Well done children!**



## Extra Curricular Clubs

Our clubs will begin again from next week. There are a range of clubs at lunchtimes/after school for different year groups including Choir, Chess, Gardening, GIFT, Football, Computing, Mindfulness, Play Leaders, Well-Being Warriors etc. Parent Pay messages will be sent to the relevant year groups next week. The clubs/year groups will change each half term to give different children an opportunity to join in.

## Attendance

Attendance at school is hugely important to us.

There is some very useful information on this NHS website about when to keep your child off school and when not to -

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Our attendance target is 96.5%

This week our attendance was – 96.8% Brilliant!

Class	Attendance %
Reception	98.0
Year 1	87.1
Year 2	99.5
Year 3	94.3
Year 4	99.2
Year 5	99.6
Year 6	97.2

Parents - please be mindful of not booking holidays in term time – they will be unauthorised. When a child has 5 school days of unauthorised absence, Wigan will issue a Penalty Notice of £80 (per child per parent) which rises to £160 for a second unauthorised absence.

## Dates for your diary

Here are some important dates for this term -

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	Welcome Mass in school 9.30am with Fr Joseph All families welcome
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Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Meet the Teacher 9am repeated at 4.30pm.  Year 6 at 5pm only, joined by Mr Santus and Mr McGlown of St. Peter's at 5.30pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Welcome to Reception and their families in school hall 9.15am.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Pre-School 'Meet the Teacher' 4.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	PTFA meeting in school 9am
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	Whole class photograph for Reception class and Year 6
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Forum 9am
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Harvest Family Fast Day  Key Stage 2 walk to church 10.30am. Children lead the service. All families invited
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Treasure Hunt in church for children and families of Year 4 making their First Holy Communion this year
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> , Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Open days for prospective parents to view our school in action. Please encourage anyone you know who maybe interested, to visit the school website for further information
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	INSET day – just teachers in school
Monday 27 – Friday 31 October	October half term break
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Individual photographs for all children and siblings  More details will follow
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 6 lead our Remembrance Liturgy in church at 10.30am. All children will

	walk to church and all families are invited to join us
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	First Reconciliation in church at 6pm for Year 4 making their First Holy Communion
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Advent Mass in school 9.30am. All children and families invited
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Standish Markets Choir singing
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 2.15pm (Year 1 and 2)  Knights of St Columba service at church 6.30pm Choir singing
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Pre-school and Reception Nativity 9.30am in school
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Nativity (year 1 and 2) in school 9.15am Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco 3.15pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 1 Tea with Santa 3.15pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas 2pm

## Other useful dates

Low Bank Ground Residential for Year 6 - week beginning 2/2/2026

Diversity Week – beginning 9/2/2026

60 Anniversary celebrations of St Marie's School 21/4/2026

SATS for Year 6 – week beginning 11/5/2026

Anderton Centre Residential for Year 4 – 4-5/6/2026

First Holy Communion for Year 4 – 20/6/2026

## Parent Forum

We want our school to be

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

All parents/carers are invited to a forum on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 9am. This is a chance to meet our SLT (Senior Leader Team) and to discuss anything related to improving our school and working towards our vision. Tea and coffee will be served and minutes taken.

All welcome.

## Seeds of Hope

There will be an organised walk involving the Seeds of Hope group from St Marie's church – please see details below -



Join us  
on this  
Pilgrimage  
Walk!

**PILGRIMAGE WALK**  
**ST MARY'S SHRINE CHURCH**  
**AUGHTON, ORMSKIRK, (L39 6TA)**  
**SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER**

**This Season of Creation, join us  
for a pilgrimage walk!**

- Starting at 11am
- 3.5 mile circular route
- 3 prayer stops on the route
- Mass at 1:30pm

 Archdiocese of  
Liverpool

For more information, contact Chris Higgins:  
[c.higgins@reaol.org.uk](mailto:c.higgins@reaol.org.uk)

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Best wishes, *Mrs Jackson*