

Newsletter



Guide Us O God To Be The Best We Can Be;
In Every Thought, In Every Word And Every Deed

March 2025



This Month's News:

So far, we have had another very busy and exciting half term at SMSA! We celebrated World Book Day with fantastic costumes; our whole-school STEM Day inspired our budding engineers with hands-on challenges; Year 5 had their first virtual meeting with their pen pals in Saudi Arabia, and our talented choir shone at the Let's Go Sing Concert—a huge thank you to Mrs Williams and all staff, families & children who took part. Finally, we are delighted to congratulate Mr Waywell, our new Head Teacher, and we look forward to welcoming him to our wonderful school next month! He brings with him a wealth of leadership experience and is excited to be joining our school community.

Events Coming Up:

- 19th March – French lesson at OLCBS (Year 3 and 4)
- 24th March – Eagles Trip to Gawthorpe Hall
- 31st March – Holy Week Celebrations in school (all week)
- 31st March – Rocksteady Concert
- 31st March – Reports going home to families
- 1st April – Whole-school Jubilee art day
- 2nd April – Family Easter Bonnet Craft Afternoon (2:30pm)
- 3rd April – Parents Evening
- 4th April – School finishes for Easter at 1:15pm

**“Lent is a time of
renewal for the whole
Church, for each
community and every
believer. Above all it is
a time of grace.”**

- Pope Francis





Family Easter Bonnet Craft Afternoon:
 Get your creativity ready! Mrs Garnett is inviting families to join her for a fun-filled Easter Bonnet Craft Afternoon on 2nd April at 2:30pm. Families can work with their children to decorate their own bonnets, ready for our Easter Bonnet Competition on 22nd April. Please remember to bring your own bonnet - we will provide craft materials, but you're more than welcome to bring any extra decorations you might want to add! There are limited spaces for this afternoon, please email the staff@ account to book a place!

Catholic Life of the School:

During this season of Lent, we have been reflecting on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as a school community. A heartfelt thank you to Fr Augustine and Sr Sheinrose for leading our beautiful whole-school Lenten Mass, guiding us in faith and reflection. We are also grateful to Mrs Bisby for leading our Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of our Lenten journey with a time of prayer and commitment.

Sports News:

An exciting half term for sport across KS2 so far - congratulations to the Netball team who beat Barton St Lawrence last week. The girls' football team have played all their matches well snatching a win at St Ignatius and finishing 5th place in the league. Year 5/6 are currently playing the Tag Rugby fixtures at UCLAN - this is a new sport for us and they are doing really well adapting to a new version of a game some play out of school. We are very proud of the Year 3/4 gymnastics team - Nathan, Louie, Alfie, Sienna, Unaisah, Kaitlyn, Lexie-Mae and Hettie - well done for finishing 4th in the competition it was very close with only 2 points separating 1st and 4th place. Huge congratulations must go to the Year 5/6 swimming team who managed a first place and a wonderful new trophy in the recent swimming gala! Well done Joseph, Harry, George, Shifaa, Zahra and Lexie! Good luck to the Year 6 boys who play in their next cup game on the 26th against St Andrews and the Year 3/4 boys and girls have tournaments coming up at the end of March too!

Attendance:

Please find this school year's attendance so far. Please do help us by bringing your child to school every day, unless they are unwell, and by booking holidays outside of term time. Well done, and thank you, for continuing to be above 97% overall!

St Mary and St Andrew's Catholic Primary School, ...
 Current academic year up to Thursday 13 March 2025

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Number of pupils 133 | Overall attendance % 97.2% | Overall absence % 2.8% | Unauthorised absence % 0.3% |
| Persistently absent | | Severely absent | |
| Number of persistently absent pupils 7 | Percentage of persistently absent pupils 5.3% | Number of severely absent pupils 0 | Percentage of severely absent pupils 0.0% |
| Last 5 days (07 March 2025 to 13 March 2025) | | | |
| Overall attendance % 97.1% | Overall absence % 2.9% | Unauthorised absence % 0.7% | |



ARBOR – Our Replacement for SIMS & SCOPAY

We are in the process of transferring all our data across from our current School Management and Information System (SIMS) to ARBOR. The data includes all the information we hold for your children and their families. The data transfer should be complete by 1st April 2025. We will then start to transfer balances over from SCOPAY.

We are hoping that you will be able to start using ARBOR to book dinners, Out of School Club places and Extra-Curricular Clubs in time for our return after the Easter Holidays.

You will be sent an email inviting you to register for both the ARBOR Web Portal and the APP as soon as we are ready. In the meantime you can view the parent guides on how to Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App and A quick guide to Arbor for guardians and parents.

ACTION NOW

To facilitate the smooth transition, we are asking parents to check they have pre-booked all dinners and Out of School Club places up to 4 April 2025. You will be unable to make any additions or amendments after 31 March 2025. All outstanding balances need to be paid by Friday 28th March.