



St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

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Newsletter Issue: 20

Week ending: Friday 6th February 2026

RECOGNITION

In 5RR this week, the children enjoyed creating and testing parachutes, investigating how surface area affects air resistance and how this changes the way a parachute falls.





BEHAVIOUR

As I am sure you are aware, we are having a big focus on behaviour in school at the minute with our main focus being to make school a better place for everyone in the building. Fundamental to this, are our three main values - Be Safe, Be Respectful and to Be our Best and to ensure that we behave in a way that is compliant with our school mission statement of - Loving, Learning and Growing with Jesus.

Last week in school, we shared through our assemblies, what our behaviour should look like and how we must follow these values in school whilst:

- In the classrooms
- In the canteen
- On the playground
- In the toilets
- On the corridors
- Outside of school

During these assemblies, teachers were asked to identify role models within the class who constantly display exemplary, **star behaviour**. Parents of these children should be extremely proud of their children!

Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



We also discussed rewards and consequences for our actions. The children understand that we all make mistakes at times (even adults) and that to try to avoid making the same mistakes, we should always reflect on our words and actions.

We discussed our **school behaviour policy** and how we must seek support from adults if we need help rather than put ourselves in a position where we need to reflect and have consequences put on us.

We also talked about how good behaviour is rewarded in school and shared some of the many ways that star behaviour is rewarded in SMMJ!

- You become cleverer / you feel happier
- Glowing report to take home
- Smile / Praise / Dojo / Stickers
- SMMJ Certificates / Awards / Trophies
- Recognition points
- Spotlight Certificates
- SMMJ University Awards (Extra Curricular)
- Messages to parents via dojo / over the phone / in person
- Dojo winners go to Connor or Reece for extra rewards
- Dojo team winners get a reward
- Sent to other teachers and the head teacher to share good news
- Share your work in assembly / you get shout outs
- Intra tournaments / sport
- Represent the school (choir / sport / ambassadors)
- You feel proud!

Lots of our children love participating in sport! Whilst we understand that this is not all our children, we still feel this is an area that will help many of our children to improve their behaviour. It will give them additional things to look forward to during their school day so long as they are following our school rules. Here are some of the activities for your children to look forward to next week!

Y3 - Dodgeball / Art / Music (Friday 2pm)

Y4 - Lunchtime football (Thursday 12:15 - 12:45)

Y5 - Intra school football competition (Thursday at 8:30am)

Y6 - Intra school benchball competition (Monday 8:30am)

There will also be a special reward for our '**Class of the Week**'. This will be given to the class who have shown throughout the week that they are **safe, respectful and their best**. Classes that are calm and where the children are **focused and engaged with their learning** will have a good chance of winning. Well done to 5HW who were our first winners of this award! They had a lovely reward this week and next week this reward will go to 6TC!

We also discussed how we want our school to be a calm environment and how this is so important to allow for us all to **be safe, be respectful and to be our best**. To support this,

we have introduced our **Quiet Corridors**. Children and adults will only speak if it is very important and will do so with our **indoor voices**.

The children and staff have really bought into all that we are trying to do in school but can we take this opportunity to address all parents and ask for your support with this as well. Please can we ask that you back the teachers? We are doing all these things to help your children to **be safe, be respectful and to be their best** both in school and at home.

Thank you for your anticipated support with this.

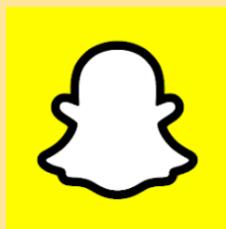
SOCIAL MEDIA

We are becoming increasingly concerned about the growing number of issues in school that are linked to children's use of social media and messaging apps outside school hours. Unfortunately, these online disputes and inappropriate interactions are often spilling over into the classroom, affecting friendships, learning, and wellbeing.

It is essential that parents and carers are aware that apps such as WhatsApp, TikTok and Snapchat all have age restrictions (usually 13+ years) for important safety reasons. Despite this, we are seeing children as young as those in Year 3 using these platforms — something that is both worrying and contrary to the guidance set out by the app providers.

We urge all parents to closely monitor their child's mobile phone and online activity. Please ensure you are aware of what platforms they are using, who they are communicating with, and how they are presenting themselves online. Children need ongoing support and supervision to ensure they use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly.

Our shared goal is to keep every child safe — both in school and beyond it. Your cooperation in helping us tackle this growing issue is vital.



POWER OF PARENTING PROGRAMME (POPP)

Group run by Learning Mentors Jackie Harris & Carmel Perry

Venue: St Margaret Marys JUNIOR School

Being a parent is one of the toughest jobs in the world. Parents are teachers, carers, guides, leaders, protectors, providers and motivators for their children. The POPP

programme aims to build on parenting skills, increase confidence and further develop strategies to guide, nurture and encourage positive behaviours in children.

Session 1	Wednesday	28th January 2026	9 - 10.30am
Session 2	Wednesday	4 th February 2026	9 - 10.30am
Session 3	Wednesday	11th February 2026	9 - 10.30am
Session 4	Wednesday	25th February 2026	9- 10am

On session 4 Wednesday 25th February your child will accompany you in taking part in some fun practical activities that will help to support them to reduce stress, anxiety and feel a sense of calm. If you are interested in attending the Power Of Parenting Programme please your child's class teacher or Mrs Perry no later than - 26th January 2026.

Places are limited and will be offered on a
'first come first served' basis

YEAR 5 FOOTBALL COMPETITION



Well done to some of our Year 5 children who took part in a football competition this week. The boys managed to get to the quarter finals but unfortunately got knocked out on penalties! A shout out to Bailey for his great effort in goal.

CLC ONLINE SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS

Please find below the link to the recording and presentation of the Parent/Carer session that took place earlier today:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QowoWygNbNrPm8Rc1ai1O-xfgDPGJ_YB?usp=sharing

There is also an embedded a copy of the video on the CLC website for those who would prefer to watch it via a browser or share this link:

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/online-safety-parent-carer-session-january-2026/>



JC FEBRUARY HOLIDAY CAMPS



Wake and Shake!

Tuesday and Thursday between 8.00am and 8.30am, we run a Wake and Shake club where pupils can join in dancing and games in our hall to get them ready for learning.

All year groups are welcome to join in the fun, just arrive on time at reception and say, 'Wake and Shake!'

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>
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Year 4

3KM
4SC
5RR
6TC

92.3%

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 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)
11th March - Parents Evening
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
18th March - Parents Evening
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
2ND April- Finish for Easter (time TBC)

Loving, learning, growing together with Jesus

Extra-Curricular Timetable

We have a wide range of extra-curricular activities for our children to participate in during the Spring Term. Please see the timetable below: -

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y3	Before School					
	Lunchtime					Football
	After School				Rebound Dance	
Y4	Before School					
	Lunchtime					
	After School		LFC Dodgeball Arts & Crafts	Boxing	Choir	Rebound Dance
Y5	Before School			Basketball	Girls Football Boys Football	Bleep Test
	Lunchtime					

	After School				
Y6	Before School	Benchball	Bleep Test		Girls Football
	Lunchtime	Hockey	Table Tennis	Rugby	
	After School	EFC Dodgeball		Football	