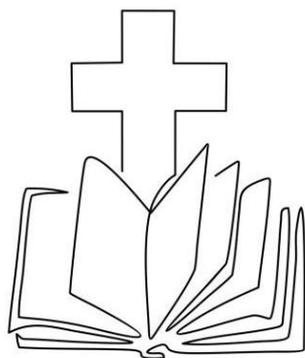




# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026



## GOSPEL VALUE OF THE WEEK HOLINESS

### LISTEN to the Word of God

"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."  
*Luke 3:22*

### RESPOND to the Word of God

As we reflect, give thought to:

- ♥ When we are baptised, we are filled with the Holy Spirit and welcomed into God's family.
- ♥ What does this tell us about how God feels about Jesus?
- ♥ How does knowing God loves you help you to try to live a holy life?

### GO FORTH with a mission from the Word of God

God calls each of us his beloved child and invites us to live holy lives by loving others, making good choices and following Jesus every day.  
How can you show holiness in your words and actions this week?



The Wednesday Word is an outreach which shares Sunday's Gospel with all school families in a unique way. [Click here](#) for this week's latest Wednesday Word to discuss with your loved ones at home.

## HOUSE POINTS

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."*

*St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

Every child from Nursery to Year 6 has been assigned to one of our four houses: St George, St Margaret, St David, or St Brigid. Children can earn house points for going above and beyond, especially when they demonstrate our Gospel values:

Be Ready to Learn → Diligence

Be Resilient → Courage / Perseverance

Be Respectful → Respect

Be Responsible → Responsibility

Each week, points are totalled, and the winning house enjoys an extra playtime. The house with the highest total at the end of the half term will celebrate with a special afternoon celebration.

### THIS WEEK'S WINNING HOUSE IS...

**ST MARGARET**

### SPRING 1

	St George	St Margaret	St David	St Brigid
Week 1				
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5				
Week 6				
TOTAL POINTS	97	112	106	95



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We are delighted to celebrate the personal achievements of our children this week! Each of these stars has been carefully chosen by their teachers for a variety of reasons—whether it's demonstrating outstanding behaviour, producing an excellent piece of work, mastering a tricky concept, showing kindness to others, or going above and beyond in so many ways.

In all they do, these children are shining examples of our school motto: "Only my best will do. Be kind to one another." Through their efforts and actions, they live out our Catholic values each day, inspiring those around them. As Pope Francis reminds us, "Each of us is a masterpiece of God's creation." Well done to all our shining stars!

CLASS	STAR OF THE WEEK
Nursery	Aadwik
Reception	Lucas
Year 1	Maliq
Year 2	Jayden
Year 3	Isla
Year 4	Malachi
Year 5	Krishoan
Year 6	Haitham

	NAME
	Remi-Rose
	CLASS
	Year 2

## ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

The national expectation for attendance is 97% and above, but at our school, we aim even higher! Guided by our values of care and responsibility, we monitor attendance and punctuality every day, working together as a school community to support our children in being present and engaged. By attending school regularly, our children can make the most of every learning opportunity and flourish in their talents and abilities.

	Weekly Attendance	Punctuality (Lates)	Attendance to date
Reception	93.1%	14	95.7%
Year 1	93.3%	19	93.2%
Year 2	91.1%	16	92.9%
Year 3	95.6%	8	95.6%
Year 4	98.6%	19	96.8%
Year 5	91.2%	23	92.3%
Year 6	94.1%	15	95.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.8%</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>94.5%</b>

## SPRING TERM 1 CLASS OF THE WEEK - ATTENDANCE STARS

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1					★		
Week 2							
Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							

As we move further into a season where weather can be unpredictable and illnesses are more common, we kindly ask all families to make a renewed and conscious effort this term to improve both attendance and punctuality. Our overall attendance to date currently stands at 94.5%, with each class falling below the national expectation of 97%.

In addition, punctuality continues to be a significant concern. Being in school every day, on time, is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging within our school community.

We would also like to remind families that poor attendance or persistent lateness is considered a safeguarding concern, as it can impact a child's safety, progress and overall welfare.



