

# MARTYRS NEWS

*Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.*



Nursery children enjoying being in our Forest School!



This week I have had the pleasure of joining Nursery in the Forest School as they explored the new tarpulin and fire pit area that has been created. The joy, awe and wonder that is created in this space is truly magnificent and the children are gaining so much in terms of their language development as well as physical development.

Last Sunday was Vocation Sunday and we have prayed for vocations in assembly today. We thought about all of our families who are engaged in jobs that they are called to do, from paramedics to social workers to teachers. We also prayed especially for vocations to the church, like Rev Cannon Mark Madden, our parish priest who has been in recently to help prepare the Year 4 children with their sacrament of First Holy Communion.



Fr Mark helping Y4 children prepare for their First Holy Communion.

Finally, I have written to all families to inform you of the plans for academisation from Liverpool Archdiocese. For more information about this, see their website: [here](#).

## Attendance Matters!

Our school target is **95%+** and we are currently at **95.4%** so far this year, which is really positive!

**Be safe, be happy, have fun!**

### Events:

Date:	Time:	Event:
5/5/26	9.00am	2A Peel Port Trip
6/5/26	9.00am-3.00pm	Nurs Martin Mere trip
7/5/26	9.00am	2B Peel Port trip
11-14/5	8.45am - 3.15pm	KS2 SATS

School Closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday  
 Half Term closure Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
 School Closed Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June - INSET Day

*Fabulous* **Class Attendance:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 2B - 98.7%**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 4B - 97.7%**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> 1A - 97.6%**

### Holiday Requests

We ask that Parents/Carers complete a Holiday Request Form each time a holiday is taken during school term. You can obtain this form from the school office or on our website: [here](#). From this link you will find details of The Government's Fine Policy - [holidays in term time](#).

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

We have caterpillars! The children in nursery are very excited about their new friends. Over the next few weeks we will be observing and learning about the life cycle of a butterfly. Already we have noticed how much our caterpillars have grown this week.



## Reception

By Mrs Morris & Mrs McMeakin

Reception children enjoyed trips to Windmill Farm this week. They got to feed goats and hold snakes. The children showed exemplary behaviour and the weather made it perfect.



## Year 2

By Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall

As part of our PE work, Year Two have been taking part in a unit of Dance. They have been using the music from 'Secret Garden' and counting beats of eight. They have sequenced a series of movements together to create a short dance. The children have taken turns to perform their groups dance to the rest of the class.

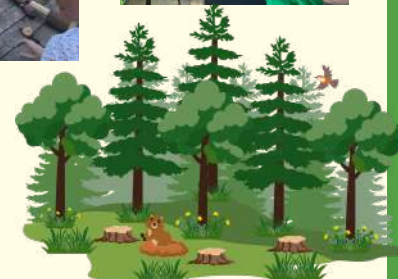
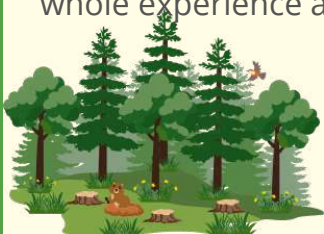


Molly said, "I like skipping and performing my dance for my friends"

## Year 3

By Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

Year 3 took the opportunity to spend some time in our forest school. We had a fantastic time and the beautiful weather made the whole experience a real treat.



# MARTYRS NEWS

## Year 4

By Mrs O'Connell & Mrs Lowe

This week, Year 4 have been exploring how to create the illusion of movement in their pictures by alternating contrasting colours to highlight their chosen celebrities. Next week, we will be drawing figurines in different poses.



## Year 5

By Mr Buckton & Miss Gray

In R.E, the children were given the dilemma about whether they should become a disciple or not. The classes formed an alleyway of believers and non-believers. Children then walked down and listened to the points of view of others to help influence their final decision.



## Year 6

By Mrs Goulbourne, Mr Kiggins and Mrs Naisbett

It's a busy and exciting time in Year 6 as we prepare for the upcoming SATs. We are approaching our revision in a fun and engaging way, with maths games and a range of interactive activities to keep learning enjoyable and motivating. Next week, we are also looking forward to our arithmetic treasure hunts, which the children are sure to enjoy.

Alongside this, our Year 6 relaxation club continues after school, where children take part in peer massage, games, and—of course—their all-time favourite: a calming relaxation session at the end. We are making sure to strike the right balance between revision, fun, and relaxation—because we know that feeling calm, confident, and happy is key to success.

