

# Weekly Newsletter

Safe  
Valued  
Loved



Friday 6th February 2026

Edition 20

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in Heaven.

Matthew 5:12

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe how quickly the weeks are whizzing by, the half term will nearly be upon us! There are so many wonderful things happening in school every week and it is a pleasure to share news with you every week.

Our Year 6 pupils are working hard to showcase all their learning as SATS draw closer, whilst our youngest children are making great strides in the beginning of their learning journey. I wanted to make some time this week to listen to children read and I am so glad I did! I was bowled over with the fluency and confidence the children demonstrated.

**REJOICE AND BE  
GLAD, BECAUSE**

*Great is Your  
Reward in Heaven*

**MATHEW 5:12**



## RSPB Bird Watch

Thank you to our Governor, Patti Pinto, who has been helping classes to take part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed it and produced some wonderful follow up work.

## Birds of Prey competition

Following on from the RSPB (Big schools Birdwatch) the Eco team are running a competition all about 'Birds of Prey'.

Children can create any piece of work they chose about their class bird. e.g. a poem, sketch, painting, story, fact file, history, habitat or collage.

**EYFS Owl, Y1 Kestrel, Y2 Kite,  
Y3 Harrier, Y4 Eagle, Y5 Buzzard, Y6 Hawk.**

We are really looking forward to judging their submissions after half term.

## Stay and Read

Thank you to all those who came to our Stay and Read sessions this week. The children thoroughly enjoy being able to spend their love of books with you. If you were unable to attend, please do not worry as we will be holding more Stay and Read sessions over the remainder of the academic year.

## Photography Challenge

Congleton Rotary are inviting children to take part in a photography challenge named 'The Wonders of Water'. Any digital camera or smartphone can be used. The digital photograph should be a minimum of 1500 pixels on the long side. The file size should be no more than 5MB. We need entries by **Friday 23rd February** so we can sent them on to the Rotary. After the success of our Saint Mary's Photography Challenge why not give this one a go too!

## Nursery

We have Nursery places available—children are able to start Nursery the term after they are 3.

If you are interested in registering a place for your child please call in to the office.

## Stones

Our Anti Bullying ambassadors would welcome the donation of any stones they could paint with an encouraging picture and quote. If you can help, please hand them in at the office.

## Booster Classes

Our KS1 Phonics and KS2 SATs booster sessions are running to help children consolidate learning and build confidence. Attending these sessions gives your child extra practice and support, helping them achieve their very best.

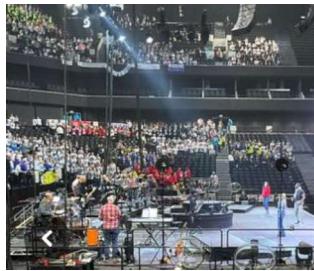
We strongly encourage all children to attend—every session makes a difference!

## Young Voices concert

The children had a wonderful time on Thursday at the Young Voices Concert at Co-op Live in Manchester.

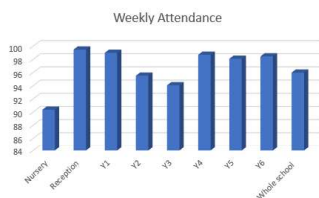
The children have worked so hard learning all the songs and dances since September and were a real credit to St Mary's all day.

Also a big thank you to the staff who accompanied the children who gave up their own time too.



## Attendance

Nursery	90.37%	Year 4	98.7%
Reception	99.5%	Year 5	98.1%
Year 1	99%	Year 6	98.46%
Year 2	95.53%	Whole School	96%
Year 3	94.07%		



## Dates for your diary

- Mon 9th Feb—Y1 & 2 trip to Peak Wildlife Park and Y4 swimming
- Tues 10th Feb—Y5/6 Football league at CHS
- Wed 11th—Y4 Love Music Trust Strings lesson
- Thursday 12th Feb—Reception & Nursery Forest School
- Fri 13th—Y6 Love Music Trust Brass lesson, Break up for Half Term
- Mon 23rd Feb—Back to school, Y4 Swimming
- Wed 25th—First Holy Communion classes
- Tues 17th March—Y4 Tattenhall residential parent's meeting at 3.15pm

## Films at Daneside Theatre

Daneside Theatre, Park Road in Congleton have two child friendly films showing during the half term.



### Zootropolis 2 (PG)

Saturday 14th February at 7pm.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £5 for children.

### The Spongebob Movie : Search for Squarepants (PG)

Wednesday 18th February at 2pm. Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for children.



## The Wizard of Oz

All Hallows invite you to watch their production of The Wizard of Oz.  
Tuesday 10th—Friday 13th March,  
tickets from £12.



## Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

Nursery	Darcey	For settling in well to Nursery
	Athena	For resilience with learning to write her name
Reception	Autumn	For amazing independent writing
	Logen	For good turn taking
Year 1	Hannah	For her hard work in English
	Griffin	For persevering in his work
Year 2	Violet	For her hard work in all her lessons
	Ella	For amazing persistence in Phonics
Year 3	Jenson	For working hard to complete his final write and for excellent contributions to class discussions
	Ewan	For always showing kindness to others
Year 4	Shanvi	For wonderful dedication to her violin music lessons
	Lilly	For always being a thoughtful team player
Year 5	Mia	For creating an excellent mixed-media portrait in Art
	Eric	For thoughtful responses in P.S.H.E
Year 6	Harry	For a wonderful piece of abstract art
	Harvey	For responsibility when taking care of the cloakroom

### Dojo winners

#### Reception



### Talking point

#### Mutual Respect and Tolerance – Talking About Differences

We encourage children to respect others and celebrate differences. At home, you can talk about how people may look, live or think differently and why that is something to value.

Encourage your child to listen to others and talk about how kind words and actions make people feel. These conversations help children develop understanding, respect and empathy.

**Understanding Attendance**

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust

The School Day Consists of 2 Sessions  
AM – Morning PM – Afternoon

Arriving after the AM register means you will miss your morning mark!

**Why Do Sessions Matter?**

Attendance is not counted by hours, but by sessions

Attendance is based on sessions, just one day off school is 2 missed sessions!

For further information, contact Natalie McNulty - Education Welfare Officer @ DfE.  
E-Mail: N.McNulty@olhc.ac.uk Tel: 07842447273

### 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

**3 MARCH**

## Phonics MEETING

Meeting for Year 1 and 2 parents/carers regarding the Phonics Screener in the Summer Term

**Saint Mary's Catholic Primary**

AT SCHOOL 3:15PM - 4PM

**THE BIG CLOTHES MOVEMENT**

### BABY & KIDS PRE-LOVED EVENT

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
10:00am - 12:00pm

Congleton Town Hall

FREE ENTRY

Cash & card accepted

£2 non-refundable reusable shopping bag with a tag

On the day donations accepted

### Prayer

Loving God,  
Thank you for the diversity that shapes our world and our community.  
Help us to see our differences not as barriers, but as gifts.  
Open our hearts to listen with compassion, to honour one another with respect and to recognise your image in every person.  
Guide us to walk together in understanding, kindness and peace.  
Amen.

