



Our School, Our Family, Modelled on Christ

St Mary's R C Primary School

Haslingden

Tel: 01706 214747

Headteacher: Miss D McNicoll

NEWSLETTER

18th September 2026

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already in the third week of the new academic year. The children have settled back into school life beautifully and are already living out our school values of love, kindness, courage, humility, and peace in abundance.

We began the week with a thoughtful whole-school Celebration of the Word, reflecting on last Sunday's Gospel reading and the theme of forgiveness. The children engaged with real maturity, offering reflections that showed both compassion and understanding.

Across school, pupils have been working hard in lessons, and our Forest School sessions are now in full swing for Reception, Year 1, and Class 4. It has been wonderful to see the children exploring, collaborating, and enjoying learning outdoors.

We also enjoyed our first sporting event of the year. A group of Year 5/6 boys represented school at a football tournament hosted by Valley Academy and finished second in their group. They demonstrated an excellent attitude, wonderful sportsmanship, and were fantastic ambassadors for our school community.

Mrs Booth held an information evening for parents of children in Year 6 this week. Thank you to all who were able to attend. Working in partnership with parents is so important, and it is a privilege to support the children in making their final year of primary school both enjoyable and successful.

Class Photos

The photographer was in school on Wednesday taking class photographs for the new academic year. The children should have brought home a proof copy / order form yesterday so please check their school bags if you haven't had it.

Foundation Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a foundation governor to join our wonderful board of governors. Governors work with myself and the senior leadership team to drive the strategic development of the school and raise standards of achievement.

Governors are drawn from a variety of backgrounds and their experience and strategic skills make a vital contribution to the continuing development of the organisation.

(NB a Foundation Governor must be a practising Catholic and able to supply a supporting reference from their Parish Priest. If you are interested, please contact me to discuss the role further).

Open Day

A reminder we are having our Open Day for new prospective parents on Tuesday 13th October from 1.30pm – 5.00pm. Please share this information with anyone who you think may be interested.

Please remember that if you are applying for a place at St Mary's for a sibling in September 2027 and your child is a baptised Roman Catholic, we need a copy of their baptism certificate. Please send this into school as soon as possible for our records.

Laudato Si' Trip

On Thursday, this week children in Year visited the Laudato Si' centre. The Laudato Si' Centre is the Diocese of Salford's ambitious response to the international call by Pope Francis to people of all faiths in his letter '*Laudato Si' – Care for Our Common Home*'. The children had a wonderful day learning about environmental stewardship and how to care for creation. They ended the day with a beautiful Celebration of the Word.

We have arranged to take all year groups to the centre over the academic year and will share dates and details in due course.

After- School activities

We are lucky to have a range of free after- school activities that change each half term on offer for the children. This half- term the schedule is as follows:

Monday: Dance Rehearsal for those participating in the Burnley Gotta Dance Show.

Tuesday: Y3/4 Athletics

Wednesday: Y1/2 Multi-sports

Thursday: Dance Rehearsal for those participating in the Burnley Gotta Dance Show.

Sunday's Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel Reading is from Matthew and Jesus shares the parable about Workers in a Vineyard. The Mission file to share with your child is attached below.

Events next week:

Monday 21st Sept: Year 2 local Walk to Cenotaph

Wednesday 23rd September: Information session for new parents of children in Reception Class 3.35pm

Yours Sincerely
Miss D McNicoll

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

WORD OF THE WEEK

DIALOGUE

PRAYER

To help you complete your Mission, write a prayer asking God to help you serve him during your day. You can pray this prayer each morning.



Your Mark 10 Mission is to pray each morning asking God to help you serve him during your day. If you make your day an act of service, you will build God's kingdom on earth.



Watch this
week's episodes

WONDER QUESTIONS

How do you think the people left waiting in the marketplace felt when they were finally hired?

How might working for a generous landowner change the way you feel about the work?