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## EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE - SPRING TERM 2026



*"Art and sport help young people discover the beauty of life, of creation and of themselves."  
Pope Francis*

### START DATE

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### END DATE

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

MONDAY 3.20pm - 4.00pm	
YEAR GROUP	CLUB
Reception	Music & Movement
Y1 - Y6	Choir
Y2	Games
Y3	Musical Icons
Y4	Sewing
Y5 - Y6	Indoor Athletics

TUESDAY 3.20pm - 4.00pm	
YEAR GROUP	CLUB
Y6	Confidence Club

THURSDAY 3.20pm - 4.00pm	
YEAR GROUP	CLUB
Y3	Computing
Y4	Book Club
Selected	Rotary
Y3 - Y6	Dance (Spring I)

**EXTRA-CURRICULAR INFORMATION - SCHOOL WEBSITE**

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS | CARERS REGARDING EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### ATTENDANCE

Due to staffing ratios, we are only able to accommodate children from the year group the club is designed for.

This means siblings in other year groups CANNOT join other clubs.

They will need to be collected at the normal time of 3.15pm, or alternatively, parents/carers can book them into our extended after-school club provision.

#### LATE COLLECTIONS

We expect all children to be collected promptly from extracurricular activities at **4.00pm**.

We acknowledge that the vast majority of parents and carers collect their children on time, typically at or within five minutes of the end of the school day | club.

We also understand that on occasion, delays are unavoidable due to unforeseen circumstances such as traffic or emergencies. In these cases, we ask that the school office is contacted as soon as possible to keep us informed.

Our staff generously give their time to provide extracurricular activities for our children and late collections can have a significant impact for our staff, e.g. delaying work & family commitments.

#### PERSISTENT LATENESS

The threshold for this is **3 late collections in a rolling 6-week period**.

This will result in withdrawal of your child's place.

Repeated late collection (despite discussions with parent | carers) may result in escalating safeguarding concerns to Children's Social Care.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If your child attends a sports club, they should wear their PE kit on that day.

If you have any questions about extra-curricular clubs, please contact the relevant member of staff via ClassDoJo.

The extra-curricular timetable does not include competitions, festivals, or fixtures. Children will be notified separately about these events.

Occasionally, clubs may be interrupted due to competitions, fixtures or staff training. We will always do our best to inform you as early as possible.



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## TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Below are important dates for your reference in which children do **NOT** attend school

<b>INSET 2 - STAFF TRAINING</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>SPRING - FEBRUARY HALF-TERM</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
<b>INSET 3 - STAFF TRAINING</b>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>INSET 4 - STAFF TRAINING</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>SUMMER - MAY HALF TERM</b>
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>INSET 5 - STAFF TRAINING</b>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> August - 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026

Please ensure you check term dates carefully before booking any holidays as they will not be authorised.

## TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We're excited to share the schedule of events for this term! Our aim is to give parents | carers plenty of notice so you can join in at family events (highlighted in yellow) and support your children whenever possible.

Information regarding specific child attendance, timings & location of events etc will be shared with families privately via school APP ClassDoJo.

Please note that there may be additional activities, workshops, or competitions throughout the term that are not listed here yet, as we are waiting for confirmation of some events.

We aim to keep you updated as soon as new information becomes available.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR - SCHOOL WEBSITE

Date	Year Group	Event
14.01.2026	<i>Selected Pupils</i>	Y5 & Y6 Primary Beacon Project Merseyside Fire & Rescue
19.01.2026	-	Brew Monday: Samaritan's Charity
19.01.2026	Y5 & Y6	LSSP Personal Safety Workshop - DADDR (Detect, Avoid, Defuse, Defend & Report)
20.01.2026	R - Y6	St Sebastian's Feast Day Celebration Mass (Led by Y3)
21.01.2026	<i>Selected Pupils</i>	LSSP Y5 & Y6 Sportshall Athletics (Heat 1)
22.01.2026	Reception	School Health Screening Check
23.01.2026	R & Y1	National Dental Epidemiology Programme
26.01.2026	Y5 & Y6	LSSP Personal Safety Workshop - DADDR (Detect, Avoid, Defuse, Defend & Report)
27.01.2026	Y6	Monthly Mass



### 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

On Brew Monday, the third Monday in January, Samaritans reminds everyone to reach out for a cuppa and a catch-up with the people you care about.

