



Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we learn, love and laugh together



Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had our first full week back in school, it has been good to get back into a routine. On Tuesday afternoon Mrs Fairman met with parents regarding SATs preparation. Thank you to all parents who attended. If you were unable to attend or would like a recap of the information it will be shared with you via the Class Page (school website). If you have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact school.

All clubs started this week, which includes AmaSing on a Thursday afternoon. Please book directly for AmaSing on their website. We are very fortunate that we are able to offer such a range of both lunchtime and after school activities. Thank you especially to those parents who volunteer their time to run a club.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Eileen Murtagh

Attendance

Overall Attendance this week is **94.82%**

Across the school, **210 minutes** of learning time was lost this week through late arrivals.

Don't underestimate the importance of 100% attendance. Even one day missed can have an effect on learning.

98% attendance means **4** school days missed

95% attendance means **10** school days missed

90% attendance means **19** school days missed

80% attendance means **38** school days missed

5 minutes late each day means **3** school days missed



Lower than 90% attendance

Class 2

90-95% Attendance

Reception Class 4, 5

96-100% Attendance

Class 1, 3 and 6

Please be aware that requests for children to take holidays during term time will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

Please be aware that unauthorised absences that exceed 5 school days during term time will receive a fixed penalty notice (FPN).

Reminder - Dental or medical appointments

If you will be taking your child for an appointment please send us an email with the booking/screen shot for our files. Thank you



As we start the new School year, we're excited to inform you of the myHappymind Parent App. It's a brilliant way to help children keep practising their myHappymind habits during the School year at home.
You will need the activation code 111379

To find the checklist on the Parent App, they simply:

1. Open the app
2. Click on Kids' Zone
3. Select myHappymind Checklists
4. Choose the Holiday Checklist

St Nicholas Catholic High School Newsletter

For the latest newsletter [click here](#)

St Luke's Lion Cubs

We loved welcoming back our Lion cubs this week! Great to see everybody. Look forward to welcoming everyone back next week for some more fun!



Little Church

We look forward to seeing everybody at Little Church next week.

Dates for your Diary

20th January: Basket Ball event Year 5 and 6

21st January: Performance at Helsby High Year 6

29th January: Big Maths

13th February: Half Term

3rd March: St Mary's Class Residential

St Luke's Lion Club event

Welcome back for 2026!

St Mary's Class



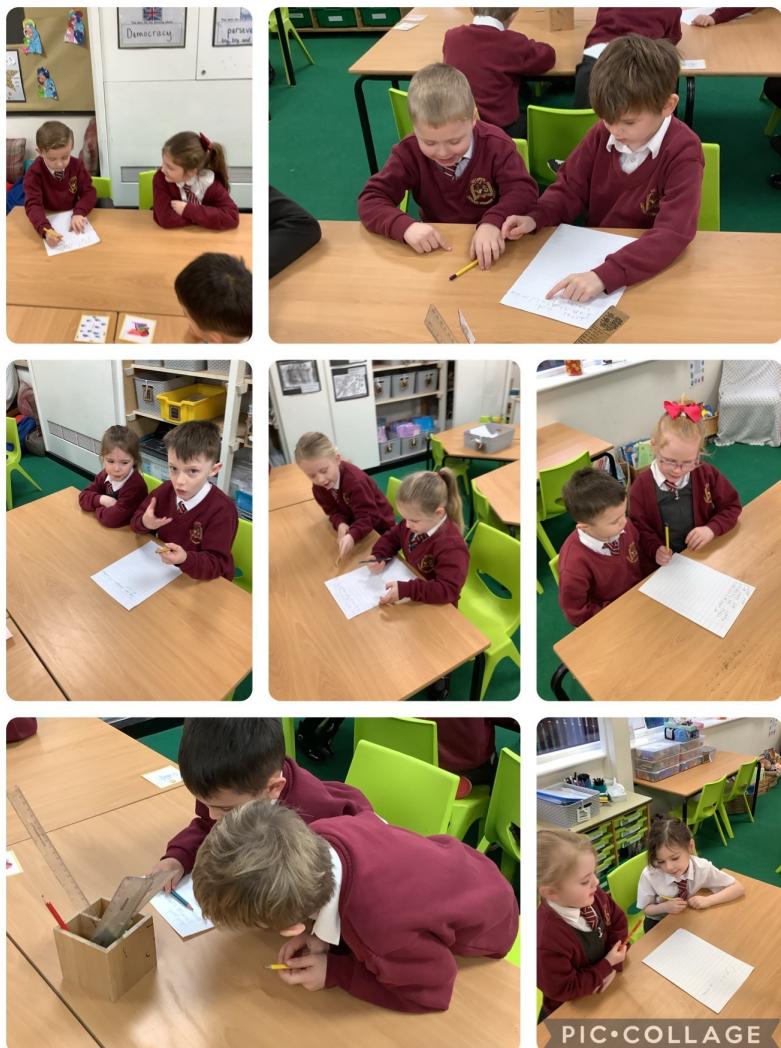
In English this week we have been exploring our new story 'The Lion Inside'. So far, we have met a brave Lion and a weak mouse. Year 1 and 2 have worked hard to write character descriptions of both characters and Reception have thought of some amazing adjectives to describe the characters too! We also played a game of 'musical statues' but with a twist - instead of freezing, we had to find someone and tell them an adjective to describe one of the characters. It was so much fun!

