



MARTYRS NEWS

Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.



Our Reading Champions showing everyone where our book donation stations are!



Proud to support The National Year of Reading 2026.

This week marks the official start of the [National Year of Reading 2026](#)! To help us kick start the year, the Reading Champions met with myself and Mrs Blackledge to discuss an exciting new idea to help get everyone motivated for reading called the Reading Ninja Challenge. It will be officially launched next Friday with a letter to you all, so look out for more info! In the meantime, please try and read with your child every single day. It has the greatest impact on your child's development and helps expand their vocabulary and develop a rich imagination!

Be safe, be happy, have fun!



Safer Internet Day 2026 | Tuesday 10 February
Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre
saferinternetday.org.uk

We are taking part in [Safer Internet Day](#) on 10th February and the theme is: *Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI*. Our Digital Leaders are planning assemblies with Mr Roach. Please see this brilliant parent guide for keeping your children safe online too - [A Parent/Carer's Guide to Digital Lives](#)

Attendance Matters!

Our school target is **95%+** and we are currently at **95.2%** so far this year, which is really positive!

Fabulous
FRIDAY FIVE

Class Attendance:
1st 1B - 99.3%
2nd 1A - 98.3%
3rd 4B - 97.1%

Spring Term:

We are continually monitoring attendance and punctuality during the Spring term. There will be an increased focus on challenging lateness and we therefore ask you to help your child arrive at school on time and ready to learn for **8.45am**.



Events:

Date:	Time:	Event:
21st Jan	6.00pm	PTA Meeting
26th Jan	9.00am	End of Topic Assembly Yr5/6 Yr5 Parents invited.
10th Feb	9.00am	End of Tops Assembly Nur/Rec Reception parent invited.
11th Feb	9.00am	End of Top Assembly Yr1/2 Yr1 parents invited
12th Feb	9.00am	End of Top Assembly Yr3/4 Yr4 parents invited

Nursery

By Mrs McIntyre & Mrs Garvey

Well done to the new children who started in our nurseries last week. They are settling in brilliantly and are being well trained by our helpful existing nursery children! Welcome to our English Martyrs family!



Reception

By Mrs Morris & Mrs McMeakin

The cold weather last week has inspired us to investigate ice. The week is off to a great start using ice to practise our fine motor skills. We are using ice blocks with food colouring to draw pictures, write our names and make shapes on the paper.



Year 1

By Mrs Halsall & Mrs Blackledge

We had lots of fun in Year 1 making rainbow wraps. We talked about which foods are healthy and how they contain vitamins. The children used graters and peelers to make the wraps.

"They are so yummy!"



Year 2

By Mrs Sothern & Miss Drinkall



"I recognised the three kings straight away because they are all wearing gold crowns."



This week Year Two visited church. As part of their R.E work on the feast of the Epiphany they went to look at the crib now the three kings have arrived. We talked about how we have taken our Christmas decorations down but the crib remains up in church as the three kings have only just arrived. The children said a special prayer of thanks before returning to class.

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Year 3

By Mrs Dooley & Mr Roach

Yr 3 have had a lovely time exploring ballads in our music lessons. We listened to David Bowie's 'Space Odyssey' and created storyboards telling the story. Next, we listened to the lyrics and added movement to the song. We performed our ballad for the class.



Year 4

By Miss Tierney & Miss May

Last week Year 4 began to investigate the layers of the Earth using play dough. We created the 4 main layers then cut through the sphere to observe their creation.



Year 5

By Mr Buckton & Miss Gray

This week, we have been creating poems based around Norse mythology. The children explored the classroom adding noun phrases, similes and metaphors relating to each animal, object, setting or character. They then took those ideas and used them to form their poems.



Year 6

By Mrs Goulbourne & Mrs Lowe

The children in year 6 wrote and performed their own poems linked to our English class book 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde. The children created some amazing poetry and shared them with great enthusiasm and confidence.



Class Blogs

Have a look at what we have been doing in class. Don't forget to check out our class blogs on the school website.

www.englishmartyrs.co.uk



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STAR OF THE WEEK

Friday 9th JAN 2026

Nursery All Day Peggy

Nursery AM Reeva

RA Cody

RB Donnie

1A Rory

1B Ayda

2A Jacob

2B Penny

3A Ayda

3B Polly

4A Renae

4B Ethan

5A Paul

5B Penelope

6A Declan

6B Amelia

Friday 16th JAN 2026

Nursery All Day Celia Rae

Nursery AM Harper

RA Phoebe

RB Joseph

1A Robyn

1B Charlie

2A Louis

2B Louis

3A Blake

3B Caleb

4A Oliver

4B Darcie

5A Patrick

5B Daisie

6A Daisy

6B Mia

Well Done Everyone!

MARTYRS NEWS



Live Simply

Take action towards living a simpler lifestyle.

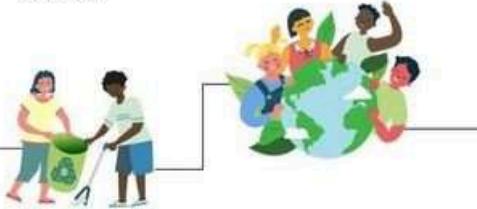
- ❖ Spend more time in prayer & reflection.
- ❖ Spend time in nature, appreciating God's creation.
- ❖ Spend quality time with others.



Live Sustainably

Take action towards protecting God's creation.

- ❖ refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, re-gift, repair, recycle.
- ❖ support the work of eco clubs, and other eco initiatives.
- ❖ taking environmentally positive action.



Live in Solidarity

Take direct action to support our sisters and brothers.

- ❖ Campaign action to raise awareness or challenge injustice.
- ❖ Fundraising to help communities in need.
- ❖ Additional direct actions that support others.



CAFOD Live Simply Award

By Mrs McIntyre

For a number of years in school we have been working towards **CAFOD's Live Simply Award** and we will be submitting our evidence in the near future.

The **CAFOD LiveSimply Award** encourages Catholic communities, including families in schools, to live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with people in poverty, inspired by faith and Laudato Si'.

For parents, this means participating in and supporting school projects like supporting food banks, reducing waste, using sustainable travel (walking/cycling), giving ethical gifts, and teaching children to be more reflective and generous, strengthening family ties and global responsibility. It's about putting faith into action through practical, everyday choices that help the planet and people in need.

As we move on from the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us think about what actions we already take and what small changes we can put into place in this new year to make the world a better place.

GOOD NEWS!



Well Done Everyone!



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 4th May

Inset Days:

Autumn 2025:

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Summer 2026:

Monday 1st June

Friday 17th July

Monday 20th July

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

L30 Community Centre, Stonyfield, 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>



Please see the link for this week's Wednesday Word below.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/good-news?pid=MTA101634&v=163.4>

Blessings and best wishes,

" 9th Bootle and Litherland English Martyrs Brownies currently have space for any girls aged between 7 and 10 who wish to join. They meet on a Thursday evening in the Parish Hall 6.15pm to 7.45pm. If you wish for your daughter to join, please register their name on the following website: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/. If you have any queries or questions please email: engmartbrownies@outlook.com"



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.