A day to remind everyone how good human connection feels.

Come and join us, all are welcome! More details on ClassDoJo.



## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

### RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

2026 - 2027

Reminder to families applying for Reception places for September 2026.

The closing date for applications is:

**15TH JANUARY 2026.**

Please follow this link to apply:

[Liverpool City Council - School Admissions](#)

Parents are reminded that for applications to be considered under the Catholic faith criteria, there is a requirement for baptism to take place by this date also.

Please take prompt action if you wish your child to be baptised and contact your parish office.

If you are applying for a place at St Sebastian's we ask that you also complete a Supplementary Faith Request Form (please see link below) which is to be returned to school via email to

[sebastians-sl@st-sebastians.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:sebastians-sl@st-sebastians.liverpool.sch.uk) or by post:

St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School, Holly Road, Liverpool, L7 0LH

Please give details of your child's baptism on this form and return to school by the **15th January 2026** for your application to be ranked correctly.

For those children baptised in St Sebastian's or St Oswald's church, you should state the approximate date of baptism and the parish records will be checked. We require a copy of the baptism certificate if your child was baptised in another parish.

If you require support completing admission applications or have any questions, please contact the school office on 260 9697 or via the above email

### LATE APPLICATIONS

Late applications are less likely to be offered a place at your preferred schools. National Offer

Day:

**Year 7 - 2nd March 2026**

**Reception - 16th April 2026.**

### PARENT | SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

ClassDojo is for parents | guardians to keep up to date with what's going on in school and it allows you to contact class teachers directly. However, please be mindful that that staff are teaching throughout the school day.

Staff are only contactable during school hours:  
Monday - Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm.

Any queries | messages sent will be answered within 48hours

Please note: ClassDojo is not to be used as a tool to share your concerns. At St Sebastian's, face-to-face meetings are the preferred method in order to alleviate any concerns, resolve any issues and ensure that messages are not misinterpreted.

Should you wish to speak with teachers or senior leadership team directly regarding concerns etc, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Over the last few weeks of Autumn term and this week, we have noticed a number of children who are coming to school with either incorrect or incomplete uniform. In addition this, multiple children wearing jewellery & arriving at school with their hair untied.

Please refer to our school website regarding [school uniform](#).

Please let us know if providing uniform is a challenge for you and your family, we are always happy to help! We have free items of school uniform and would encourage families to take what they need!

### MOBILE PHONES ON SITE

As part of our safeguarding practices, we kindly remind all parents and carers that the use of mobile phones is not permitted on the school site, particularly at home time while waiting for children. This helps us maintain a safe and focused environment for all children.

### PUNCTUALITY - LATENESS

Over the last few weeks of Autumn term and this week, we have noticed a number of children arriving late and being dropped off at school, without a parent or carer accompanying them to the office.

**This is a safeguarding concern.**

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our children, all late arrivals must be brought to the school office front entrance by a parent or carer, who must also inform the school of the reason for the lateness.

We appreciate your support in keeping all our children safe.



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026



## MRS J MCCORMICK'S CELEBRATION SHOUT-OUTS

*"Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable."*

*Philippians 4:8*

Each week, I love to take a moment to celebrate and give a little shout-outs to children, staff or classes who have really shone this week. It might be for showing kindness, living out our school motto, working hard in their learning, being a brilliant team member, or simply making a positive difference in our school community. It's such a pleasure to recognise the efforts and kindness that make our school a special place.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy New Year to our whole school community. As we begin the year together, we do so with hope, gratitude and trust in God. I hope the months ahead bring happiness, good health and many positive moments for our families as we continue to support our children to learn, grow and flourish.

### MR FITZPATRICK & OUR FAMILIES

A heartfelt thank you to our families and to Mr Fitzpatrick for their exceptional commitment during this week of challenging weather. What a start to the New Year! Our families ensured that children arrived in school safely and ready to learn, while Mr Fitzpatrick worked tirelessly to keep pathways safe and the school warm and welcoming for both pupils and staff. At a time when unfortunately several schools across Liverpool were unable to open due to the poor weather, this collective effort enabled us to begin the new year smoothly, safely and with learning firmly at the heart of everything we do.