*We would really appreciate your support in helping the children to succeed by encouraging good routines and early nights, so they are well rested and ready for SATs week.*



# MARTYRS NEWS

## STAR OF THE WEEK

### Friday 24th April 2026

Nur All Day	Aoife
Nur AM	Caleb
RA	Cobie
RB	Nate
1A	Bella
1B	Joshua
2A	Mason
2B	Theo
3A	Teddy
3B	Harriet
4A	Theo
4B	Liam
5A	Eleanor
5B	Carter
6A	Lola
6B	Jacob

### Friday 1st May 2026

Nur All Day	Sienna
Nur AM	Jaxon
RA	Isaac
RB	Ruby
1A	Alayah
1B	Emma Louise
2A	Lottie
2B	Isla
3A	Darcie
3B	Eva
4A	Abigail
4B	Jade
5A	Isabella
5B	Michael
6A	Joshua
6B	Ben

**WELL DONE  
EVERYONE**

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Sunscreen

Please can parents ensure they apply sunscreen at home before children come to school. **Staff are unable to apply cream during the school day.** Please also ensure your child brings a sun hat and water bottle to school.



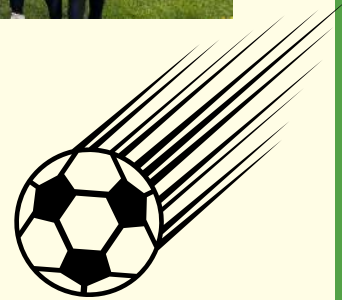
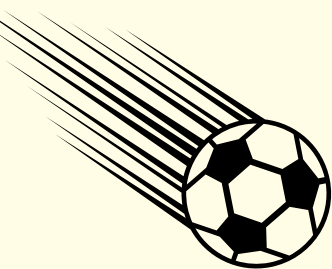
## Parking around school.

It has been brought to our attention, once again, that a number of parents are blocking local resident driveways at the start and end of the day. We kindly ask that you are respectful to our neighbours and do not block their driveways. Local residents have been advised to contact the community police if they experience any abusive or threatening behaviour from parents.

## Football

By Mr Roach

We have represented Bootle district in the regional finals for Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. The standard of football has been exceptional and we have had a fantastic time competing with the best teams across the north west.



Girls football team progressed through to the next round of the cup with a win against All Saints. Brilliant performance.

## School Trips

As you are aware this is our School Trip time of year. Can we ask that parents go onto Arbor and give consent and make a payment if required as soon as you know a trip is about to take place.

# ★ GOOD NEWS! ★



Thomas signed for Preston North End as a goalkeeper.



# Well Done Everyone!



# ★ GOOD NEWS! ★

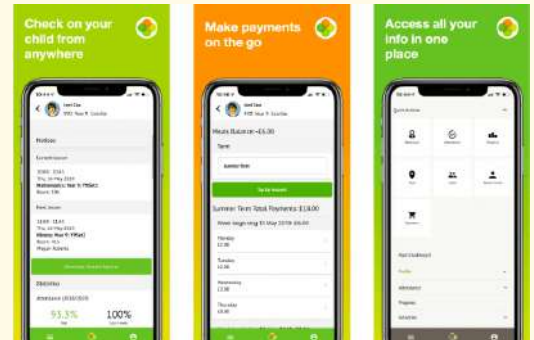


Well Done Everyone! ★

# MARTYRS NEWS

## Communication and the Arbor App:

A number of parents are reporting that they have missed important messages from school, even after they have been sent out. Please see the info below to ensure you never miss an important message from school. **Arbor is our MAIN communication tool** and allows us to keep in touch with each other. so it is important that it is working properly for everyone. Any issues, contact the office.



## Enabling Notifications in the Arbor App:

### Enabling Push Notifications (Step-by-Step)

**Initial Setup:** When first installing the Arbor App, click "**Allow**" when prompted to receive notifications.

**Android Devices:** Go to your phone's **Settings > Apps > Arbor > Notifications** and toggle push notifications **ON**.

**iOS Devices (iPhone):** Go to **Settings > Notifications > Arbor** and ensure "**Allow Notifications**" is **enabled**. It is recommended to set your banner style to "**Permanent**".

### Troubleshooting Notifications

*If you are not receiving messages:*

#### Check In-App Settings:

Ensure you are checking the messages section within the app, which highlights new, unread messages in bold.

#### Restart & Reconnect:

Close the app, switch off notifications in your phone settings, restart your phone, and then turn the notifications back on.

#### Reinstall:

If notifications still do not appear, uninstall and reinstall the app.

### Why Notifications Matter in Arbor

#### Message Alerts:

Enables immediate alerts for in-app messages sent by the school, which are used to reduce reliance on text messages.

#### Updates:

Alerts you to updates regarding attendance, clubs, trips, parent evenings or information requests.

#### Primary Guardian Access:

Note that only primary guardians can receive these notifications.

# Helping families to understand the changes for term time holidays

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes have come into force for the Penalty Notice Fines issued for unauthorised holidays recorded by schools after 19th August 2024.

## WHO MAY BE FINED?

Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent from school.

*For example:* 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent who allowed the holiday receiving 3 separate fines.

## NATIONAL THRESHOLD

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of **10 sessions (5 school days)** of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence, including the **U code** (late after registers).

*For example:* a 5-day holiday would meet the national threshold. The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years.

## HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

### FIRST OFFENCE:

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised term time holiday the fine amount will be:

**£80** per parent, per child if paid within **21** days.

**£160** if paid between **22-28** days.

### SECOND OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for an unauthorised absence amount will be:

**£160** per parent (*who allowed the holiday*) per child, payable within **28** days.

### THIRD OFFENCE: (Within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed a Penalty Notice is not issued. Cases may be presented before a Magistrate's Court. Prosecution may result in a criminal records and fines of up to **£2,500**.

Cases found guilty in Magistrate's Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'



# Term Dates 2025-26

*Through Christ we Believe, Inspire, Achieve.*

## Autumn Term 2025 - (73 Days)

**Term Starts:**

**Wednesday 3rd September**

**Half-term Holiday:**

**Monday 27th Oct - Friday 31st Oct**

**Term Ends:**

**Friday 19th December, 2pm.**

## Spring Term 2026 - (55 Days)

**Term Starts:**

**Monday 5th January**

**Half-term Holiday**

**Monday 16th Feb - Friday 20th Feb**

**Term Ends:**

**Friday 27th March, 2pm.**

## Summer Term 2026 - (62 Days)

**Term Starts:**

**Monday 13th April**

**Half-term Holiday**

**Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May**

**Term Ends:**

**Thursday 16th July, 2pm.**

### **Total Days:**

**190** Pupil days

**195** Teacher days

### **Bank Holiday:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

### **Inset Days:**

**Autumn 2025:**

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

**Summer 2026:**

Monday 1st June

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

[www.englishmartyrs.co.uk](http://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk)

# Wrap Around Care Offer

## Breakfast Club:

Contact number: 0151 928 5601

We run Breakfast Club for children aged 3-11 on site by our own staff from **8am-8.45am** daily Monday to Friday.

Our Infant (**Nursery to Y2**) provision is based in the main hall (*enter via the Main School Entrance*).

Our Junior (**Y3 to Y6**) provision is based in the dining hall (*enter via the separate gate on School Lane*).

To check availability and book a place, please use the [Contact Form](#) or call the number above.



## Fun4Kidz - After School Club:

Contact number: 0151 932 9218

Fun4Kidz operates on site from **3.15pm to 6.00pm** daily Monday to Friday.

Fun4Kidz works with our youngest pupils from **Nursery to Year 2**.

The sessions are **£11.15** first child (*and £10.15 for siblings*) daily and include snacks (*hot snacks when applicable*).

The sessions must be paid for in advance and are non-refundable if the child doesn't attend.

Children can be collected from any time before **6.00pm**.

Email: [fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com](mailto:fun4kidzclubs@hotmail.com)

L30 Community Centre, Stonyfield, Netherton, Merseyside, L30 0QS.

## Need to know about funding?

If you want to find out more about what funding is available to you in terms of tax free credits and childcare vouchers, please follow the link at the bottom of the page, which will take you to our Wrap Around Care page on the school website with more information and links to follow.

For the latest info, see the page below:

<https://www.englishmartyrs.co.uk/parents/wrap-around-care>



## Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme

I am pleased to share with you an opportunity to join the Neurodevelopmental Conditions Learning Programme delivered by Advanced Solutions at Litherland Family Hub or via Zoom. This supportive and informative programme offers helpful insights into areas such as autism, ADHD, Specific Learning Difficulties and Sensory Processing Difficulties, along with practical strategies to support your child at home eg. sleep, toileting and eating difficulties. Please click on the appropriate link to register:

[ND Conditions Learning Programme \(Litherland Family Hub\)](#)

[ND Conditions Learning Programme \(online\)](#)

# Useful Info

## **Sefton Women's & Childrens Aid**

**Contact number: 0151 394 1400**

SWACA provide holistic services to women, young people and children affected by Domestic Abuse offering both effective crisis intervention and early intervention and preventative services.

## **Venus Centre Charity**

**Contact number: 0151 474 4744**

VENUS provide service to empower, promote and support women, and their children in developing their potential, recognising their choices and achieving their goals and challenging injustice.

## **The Trussell Trust**

**Contact number: 0151 933 1300**

The trust supports a nationwide network of food banks and together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

## **In Your Shoes**

**Contact number: 0151 345 9611**

Located at 100 Moss Lane the charity supports our local community.

## **Litherland Wellbeing Centre**

**Contact number: 0151 288 6661**

Family Well-being Centres provide joined up support for children and young people aged 0-19 years to make family life that little bit easier.

## **Sefton Council**

**One Stop Shop: 0345 140 0845**

**Affordable Warmth Service: 0151 934 2222**

**Free School Meals: 0151 934 3263**

**Emergency Limited Assistance: 0151 934 3377**

**Sefton at Work: 0151 934 2610**

For further details visit Sefton Council's website:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/cost-of-living/>

If you are struggling and would like support please do not hesitate to contact one of the above or the school office who will assist in any way they can.