



NEWSLETTER

St Mary's R C Primary School
Haslingden
Tel: 01706 214747
Headteacher: Miss D McNicoll

27th March 2026

Dear Parents,

It has been an incredibly busy but joyous week in school. On Monday, our Y6 children visited Gawthorpe Hall to celebrate National Shakespeare Week and as part of their studies of Romeo and Juliet. The children had the opportunity to study Tudor artefacts; learn some Shakespearean phrases and even learn some fencing skills. Their behaviour and attitude throughout the visit was impeccable. On Tuesday, Y3 visited Liverpool as their city exploration 'Butterfly Moment'. They were a delight to take and loved learning about Bella and Bertie (The Liver Birds), the history of the docks and the River Mersey and exploring Liverpool's art and music history and culture.

We enjoyed our final 'Messy Lent' session on Tuesday after school- thank you to the families who have been able to join us over the last 3 weeks. On Wednesday evening, we gathered with other Catholic schools in the Valley to celebrate Mass at St James the Less. It was wonderful to come together in prayer and worship – thank you to those who attended. Today, class 3 have visited St Marie's Church and Father Broadley has led the children in prayer as they contemplated the Stations of the Cross. We have also welcomed families of children from Class 1 into school for our 'Stay and Pray' session so that the children can share with their grown-ups how they pray and worship each week in school.

Our children have been very busy this week showcasing their learning once again. On Thursday, Y2 invited their families to join them for an afternoon in Forest School but not before giving them a wonderful presentation about the benefits of Forest School, the rules to be followed and they even taught them the song they sing each week. Thank you to those who attended and we were very lucky that the weather improved just in time. After school on Thursday, Y6 children hosted their 'Spaghetti Bolognese' Food Technology Showcase. They had worked incredibly hard to adapt their recipes, prepare the ingredients, design menus, cook and serve their dishes which went down an absolute treat! Thank you to those who joined us and enjoyed the meal.

Also, this week we have had the 'Life Education' workshops in school teaching all year groups about how to take care of their bodies and make positive decisions about themselves. These workshops provide high quality, inspiring enrichment experiences, developing essential life skills. Emma, who delivers the sessions each year, covers sensitive issues including safe and unsafe relationships, emotions and mental health.

We have had Parents Day meetings this week for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 which have been really well attended. These meetings are a great opportunity for teachers to share the progress being made by the children in school. Thank you for the lovely comments made to teachers sharing how happy the children are in school. If you were not able to attend a meeting, please do contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

This afternoon, our children who have weekly Rocksteady lessons have held their end of term concert to perform the new song they have learnt. The children performed with such confidence and enthusiasm - well done to all!

Sponsored Walk

A reminder that on Monday 30th March, we will be doing a whole school sponsored 'Easter Bunny' walk to the Halo and all monies raised will be split between our chosen charities for this term: Bury and Rossendale Hospices, CARITAS and CAFOD. Children can wear their own clothes for the walk. Please ensure they have suitable footwear to walk the distance.

Holy Week Prayer Stations - Wednesday 1st April

All parents are invited to join us, as we journey through Holy Week, to our creative prayer stations held in school on Wednesday 1st April.

Our GIFT team will accompany you as you visit each prayer station. Sessions will be running at 1.30pm and 2.15pm. If you would like to participate, please complete the booking form sent via Parent App.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL PRAYER REFLECTION DURING HOLY WEEK, AND YOUR CHILD WILL NOT ACCOMPANY YOU. THEY WILL HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE STATIONS WITH THEIR CLASS EARLIER IN THE DAY/WEEK.

Attendance / merit prize assembly

We will be giving out our spring term bronze and silver attendance awards and merit mark prizes in a special assembly on Thursday morning at 9.15am. Everyone, as always, is welcome to attend.

This week's Gospel

This week's Gospel Reading is from Matthew and the focus is Palm Sunday.

Children's Liturgy

This Sunday in St Marie's at 10am Mass, there will be a Children's Liturgy session where the children will be making palm crosses.

Last day of term

As you are aware, school closes on Thursday 2nd April at **2.00 pm** for the Easter holidays. Prior to this, the children will be taking part in an Easter Service in St Marie's Church on Bury Road from 1.00 pm and all parents and family members are invited to celebrate with us.

If you are not attending the service, your child will need to be collected from Church at 2.00 pm and **will not be returning to school.**

There will be no After School Club that day. We will be sending the children's reading bags home on Wednesday and asking them not to bring them to school on Thursday (so they don't have to carry them to church). We are also asking those children who bring a packed lunch to bring it in a disposable bag on Thursday.

Finally, as there will be no newsletter next week, I'd like to wish you a happy and holy Easter.

Team St Mary's would like to thank you all, as always, for your kindness, co-operation and support during spring term.

School reopens again on Monday 13th April. Have a lovely holiday!

Yours sincerely
Miss D McNicoll

MISSION FILE

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden."'

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

MISSION

YOUR MARK 10 MISSION THIS HOLY WEEK IS TO GO TO MASS. GOING TO MASS, ESPECIALLY DURING HOLY WEEK AND EASTER IS WONDERFUL AND HOW AWESOME WOULD IT BE IF YOU WENT TO CHURCH THIS HOLY WEEK AND SAW LOADS OF PEOPLE FROM SCHOOL? THAT'S OUR PRAYER, THAT WE PACK OUT CHURCHES THIS HOLY WEEK: THAT THERE ARE MORE PEOPLE THAN SEATS! ARE YOU WITH US?

WORD OF THE WEEK

PASSION

PRAYER

WRITE A PRAYER TO WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR HEART THIS HOLY WEEK. YOU CAN MAKE A PROMISE TO WALK WITH HIM.

WONDER QUESTIONS

HOW DO YOU THINK JESUS' DISCIPLES FELT AS THEY FOLLOWED JESUS INTO THE CITY?

HOW DO YOU THINK JESUS FELT AS HE SAW THE CROWDS? REMEMBER HE KNEW WHAT WAS TO COME.

COLOUR

