



St Mary & St John Catholic Primary School  
March Newsletter 2026  
*In the light of Jesus, we learn to shine.*

Dear parents and carers,

The days are getting longer, the sun is starting to come out and everyone is continuing to give their best in all aspects of school life.



As we are truly into the season of Lent, pupils have been reflecting on how we can work to support others and follow Christ's teachings. Pupils have created Lenten promises and prayers through Celebrations of the Word during this special time of year. Our March value of 'responsibility' is being lived out across school with many children pushing to win this month's award.

It has been a very busy few weeks since we returned after half-term. Pupils have enjoyed Mad Science assemblies (with an after-school club to begin after Easter), participated in activities in the 'Wonderdome' as part of British Science Week and we all enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters as part of World Book Day. As well as this, Year 5 and Year 6 visited Bridgewater Hall to participate in an experience with the Halle Orchestra, a group of pupils represented school in a 'Junior Speaks' competition and pupils are very excited to take part in the school book fair.

We have 3 more busy weeks in school before we the Easter break filled with parents evenings, sports competitions, residentials, share the learning, Lenten Masses and CAFOD Big Lent Walks!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in school,  
Mr Atherton

### Diary dates (until Easter)

Tuesday 10th March, Wednesday 11th March—Parents evening  
Thursday 12th March—Cross country competition—Y5/Y6  
Friday 13th March—Y6 to attend Mass at St John's Church  
Friday 13th March, Monday 16th March—Book fair in school  
Friday 20th March—Y5 to attend Mass at St John's Church  
Wednesday 25th March—Friday 27th March—Y5 trip to Anderton Centre  
Thursday 26th March—Y4 brass concert—2:30pm  
Friday 27th March—Y4 to attend Mass at St John's Church  
Tuesday 31st March—KS2 Lenten Mass at St John's Church—10am (note: date change)  
Wednesday 1st April—Share the Learning—2:30pm  
Thursday 2nd April—Big Lent Walk to Haigh Hall/Mesnes Park  
Thursday 2nd April—School closes for Easter Break  
Monday 20th April—School re-opens for the Summer Term.

## Lenten Prayer

Loving God,

*During this season of Lent, help our families to grow closer to you and to one another. Teach us to be kind, patient and generous in our daily lives. Help us to notice those who need our care and to share what we have with grateful hearts.*

*May this time of reflection guide us to follow Jesus with love, hope, and courage each day.*

*Amen.*



### Scholastic Book Fair

On Friday 13th March and Monday 16th March, the school book fair will be open to pupils. Book fairs have been great successes in school in the past, with the brilliant incentive that with every book that is purchased during the book fair, school receives a donation for free books that can be used in classes to support reading for pleasure across school.

Pupils will have the opportunity to create a 'wish list' of books that they would like to purchase during the book fair. These can be brought home to parents and purchased online at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) or they can be brought back to school if you would like to purchase the books in-person.

### World Book Day

Thank you to parents for supporting World Book Day and providing the pupils with some amazing outfits as we celebrated World Book Day. As it is the national year of reading, it was fantastic to see all pupils engrossed in reading activities all day as well as sharing their outfits and books with other pupils. Classes also spent time with pupils from a different year group as they shared their books, read stories and was read to by a range of members of staff.

### Stay and Pray responses

Another thank you to all parents and carers supporting school through attending class 'stay and pray' sessions and give feedback on how they felt being in school and in the worships. The feedback is extremely positive and highlighted the importance of allowing families to participate in schools worships as pupils become leaders of Prayer and Liturgy.

Reverence and respect permeates across school as pupils worship together and it is fantastic to read parent reflections. The children thoroughly enjoy leading worships to their families and it is lovely to see so many families supporting school as they worship together.

### CAFOD Big Lent Walk

To live out the Catholic Social Teaching of solidarity, we are looking forward to participating in our annual 'Big Lent Walk' on Thursday 2nd April. Reception and Key Stage 1 will be walking to Mesnes Park for a morning of activities before walking back to school for lunch whilst Key Stage 2 will be walking and spending the day at Haigh Hall where they will be taking part in a range of activities. To support class ratios, teachers will be asking for volunteers to make the trip with their class so if anyone will be available to support the trip, please contact your class teacher via Class Dojo.



### Attendance

Thank you to all pupils for their continued support in attendance. Our current average attendance is **95.7%**. 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—96.9%  
Y1— 96.3%

Y4—96.2%  
Y5—98.1%



**Attendance Matters**

Every student. Every day.

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