



LENT

St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School
April Newsletter 2026

LENT

Dear parent and carers,

As we come towards the end of another busy term, I would like to thank all of our school families for their continued support and joining us as we create the best learning environment for our pupils. As usual, it has been another jam-packed term full of events and memories for the children. From World book day to the Wonderdome, from class trips to residentials, this term has had it all.

As we journey through this special season of Lent, it has been wonderful to see how thoughtfully our pupils have embraced the opportunity to reflect, make small sacrifices, and say "Yes" to God in their daily lives. Whether through acts of kindness, moments of prayer, or giving something up to help others, the children have shown a growing understanding of what this time means in our faith.

We are very proud of the way they have supported one another and lived out our school values with such sincerity and care. As we approach the end of term, we hope that you all enjoy a peaceful and joyful Easter break with your families. May it be a time of rest, celebration and renewal.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the Summer term, refreshed and ready for the months ahead.

Mr Atherton

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st April—Share the Learning—2:30pm
Thursday 2nd April—Charity Walk Day - CAFOD Big Lent Walk—finish for the Easter holidays!

Dates for the Diary— Summer Term so far...

Monday 20th April—start of the new term
Monday 27th April—Friday 8th May—Stay and Pray sessions (further information below)
Monday 27th-Tuesday 28th April—Life Education workshops
Thursday 30th April—Y5—Crucial Crew visit in school
Monday 4th May—Bank Holiday—School closed
Tuesday 5th May—Y1 History Alive visitor
Saturday 9th May—Y4 First Holy Communion Mass St Johns Church—10:30am
Sunday 10th May—Communicants will lead the May Procession at St Mary's Church at 6.30pm
Monday 11th May—Thursday 14th May—Y6 SATS week
Tuesday 12th May—Y5 History Alive visitor
Wednesday 13th May—Y4 History Alive visitor
Wednesday 13th May—Reception trip to Smithills Farm
Friday 22nd May—Cultural Diversity Day (further information to follow)
Monday 25th May—Friday—29th May—Half term

Monday 8th June— Friday 12th June—Y1 Phonics screening check
Monday 8th June—Friday 12th June—Y4 Multiplication Check
Wednesday 10th June—Share the Learning—2:30pm
Thursday 18th June—Sports Day
Friday 19th June – Staff INSET day—School closed

Further dates to be shared in the near future.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASS AT ST MARY AND ST JOHN'S CHURCHES, WIGAN

Holy Thursday—Morning Prayer of the Church at St John's -10.00am
Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Mary's—7.30pm followed by Watching, concluding with Night Prayer—9:45pm

Good Friday—Morning Prayer of the Church at St John's -10.00am
Silent Prayer before the Cross at St John's—10:30am
Stations of the Cross at St John's—11:00am
Stations of the Cross at St Mary's—12:00pm
Celebration of the Lord's Passion at St Mary's - 3.00pm

Holy Saturday -Morning Prayer of the Church at St John's— 10.00am
The Easter Vigil at St John's 8.00pm, followed by refreshments in the Campbell Room

Easter Sunday—Holy Mass at St Mary's—9:00am
Holy Mass with Children's Liturgy—St John's—11:00am
Holy Mass at St John's - 4:30pm
Benediction at St Mary's—6:30pm



Further information can be found on the St William Parish newsletter at [ST WILLIAM RC PARISH, WIGAN - Home](#)

Catholic Life and Mission Updates

LIVE SIMPLY 'LENT BIG WALK'

This Lent, we are supporting CAFOD and joining other schools around the country to help fight poverty around the world. To raise money, please visit our just giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/d-torpey-4?>

Our Key Stage 1 children will be walking to Mesnes park for the morning. Our Key Stage 2 children will walk to Haigh Hall, take part in a range of activities and walk back to school after lunch.



How our fundraising will help -CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, working together with communities all over the world for an end to extreme poverty and global injustice.

We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money together, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world, living out our school mission and supporting our Live Simply Action Plan— supporting people in need and those living in poverty.

Join us to raise funds! You can join the Big Lent Walk too! Please visit our JustGiving page. We really appreciate your support and hope that everyone has fun raising money for CAFOD. For more information about CAFOD please visit cafod.org.uk/families. Please support us!

STAY and PRAY

Each class will be holding a 'Stay and Pray' session in summer term. Stay and Pray is a short liturgy session involving prayer, scripture, hymns and reflection.

We welcome our families to attend, to support the prayer sessions and enjoy some reflective time with your child and class.



RECEPTION—Wednesday 6th May at 2.45pm

YEAR 1—Friday 8th May at 2.45pm

YEAR 2 — Thursday 7th May at 2.45pm

YEAR 3 — Monday 11th May at 2.45pm

YEAR 4 — Wednesday 29th April at 2.45pm

YEAR 5 — Thursday 30th April at 2.45pm

YEAR 6— Wednesday 6th May at 2.45pm

Attendance

Thank you to all pupils for their continued support in attendance. Our current average attendance is **95.8%**. We are still aiming for our attendance goal of **97%**. We have had lots of weekly class winners of our attendance awards. A reminder to everyone of the importance of being in school as much as possible. Below are attendance figures for classes during the Spring Term.

Rec—96.3%

Y4—96.3%

Y1— 96.1%

Y5—98.1%

Y2— 97.3%

Y6—95.2%

Y3—96.9%



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

STAFFING UPDATE

This half-term we have welcomed back Mrs Evans to our Reception class after maternity leave. She has very quickly picked up where she left off as our Reception teacher and Art subject leader.

We have also welcomed back Mrs Woods from maternity leave into our Year 3 and Reception classes as well as being our Geography and Eco leader.

We are very lucky to have them back and wish them all the luck in the world as they return to school alongside their young families.

Further details of events and pictures can be found on our school website :

[Home](#)