



St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

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Week ending: Friday 9th January 2026

**"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you".
Isaiah 60:1**

WELCOME BACK



As we return after the Christmas break, we hope that you enjoyed a happy and holy Christmas with your families, and that it was a time of peace, rest and joy together. As we begin this new year, we would like to wish you all a healthy and happy 2026, and every blessing for the months ahead.

At the heart of our Catholic community is the partnership between home and school, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support and trust. By working together, we can ensure the very best for your children - helping them to grow in their learning, their faith and their care for one another.

We look forward to all that this new term will bring for our children, and to continuing to work closely with you in the days and weeks ahead

Mr BARR

A letter was emailed to our school communities on Monday of this week sharing the very sad news of the death of our beloved teacher, colleague and friend, Mr Barr. Some members of our school communities attended his funeral on Thursday to pay our respects. Our prayers remain with his family as we hold on to lots of wonderful memories of a very caring, loving, dedicated and funny man. Rest in Peace Mr Barr.



RECOGNITION

Victor and Marc celebrated their First Holy Communion in Romania, surrounded by family and friends. It was a joyful and special occasion as they received the Eucharist for the first time, filling their hearts with God's love. The celebration was a wonderful experience of faith, family, and togetherness.



While in Romania, the boys also enjoyed sledding in the winter snow, making the visit both a meaningful and memorable experience.



A HUGE THANK YOU!

We would like to express our thanks to Councillor Colin Dever, Anthony Payne and his staff at Sovini. Just before Christmas they worked collaboratively to arrange for the removal of an area of bushes on the playground (previously known as the maze). This area had fallen

into disrepair and was not accessible for our children any longer. We now have plans to utilise this space for our children at dinner and playtimes. Thank you so much for making this happen.



Further to this support from our local councillor, Mr Dever has also asked that we share his contact details for any Swanside residents who are in need of support during the cold weather please email Colin.Dever@Knowsley.gov.uk



SPRING PARTY DAY

On Thursday 15th January a Spring Party bag is available as one of the three meal choices for our children. If your child selects this meal on that day you will only pay £1. Please pay using Parentpay as usual.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. We are sharing this link below as a guide to our parents and carers in managing their children's digital lives.

['What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives | Children's Commissioner for England](#)

M&S Flowering Plants

A huge thank you to M&S in St Helens for their generous donation of over 50 beautiful flowering plants. They were greatly appreciated by both staff and pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed receiving them.



ATTENDANCE

<u>Year Group with the fewest lost days this week</u>	<u>Classes Recognised this week</u>	<u>School Attendance this week</u>	<u>Impressive attendance this week</u>
☀ Year 4 ☀	☀ 3CD ☀ ☀ 4SC ☀ ☀ 5HW ☀ ☀ 6SA ☀	☀ 89.4% ☀	☀ 4SC ☀

ATTENDANCE REMINDER

All emails relating to pupil absences must now be sent to schools our email address – stmargaret@knowsley.gov.uk

SPRING TERM DATES FOR THE DIARY

(Please note that dates are subject to change but, in the event of change, we will endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible)

SPRING TERM 1

13th January, pm - Yr 3 & 4 Dodge Ball competition, All Saints school
20th January pm- Yr 5 & 6 Football competition, Prescot Soccer Centre
22nd January- Christingle Mass at the Cathedral with 16 children
28th January, am - Boccia competition, All Saints school
w/b 2nd February- Yr 4 Holy Communion Session 5
4th February, am- Yr 5 Football competition, EFC Academy
13th February- Yr 4 Charity Coffee morning
13th February- Finish for half term (normal time)

SPRING TERM 2

23rd February - Whole school INSET day- children are not in school
24th February- Children and staff return to school
2nd March- Yr 6 Residential trip to London (3 days)
4th March- Yr 5 Author visit
5th March -World Book Day
9th March- Yr 4 Swimming (Mon-Thurs)
13th March -Wear Blue for Bobby Day
16th March- Yr 4 Swimming (Mon-Thurs)
16th March - Year 5 and 6 Disco 3.15-4.15pm Year 3 & 4 Disco 4.30-5.30pm
19th March- British Gymnastic Competition - 30 children to visit
20th March- Yr 6 to visit the Royal Philharmonic
23rd March - 25th March Yr 5 Winmarleigh Hall Residential
27th March - Coffee Morning for Good Shepherd

Loving, learning, growing together with Jesus