SS Mary & Michael's Catholic Primary School

October 16th 2026

Headteacher's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy half term, it has been wonderful to see all our children continuing to thrive. We have had a fantastic final week, with staff working hard to challenge the children's learning while ensuring that lessons remain fun, engaging and meaningful.

Our new guided reading scheme continues to ignite the children's enthusiasm for reading. The daily small-group sessions are working well across the whole school, providing valuable opportunities to develop reading skills, build confidence and nurture a love of books.

We are also delighted that Year 2 now has its own bespoke classroom, forming part of our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 unit. The free-flowing classroom spaces and outdoor provision enable children across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to benefit from a more connected learning environment, supporting collaboration, independence and learning through exploration.

We ended the week on a particularly positive and reflective note as we celebrated the message of 'We Are All Welcome', a book that all our children have been exploring throughout the week. Their learning has encouraged thoughtful discussions about diversity, uniqueness, belonging and the importance of recognising and celebrating the strengths that each of us brings to our school community.

And, of course, what better way to round off the half term than with our school disco! A huge thank you to our wonderful PTFA for organising such a fantastic event, and to DJ Jenson for keeping everyone entertained. It was a huge success and a lovely way for the children to celebrate together.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you enjoy some special time together as families. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

Stay safe, enjoy the break, and God bless.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Dodd

After School Activities

Please do let us know if you know of anyone who would like to volunteer for any clubs for the children. We are always wanting new ideas or differnt groups. Equally do let us know if tgere are any clubs you think might work at St Mary & St Michael's.

Catholic Life and Mission

This week, the children have been exploring the beautiful message of 'We Are All Welcome', celebrating diversity, uniqueness and the importance of belonging. We linked our learning to John's Gospel, reflecting on the feeding of the 5,000,and the Last Supper, where Jesus broke bread with his disciples. As we came together in worship, we reflected on how different types of bread, each with its own ingredients, textures and flavours, are like each one of us: unique, special and bringing something different to our community. We are reminded that, just as Jesus welcomed and brought people together, everyone is valued, everyone belongs, and we all have our own strengths and gifts to share. Together, we are stronger!









UpcomingEvents

October

Date	Event	Details
8 October	Parents' Evening – book on Arbor	1-6pm in school
9 October	Wear something Yellow for 'Young minds'	£1 wear something yellow with your uniform
15 October	Year 5/6 Girls' Football	GCA, 4:00pm
16 October	Sip & Paint PTFA event (& AGM meeting)	7:30pm in school £20
21 October	Y5/6 Residential trip meeting (for June 2027)	3:30pm (Maple classroom)
22 October	PTFA School Disco	6:30-7:30pm School Hall
23 October	**School INSET Day**	School closed to pupils
24 October	Mayor of Garstang Charity Fundraising concert - Singing Event for the choir	7:30pm @ St Thomas' Church Hall
26–30 October	**Half-term Holiday**	School closed
31 October	**High School Application Deadline**	Closing date

November

Date	Event	Details
2 November	**School INSET Day**	School closed to pupils
3 November	Back to School	Welcome back!
4 November	Full Governors Meeting	6pm School
5 November	Phonics Information Evening	3:30pm (Maple classroom)
5 November	Year 3/4 Glo Disco	GCA, 4:00–5:30pm
12 November	Year 5/6 Glo Disco	GCA, 4:00–5:30pm
12 November	Wyre Dance Festival at Winter Gardens Blackpool	Dance Club **tickets on sale from 12th October**
13 November	Non uniform day	Bottles for Christmas fair
20 November	Winter warmers PTFA	3:30pm
23–27 November	Assessment Week	—
27 November	Wreath Making PTFA	7:30pm School Hall

December

Date	Event	Details
2 December	Primary Schools Advent service OLCHS (4 pupils to attend)	During the school day Details to follow
3 December	Year 5/6 Girls' & Boys' Basketball	GCA, 4:00–5:30pm
3 December	RE Enrichment Day	Nativity theme
4 December	Non uniform day	Chocolates for the Christmas Fair
7 & 8 December	Victorian Festival in Garstang	PTFA Teddy Tombola
7 December	Pantomime Trip for whole school	morning performance at Lancaster Dukes Theatre
11 December	Hazel Class Nativity dress rehearsal	10am school
11 December	Winter Fair PTFA	School from 2pm
14 December	Christmas Party Day	Date TBC
15 December	Hazel Class afternoon Nativity performance	1:30pm School Hall
	Hazel Class evening Nativity performance	5:30pm School Hall
16 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch	During the school day
18 December	**Christmas Finish**	School finishes at 1:00pm

Rising Stars

Weekending October 16th

Rising Stars:

Hazel – Esmee & Esme

Aspen – Katie

Oak – Ada

Blue Badges:

Hazel – Maia

Aspen – Cara

Oak – Bethany

Marvellous Maths:

Hazel – Hannah

Aspen – Elsie

Oak – Ava T

Headteacher Award:

Jonah – Y5

Sporting events



Both our Y3&4 Boys Team and Y5&6 Girls team played at GCA over the last 2 weeks.
Both teams played really well and worked together showing blue jumpers and badges throughout the tournaments.
Well done to both teams!

