

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 9th May 2025

Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some."

John 21:5-6

Dear Parents/ Carers,

This week, our school family has been reflecting on the Gospel of John 21:5–6, where the risen Jesus tells His disciples to cast their nets on the other side – and they are filled with fish! Through this story, the children have deepened their understanding of Jesus as a living, loving friend who provides for our needs.

Through this beautiful story of the risen Jesus sharing breakfast with His disciples, we've explored how, just like the disciples, we too can trust Jesus – even when things seem uncertain.

Our focus has been on recognising Jesus not just as a figure from the past, but as a present friend who journeys with us each day. We encourage the children to think about how they can turn to Him in times of worry, to ask for help, and to give thanks when their 'nets' are full.

Risen Jesus, thank you for loving us. Help us to trust in You, to listen to Your voice, and to follow You in faith. Amen.



★ Stars of the Week ★

Well done to all of our Stars this week for putting so much effort into their work!

Nursery	Lando	For being polite to his teachers and friends
Reception	Rafe	For his amazing effort in writing activities throughout the week
Year 1	Nyima	For improving in her reading and phonics
Year 2	Ivy	For always being a kind and responsible member of Year 2
Year 3	Bella	For fantastic listening and a brilliant attitude towards learning
Year 4	Erin	For always staying on task and sharing answers during class discussions
Year 5	Daryl	For having a fantastic week. You are a superstar
Year 6	Amelia	For revising hard in preparation for SATs week



Book Fair Update

Huge thanks to all the children and families who attended our book fair last week - we hope you are enjoying reading your new books.

Parents spent £643.37 in total which has enabled us to spend £257.35 on new books for our class reading areas. Children will be involved in choosing the new books, benefitting all classes. Once again, very many thanks for attending the book fair, we really appreciate your support.



ClassDojo

Dojo winners of the week – Year 5!

PTA

Thank you to those who attended the PTA meeting this afternoon, but we would greatly appreciate more support from parents. We have started arrangements for the summer fair and need more helpers to make it as memorable event as possible.

We would like parents to join the PTA as previous members' children are leaving school this time. Please contact the office (admin@saintmaryscongleton.co.uk) and they will pass your details on.

Stay and Pray

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Stay and Pray sessions this week. It was truly special to welcome you into our classrooms to share in moments of quiet reflection, prayer, and joyful activity with the children.

Each class created a beautiful atmosphere, offering thoughtful prayers, deep thoughts and creative activities that reminded us of God's love and the importance of taking time to be still in His presence. From reflective drawings and scripture readings to shared intentions and peaceful silences, every class found their own meaningful way to connect with God—and with one another.

These moments are such a valuable part of our school life, helping us grow together in faith as a school community.

We look forward to welcoming you again for more opportunities to reflect and pray together.

Sports Day and Picnic - Friday 23rd May

Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 – parents to arrive for 10am start. All are able to stay for picnic with their children from 11.30am – 12pm.

Y3 to Y6 – parents to arrive at for picnic with their children from 12.15pm – 12.45pm, then stay for sports day afterwards.

Parents to bring their own food. Children can order a school picnic box containing sandwich (ham, cheese or tuna), teddy crisps, juice carton and cake. There will be no hot food option available that day.

SATs

As we approach SATs week, we want to take a moment to say how proud we are of our Year 6 pupils. They have worked incredibly hard, shown great resilience, and supported one another throughout their learning journey.

This week's Gospel reminds us of Jesus' loving care and guidance. Just as Jesus provided for His disciples, we remind our children that they are not alone—Jesus walks with them and gives them strength. SATs are just one moment in their journey. What matters most is their growth, their kindness, and the effort they have shown.

Please help your child rest well, eat well and know that they are cherished—no matter the outcome of a test.

We keep them all in our prayers this week:

“Lord, give our children calm minds, steady hearts, and the confidence to do their best. Amen.”

School Uniform

We want our children to look smart at all times and some parents are not adhering to the uniform policy, this can be found on the school website. The following items have been noticeably absent recently –

Saint Mary's jumper and tie, grey, white and black socks, black shoes – fabric shoes, pumps, trainers or open toed sandals are not acceptable. Only small stud earrings to be worn at school.

On PE days children need to wear Saint Mary's or a plain navy blue t shirt and sweatshirt – fashion or branded sportswear is not acceptable. A reminder that no earrings can be worn during PE.

School Roof

We have recently had our roof repaired by Ronald J Gaunt Roofing. Instead of sending us an invoice, they have made an extremely kind gesture and donated the repairs for free to the School Building Fund at Saint Mary's. This is in recognition of all the work we all do at school and the community, thank you again!

Key Dates

Monday 12th – Y4 swimming

Wednesday 14th – Reception and Y6 class photos

Friday 16th May – Nursery and Reception parent lunch 11.25am

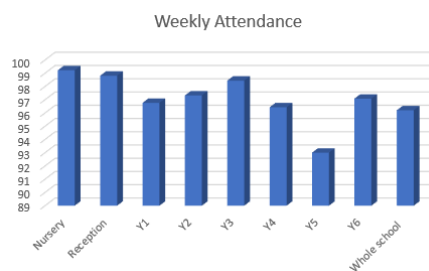
Friday 16th May - Y6 Forest School

Friday 16th May – Non uniform day and Whole school disco 3.30pm – 5pm. Please pay £4 on Arbor / shop

Friday 23rd May – School sports day and picnic

Attendance

Nursery	99.22%
Reception	98.81%
Y1	96.76%
Y2	97.32%
Y3	98.44%
Y4	96.43%
Y5	93%
Y6	97.08%
Whole school	96.20%



Taking Holidays during Term Time

Please remember that taking your child out of school without the school's authorisation may result in the school requesting the Local Authority to issue a fixed penalty notice to each parent/carer for each child. The penalties are shown below. Please be aware that only a few days of absence can impact significantly on a child's attendance percentage and consequently the child's education and learning.

Penalties for unauthorised absence		
Timeline	One child	Two children
Paid within 21 days	£80 per parent	£80 per child = £160 per parent
After 21 days and before 28 days	£160 per parent	£160 per child = £320 per parent
After 28 days	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your child's regular attendance	You will be summonsed to appear before the Magistrates' Court on the grounds you have failed to secure your children's regular attendance

Universal Free School Meals and Income Related Free School Meals

Do you know the difference?! You could be missing out on your entitlements.

All children in Reception class, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal under current Government policy; this is known as Universal Free School Meals. However, some children will be entitled to Income Related Free School Meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit shown below.

If this is the case, please apply for this even if your child is in Key Stage 1 as the school can then claim additional funding for resources, known as Pupil Premium, which can be able used to help your child with school trip and uniform costs. The financial benefit of Pupil Premium will remain with your child throughout their school years. This also applies to children in our Nursery.

Phone 0300123 5012 for further information and help or apply online:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Income related free school meals (IRFSM)

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- This is also applicable to nursery-age children if they attend before and after lunch sessions at a local authority nursery school, nursery class or an Academy nursery if it has the same Ofsted number as the primary school.

Thank you as always for your continuous support and communication with the school. Please do contact the school if you would like to discuss anything concerning your child's education and/or welfare.

We wish you a peaceful and blessed weekend.

Mr G Merrick
Deputy Headteacher

