

# Weekly Newsletter

Safe  
Valued  
Loved



Thursday 25th June 2026

Edition 36

**“Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”**

Matthew 10:31

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's Celebration of the Word, we heard in the Gospel about God's love for us and understanding of how unique and special we all are. We were reminded about God's love always being with us even in times of trouble and difficulty. We were reminded to always trust in God to help us.

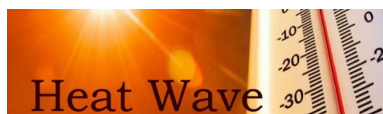


## Heatwave

The weather has certainly been incredibly hot this week!  
The children have managed exceptionally well in the conditions.

They have shown great responsibility by remembering their water bottles, wearing hats and taking regular opportunities to stay hydrated throughout the day. Staff have adapted activities where needed and made good use of shaded areas to ensure everyone remained comfortable and safe. The children have continued to work hard in their lessons, demonstrating resilience and a positive attitude despite the higher temperatures.

We would like to thank families for supporting us by sending children to school prepared for the warm weather. We are very proud of how well all the children have coped and continued to enjoy their learning this week.



## Teaching staff 2026-2027

Nursery—Miss Lankester

Reception— Mrs King

Year 1—Miss Owen

Year 2—Miss Raine

Year 3—Mrs Burrow/Mrs Waters

Year 4—Mr Billings

Year 5—Mr Merrick

Year 6—Mrs Milner

## EYFS Mass

On Wednesday, our EYFS and Key Stage 1 children gathered with Father Francis to celebrate Mass. The children participated reverently and respectfully throughout the service, showing excellent listening and singing.

A special well done goes to Year 1, who read their readings clearly and confidently. We were very proud of the way they shared God's word with the congregation. We would also like to thank our GIFT Team for their help with organising the Mass and supporting the younger children throughout the celebration. Their dedication and leadership helped to make the occasion a special and prayerful experience for everyone.

Finally, thank you to Father Francis for leading such a meaningful celebration for our youngest pupils.



## Stars of the Week and Gospel Values

|           |         |                                                                                                      |
|-----------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nursery   | Crystal | For being a kind friend                                                                              |
|           | Pearl   | For having a go at new things                                                                        |
| Reception | Joseph  | For excellent independent writing                                                                    |
|           | Orla    | For showing respect and kindness                                                                     |
| Year 1    | Gracie  | For great teamwork in PE                                                                             |
|           | Faith   | For always helping to keep the classroom tidy                                                        |
| Year 2    | Riley   | For doing lovely RE work                                                                             |
|           | Joe     | For great reading                                                                                    |
| Year 3    | Catia   | For fantastic attitude towards her learning and her excellent class contributions to our discussions |
|           | Eva     | For always showing kindness to others                                                                |
| Year 4    | Eva     | For her beautiful handwriting and always showing this                                                |
|           | Shanvi  | For being extremely helpful towards her teachers                                                     |
| Year 5    | Eric    | For great enthusiasm and a fantastic attitude in athletics                                           |
|           | Teddy   | For having a respectful and helpful attitude                                                         |
| Year 6    | Seb     | For being incredibly helpful for guests at the school                                                |
|           | Panashe | For being a positive and supportive member of the class                                              |

### Dojo winners

## Year 2



### Thank you

As we approach the end of another busy and successful year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our teaching assistants for their dedication, hard work and commitment to our children.

Our staff are always on hand to offer support, whether it is helping a child who has had a fall, providing reassurance when it is needed, or simply taking the time to listen. Their flexibility, kindness and willingness to help wherever they are needed make a real difference to school life every day. They continually go above and beyond to inspire, support and encourage our pupils, helping them to grow both academically and personally.

We are incredibly grateful for their care, enthusiasm and professionalism and we thank them for the positive impact they have on our school community.

*Thank you  
Teaching Assistants*

**Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Academy Trust**

**Understanding Attendance**

**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 Michelle McNulty – Education Welfare Officer (EWO)  
E-Mail: M.McNulty@olhc.ac.uk Tel: 0786245773

### 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               |

### Summer Fair

The School Summer Fair is next Friday 3rd July 4.30pm—6.30pm. Please contact the office if you can help.

Please remember to bring items in for the class hampers :

Nursery & Reception—Yellow / Gold; Y1—Blue;  
Y2—White; Y3—Pink; Y4—Black; Y5 Green; Y6—Red

### Attendance

|              |        |  |        |        |
|--------------|--------|--|--------|--------|
| Nursery      | 94.62% |  | Year 3 | 98.21% |
| Reception    | 71.59% |  | Year 4 | 98.96% |
| Year 1       | 95%    |  | Year 5 | 96.88% |
| Year 2       | 91.83% |  | Year 6 | 95%    |
| Whole school |        |  | 96.1%  |        |

## Visits to Reception

We have been delighted to welcome our new Reception children back for another taster week as they prepare to join us in September. The children have enjoyed spending time in their new classroom, meeting staff and making new friends as they begin their journey at Saint Mary's.

It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow with each visit and they have embraced the activities with enthusiasm and excitement. We have loved getting to know them and their families and we look forward to welcoming them fully into our Saint Mary's family in September.



## British Values Day

Last Friday, the children enjoyed taking part in our British Values Day. The event was inspired by ideas from our School Council, who were keen for the whole school to learn more about the values that help us live together respectfully and positively in our community.

Throughout the day, children explored the different British Values, including democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

They took part in a range of engaging activities that helped them understand the importance of these values in everyday life. A highlight of the day was a visit from the Mayor of Congleton, who spoke to the children about her role in the local community and the importance of democracy and civic responsibility.

We would like to thank her for taking the time to visit our school and support this special event. Well done to our School Council for helping to inspire such a successful and informative day for everyone at Saint Mary's.



## Languages Award



We are delighted to share that Saint Mary's has been awarded the **Primary Languages Development Award – Enhancing Level** in recognition of our commitment to language learning across the school.

This achievement builds on our previous award and reflects the continued efforts of both staff and pupils to promote and celebrate languages within our curriculum.

The award recognises the high-quality opportunities provided for children to develop their language skills and gain an appreciation of different cultures and traditions. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and would like to thank Miss Owen who has led on promoting language learning at Saint Mary's.

## Dates for the Diary

Tues 30th—Nursery new starters stay and play 1pm  
Wed 1st —Fri 3rd July—Y6 Liverpool Hope Residential  
Wed 1st July—KS2 Stay & Pray 8.35am  
Thurs 2nd—KS1 Stay & Pray 8.35am. Y5 Forest School & EYFS Forest School stay & play session 9.30am—11.30am. Town Sports Day 6pm  
Fri 3rd—Summer Fair & New Reception taster session 1pm  
Mon 6th—Parents book look after school  
Wed 8th—Y4 visit to Congleton Town Hall. New Reception parents tour after school  
Thurs 9th—EYFS trip to Nixon Farm & Y6 Forest School  
Thurs 9th Y3/4 Diamond Cricket  
Fri 10th—Sports Day and picnic—see email sent out for details  
Tues 14th—EYFS Teddy Bears picnic  
Wed 15th—Y6 leavers Mass 1.30pm  
Thurs 16th—Rocky Steady concert & Y5 Forest School  
Fri 17th—Y6 Leavers Assembly 9am

## Prayer

Loving God,

**Thank You for the gift of our Saint Mary's family. Help us to be kind in our words, thoughtful in our actions and caring towards one another.**

**Guide us as we learn, play and grow together. Give us the courage to do what is right, the patience to help those in need and the wisdom to make good choices.**

**Bless our children, families, staff and governors and help us to follow Your example of love, respect and service in all that we do.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

