

St. Marie's Catholic Primary School

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NEWSLETTER

24th October 2025

Dear Families,

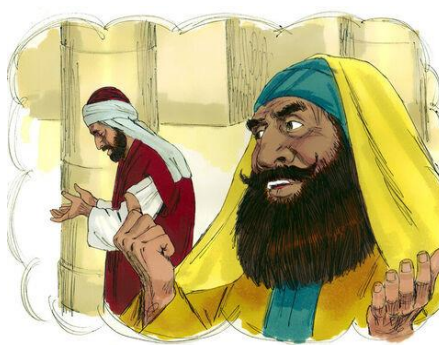
This week's Gospel is from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else.

Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. I fast two days a week, and I give you a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!'

"I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great."



All-powerful God, help us to know when we are being proud or when we have forgotten to be forgiving towards others. Help us to do what is pleasing to you. Amen.

LEARNING THROUGH FAITH, LOVE AND RESPECT

This week's news at St Marie's

Pre-School - The children have enjoyed celebrating Diwali. They have explored Rangoli patterns and created their own Mehndi designs.



Reception - Father Joseph came in to Baptise the baby doll and talk to the children about how they are welcomed into the church.



Year 1 - made 'journey sticks' as part of Mapping Week learning.



Year 2 - really enjoyed in DT, making Titanic bedrooms and sharing their finished models with each other.



Year 3 – worked as Geographers and went for a walk around Standish for mapping week



Year 4 – walked around Standish observing and recording features that keep us safe, keep our environment clean and are community friendly.



Year 5 – were fantastic at completing their D&T project of creating a cam mechanism toy.



Choir

A huge well done to our choir who performed amazingly at St. Peter's High School on Wednesday evening. We were so proud of them! Thanks to the staff who accompanied the children and prepared them so well for their rendition of 'It's a hard knock life' from Annie. The children were an absolute credit to their parents and our school.





Staff News

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Price on the safe arrival of baby Ophelia! A beautiful little sister for Otilie. Love and best wishes to the Price family from all of our school community.



Market Stall

The children harvested the vegetables that they have been growing in the school garden. GIFT team sold these and made enough money to buy new seeds. The produce was fantastic!





Half Term Break

A reminder that we are now closed for the half term break and will re-open on Monday 3rd November.



Number Day at Saint Marie's

On Monday 3rd November, we will have a 'Number Day' to launch our new approach to teaching/learning times tables.

All children are invited to come to school dressed up as a number/something to do with maths, and there will be special maths activities during the day.

We will hold a workshop for parents on helping your child with times tables after school at 3.15pm. You are welcome to come into the workshop with your children after you have picked them



Bright Beginnings

Our baby/toddler group will be starting back after the half term break. This is on Wednesday mornings from 9.15 - 10.15am. All welcome to join us in the Pre- School room for play, chat, refreshments and songs.

Parents' Evening

There will be a chance for parents to meet with their child's class teacher on Thursday 6th November. Appointments are now available to book on Parent Pay and are for 10 minutes. Also, the children's books will be ready for you to look through.

Balance Bikes

On the 11th and 12th of November, Reception and Year 1 will be using 'Balance Bikes' on the playground as part of developing their coordination, special awareness and confidence.

Choir at the Edge



Our choir are performing in a special Christmas concert at the Edge in Wigan, on Wednesday 3rd December. If **parents/carers of the children in the choir** would like a ticket to watch the concert, please copy and paste this link –

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FKRN>

It is always a sell-out so choir parents, please do book early to avoid disappointment.

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 –

Class	Attendance %
Reception	98.2
Year 1	94.9
Year 2	96.4
Year 3	97.4
Year 4	97.3
Year 5	96.7
Year 6	97.3

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. Anything highlighted in yellow is a new date that has been added since the last newsletter -

Monday 27 – Friday 31 October	October half term break
Monday 3 rd November	Number Day Parent Workshop 3.15pm -Times tables

	Session in school for Year 4 doing Holy Communion 5.15pm
Thursday 6 th November	Parents' Evening
Friday 7 th November	Individual photographs for all children and siblings
Monday 10 th November	Session in school for Year 4 doing Holy Communion 5.15pm
Tuesday 11 th 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 there. The teachers will be asking for volunteers to help walk the children to church
Wednesday 12 th November	Parents of our SEND children are invited to a coffee and information meeting at 9am in school. This meeting's speaker will be from the Family Hub.
Monday 17 th November	First Reconciliation in church at 6pm for Year 4 making their First Holy Communion
Monday 1 st December	Advent Mass in school 9.30am. All children and families invited
Wednesday 3 rd December	Choirs at Christmas concert
Saturday 6 th December	Standish Markets - Choir singing
Tuesday 9 th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity 2.15pm (Year 1 and 2) Knights of St Columba service at church 6.30pm - Choir singing
Wednesday 10 th December	Pre-school and Reception Nativity 9.30am in school Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumpers
Thursday 11 th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity (year 1 and 2) in school 9.15am

	Key Stage 2 Christmas Disco 3.15pm
Friday 12 th December	Children's' flu vaccines
Monday 15 th December	Key Stage 1 Tea with Santa 3.15pm
Friday 19 th 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

Have a great half term everyone!

Best wishes,

Mrs Jackson