

Weekly Newsletter

Safe
Valued
Loved



Friday 24th April 2026

Edition 28

'Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, He explained to them the passages throughout the Scriptures that were about Himself.'

Luke 24:27

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week children started the week by listening to the Gospel of Luke. They heard about Jesus speaking to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus but not being recognised until he broke the bread at the meal he was invited to.



We discussed how somethings don't appear as they first seem. Our Celebration of the Word led to some thoughtful discussions about how we can be guided by Jesus and all the things he offers us such as courage, hope, love and joy. The children considered how they could share these gifts with others throughout the week.

Year 4 Residential trip to Tattenhall

Our Year 4 children had a fantastic time visiting Tattenhall for their very first residential trip. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to build confidence, develop independence and create lasting memories with their friends through lots of exciting activities and adventures. I can honestly say this is one of the best residential trips I have been on : the children were fantastic and it was amazing to see how much they enjoyed themselves. A huge thank you to Mrs Burrow and Miss Small for giving up their time to accompany the trip and support the children throughout the visit. Residential trips do not just happen and would not be such a success without the hard work and dedication from our staff.



Netball

Well done to our Netball Teams that competed at All Hallows on Wednesday, both teams played brilliantly.

Team 2 came 6th out of 7 teams whilst Team 1 just missed out on 1st place on goal difference.



Well done to St Alban's who won the competition and thank you to All Hallows for organising such a great event!

PTA

Next meeting is on Tuesday 28th April at 2pm in school—all welcome!

Internet Safety

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, we would like to encourage you to spend some time talking with your child about how to keep safe online. This could include discussing appropriate websites and apps, being kind online, not sharing personal information and telling a trusted adult if something worries them.

We also ask that you speak with your child about consent and remind them that photographs or videos should only be shared when permission has been given.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our children stay safe and responsible online.



Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Vinnie	For settling in so well to Nursery
	Jacob	For being kind to his friend when they were sad
Reception	Orla	For being a kind friend and always sharing
	Arthur	For his excellent manners
Year 1	Penny	For great progress in her reading
	Archie	For thinking of other people's feelings
Year 2	Leo	For working hard in all lessons and setting an example
	Violet	For great discussion about the Ascension in R E
Year 3	Edward	For excellent contributions to our class discussions and putting in a lot of effort into his work this week
	Oscar	For always showing care and compassion
Year 4	Jaiden	For embracing all aspects of his very first residential!
	Harriet	For being a supportive and caring team player on the residential this week
Year 5	Oskar	For an excellent poster about oceans in Geography
	Erin	For her excellent kindness, patience and helpfulness
Year 6	Matilda	For incredible progress in Maths
	Mia	For attending all her booster groups

Dojo

winners

Reception



EYFS

EYFS children enjoyed a visit from the Police as part of their topic about People who Help Us!

They listened to the siren, sat in the car and tried on the uniform. They listened well to the Police Officers who told them all about their job.



Attendance

We strive for excellent attendance at Saint Mary's.

If your child is unwell and they are need to rest and recover at home we completely understand, but the table below shows the impact of a lower attendance.

Children will miss valuable learning time and typically will not as much progress as their peers who are in school every day.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9 Days	18 Sessions	1.4 Weeks	45 Lessons
90%	19 Days	38 Sessions	3.4 Weeks	95 Lessons
85%	29 Days	58 Sessions	5.4 Weeks	145 Lessons
80%	36 Days	72 Sessions	7.1 Weeks	180 Lessons
75%	48 Days	96 Sessions	9.3 Weeks	240 Lessons



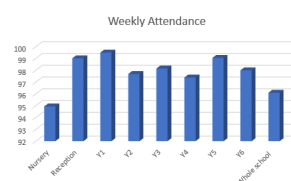
Book Fair

The book fair is on every day after school in the hall until Wed 29th April.



Attendance

Nursery	94.94%	Year 3	98.15%
Reception	99.01%	Year 4	97.39%
Year 1	99.5%	Year 5	99.05%
Year 2	97.69%	Year 6	98%



Whole School
96.1%

Save the Date



We will be having a Whole School picnic lunch on Friday 15th May.

We are inviting parents and carers to join us for a picnic on the field, hopefully the sun will be shining! Mr Beesley from All Hallows Catholic College will also be joining us and doing an informal presentation for parents at 11:15am in the school hall. This is primarily for Year 4 and 5 parents and carers, but parents and carers from other Year groups are welcome to attend the presentation.

St George's Day

On Thursday we had a wonderful time celebrating St George's Day. The children enjoyed learning about the history of St George and why he is remembered as the patron saint of England.