In Maths, Year 2 have been working hard using a variety of methods to complete two digit subtractions. Year 1 have been discovering all of the numbers between 10 and 20 and have had a go at representing them using tens frames, cubes and drawings.

In MyHappyMind sessions, we have continued talking about gratitude. St Mary's have journaled the experiences that they are grateful for this week, with responses ranging from walks in nature to playing with friends. It has been lovely to hear what the children are grateful for as they all verbalised their feelings so well!

In Art, we explored primary and secondary colours and had a go at mixing the colours to create our own. We are going to use our new knowledge in future sessions as we continue to explore painting.

We have had lots of fun while learning this week. Well done children of St Mary's!



St Elizabeth's Class



For the last couple of weeks, St Elizabeth class have been settling into the new term well, and have enjoyed starting new topics. In English, our new focus text is 'Escape from Pompeii' and we have been predicting the plot and using it to write our own stories. So far, we have explored the first page and written a sensory piece based on what we could see, hear and smell.

In Maths, both year groups have started new topics. Year 3 have explored more complex multiplication, and are starting to use written methods to multiply larger numbers. Year 4 have explored factor pairs and have considered what happens to numbers when we multiply by 10 and 100.

In Science, we have been learning about the digestive system and the journey our food takes. We reminded ourselves of our trip to Chester Zoo where we simulated the digestive system, and started to apply keywords to each of the elements. We talked about the nutrients our bodies need and how our intestines play a vital role in extracting these from our food.

Last week in the Vine and Branches we learnt about who the Magi were and the significance of their visit. We retold the story using wooden characters and thought about the meaning behind the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. This week, we started to think about the Kingdom of God and the elements that it is made up of.

On Friday, we did some PSHE about friendship, kindness, and relationships with one another. They looked at the qualities and definitions of friendships, and learnt some strategies of how to manage them when things become more difficult.



St Catherine's Class



We have made a fantastic start to the Spring Term. It has been great to see everyone return with focus and a determined attitude to learning, settling quickly back into routines and approaching each lesson with enthusiasm and confidence.

Building on this strong start, our Maths lessons have had a clear focus on fractions. Year 5 have been strengthening their understanding by converting improper fractions into mixed numbers and vice versa, while Year 6 began with a recap of adding and subtracting mixed numbers before moving on to the more challenging skills of multiplying and dividing fractions - both year groups have shown great perseverance.

Alongside our Maths learning, English lessons have been filled with curiosity and creativity. We have started exploring a new text and, although the title is still a mystery, we have enjoyed making predictions and using visual clues to create our own detailed descriptions. In addition, we have started our new class novel, *A Kind of Spark*, and are really enjoying learning more about the main character. We are already eager to continue reading and discover how the story develops.

Creativity has also continued in Art lessons. Building on previous skills, Year 5 have been focusing on one-point perspective, while Year 6 have been developing their understanding of two-point perspective. This has resulted in some fantastic creative pieces, with careful application of technical skills while expressing artistic ideas.



PIC COLLAGE

Our Vine and Branches lessons have seen us begin the next branch, Galilee to Jerusalem. We explored the Sermon on the Mount and learned about the Beatitudes, before reflecting on how these teachings can be applied in our everyday lives as we strive to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Adding to an already busy and enriching week, the class also took part in a range of enhancement opportunities. Year 5 spent the morning at Helsby High School, learning about life at secondary school and enjoying a hands-on science lesson in the laboratories. Meanwhile, Year 6 were visited by a teacher from St. Nich's, who shared insights into life at St. Nich's with a particular focus on Maths and English lessons. These experiences have been invaluable in helping the children feel excited and prepared for the next stage of their education.

Award Winners

Well done to this week's award winners...

Headteachers Awards



Subject Awards



Award Winners

Raise the Praise Champions



Pride Award



Sports Awards



Piano

Congratulations to Astrid and Oscar on passing their Piano exams. This is a fantastic achievement and reflection of your hard work, commitment, and practice. Well done to you both!



Year 5 got the opportunity to get a tour of Helsby High School this week. They had lots of fun learning how to use and experimenting with Bunsen burners. They learnt that different metals produce different flame colours when they are heated in a Bunsen Burner.