We were also delighted to welcome children from Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who joined us dressed proudly in their uniforms. As St George is the patron Saint of Scouting, it was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the values of teamwork, kindness, courage and helping others that Scouting represents.

It was lovely to see everyone coming together to celebrate, share experiences and take pride in their groups and communities. A big thank you to all who joined us and helped make the day so special.



Year 1

Well done to Year 1 for completing such amazing fieldwork at Congleton Town Park.

They were looking for human and physical features and spotted houses, buildings, trees and flowers.

They also had time to enjoy playing on the play equipment before returning to school!



Writing Competition

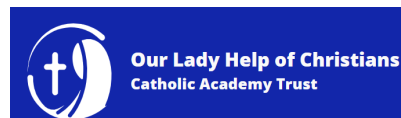
Before the Easter break OLHOC, ran a competition for all schools in the trust.

Key Stage 1 were asked to write about what animal they would be and Key Stage 2 were given a picture which they were asked to use a starting point for a story.

All children worked very hard and I do not envy Mr Mountcastle and Mrs. Milward's tough job of finding winners!

A huge congratulations to Konrad in Year 1 and Muhammad in Year 5 who were selected.

We are very proud of you!



Congratulations

Miss Small is having a baby!

Baby is due in October 2026 and we are absolutely thrilled about this wonderful news. Please join me in congratulating Miss Small.



Photography Competition

Today in Merit assembly, we were joined by Cath from Congleton Rotary Club to present certificates to Jaymin and Harvey who took part in a recent Rotary Club Photography Competition.

Harvey's photograph received a 'Highly commended' special recognition and he received his picture in a frame as a prize.



Water bottles

As we enter Summertime, please make sure your child brings a water bottle (named) in to school every day.

We have two water coolers in school, so the children can refill their bottles as often as needed.

You may also need to apply sun cream in the mornings before school and bring a sun hat in to school— please make sure this is named.



Spanish Day

Our children enjoyed taking part in a fantastic Spanish Day today, where they had the opportunity to learn more about the language and culture of Spain through a range of fun and engaging activities.

Throughout the day, pupils participated in a variety of tasks including learning Spanish greetings and phrases, practising counting, singing songs, playing games and exploring aspects of Spanish traditions. The children showed great enthusiasm and were eager to try something new.

Some classes were also lucky enough to be visited by Mrs Bailey, a Spanish teacher from All Hallows Catholic College. She led exciting sessions with the children, helping them to develop their confidence in speaking Spanish and sharing her knowledge in an enjoyable and interactive way.

It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic throughout the day. Spanish Day was a great success and provided everyone with a valuable opportunity to experience learning a modern foreign language in



Dates for the Diary

Mon 27th—Wed 29th—Book Fair after school

Tues 28th—Y5/6 Football Vale tournament and PTA meeting 2pm

Wed 29th—Y5 Bikeability

Thurs 30th—Y5 Bikeability

Thurs 30th—Reception/Nursery Forest School

Mon 4th May —Bank holiday, school closed

Tues 5th May—Y4 Bikeability

Tues 5th May—Y3/4 Football Vale tournament

Wed 6th May—Y3/4 Football AHCC

Thurs 7th May—Y5 Forest School

Mon 11th May—SATs begin

Wed 13th May —Reception & Y6 Class photos

Thurs 14th —Nursery & Reception Church trip

Fri 15th May— Whole School picnic and Y4/5 presentation by AHCC

Mon 18th May—Parent Book Look after school

Wed 20th—Fri 22nd—Y5 Alton Castle Residential

Wed 20th May—Y5/6 Mixed Cricket

Thurs 21st—Y4 Forest School

Fri 22nd—Finish for Half Term

Mon 1st June—INSET DAY, school closed

Tues 2nd June—Back to school

Wed 3rd—Fri 5th June—Y6 Residential trip to Min-Y-Don

Gardening After School Club

Gardening club got back up and running this week and the children have certainly worked hard decluttering the space by weeding out rampant chickweed.

Well done for all their efforts!

There are still spaces available if you wish to join Mrs Pinto and Mrs Luby at Gardening club.

The club runs Thursdays after school until 4pm.



Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the gift of our school community, for our children, families, staff and all who help us to learn and grow each day.

As we move through this new month, fill our hearts with kindness, patience and joy. Help our children to shine in their learning, to care for one another and to always walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Bless our families at home with peace, love and good health.

Support those who may be worried, unwell or in need of comfort at this time.

May Mary, our loving Mother, watch over us and guide us always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