### Y4 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD WHOLE SCHOOL MASS

Our Epiphany of the Lord Mass, originally scheduled for Monday, was rearranged due to the poor weather and we were delighted to begin the New Year by coming together as a whole school community in prayer. Led by Fr Liam and our Year 4 pupils, the Mass gave us a special opportunity to celebrate Epiphany and to reflect on how the Wise Men followed the star that guided them to Jesus. We considered how, in this new year, we too can look for guidance in our faith, allowing God's light to lead our choices, actions and journey ahead.

### NEW STARTERS - AFTERNOON NURSERY

We were delighted to welcome our new afternoon Nursery children to school this week. Our EYFS team have worked closely with families through home visits and settle sessions, and it has been a pleasure to see children growing in confidence during settle sessions and beginning to explore the EYFS provision independently. We look forward to supporting them as they continue their EYFS journey with us.

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A gentle reminder to families that St Sebastian's has funded 15-hour Nursery places available for children aged three.

Sessions run Monday to Friday from 12.30 to 3.30pm during term time only.

Please contact the school office for further information.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

I would like to share a special shout out and celebration of our School Council class representatives who met with myself and Mrs L McCormick this week to discuss our school.

The children reflected thoughtfully on what is working well and shared ideas on how we could make things even better. Their responses were productive, well considered and full of positives alongside a few sensible tweaks.

This was a wonderful opportunity to gather pupil voice and truly listen to our children who are so keen to share their thoughts and opinions on making our school an even better place to be and learn. I am extremely proud of how confident and articulate our children were and grateful for the care they show for our school community.



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

*"Encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Our school is a hive of activity, with every class busy learning, exploring and growing together.

Each week, we share highlights from every class - this could be linked to exciting learning in a particular subject, positive behaviour, teamwork, kindness, creativity or a special achievement that the children are proud of. Take a look below to see what has made each class shine this week!

### NURSERY

Ms Alderton & Ms Williams

This week, the children have begun their new topic, winter. They have been exploring the changes in seasons, noticing how the weather, trees, and clothing change as winter arrives. The children also enjoyed learning about winter animals, discovering how different animals adapt to the colder weather. Through stories, discussions, and creative activities, the children have shown great curiosity and excitement as they explore the wonders of winter.

### RECEPTION

Mrs Brewerton & Mrs Reynolds

We have had a fantastic start back to school after the Christmas holidays. We are extremely impressed at how well the children have settled back in and have got stuck straight back into learning. We have started lots of new topics, and it's been amazing to hear everything the children have had to share!

### YEAR 1

Ms Tabone, Ms Chan & Ms McKeown

We have started Spring term with a bang! This week, we have begun our new book in English - Hermelin. Hermelin is a mouse detective and we enjoyed putting our detective brains on and predicting what we think is going to happen in the story. We can't wait to find out if he manages to retrieve all the missing items!

### YEAR 2

Mrs Rabbette, Ms Perez, Mr Morton & Ms McKeown

It has been lovely to return to school after a restful Christmas break! This week we began to explore the amazing work of artist Stephen Wiltshire who can draw whole cities from memory. We also predicted what The Bog Baby character might look like from our exciting new English text, which we look forward to reading.

### YEAR 3

Mrs Fitchett-Sabbagh, Mrs Oyewale & Ms Conway

We were excited to return after the holidays to find the playground covered in snow. We loved playing outside, making snow angels and building snowmen. We also revealed our new text for English and are really looking forward to exploring it over the coming weeks.

### YEAR 4

Mrs Cooney & Ms Bullen

This week we had great fun enjoying the snow that arrived after the Christmas break. It has been lovely to see the children so engaged in reading this week within school. We really enjoyed creating pixel art in computing creating amazing Mario images. Year 4 should be proud of leading the Mass celebrating the Epiphany this week held in school.

### YEAR 5

Ms Rozycka, Ms Perez, Mrs Maguire & Mrs Xhafa

This week we have revealed a new book, 'The Errand', for which the writing outcome will be a cliffhanger ending... We have enjoyed playtime in the snow as well as creative colouring and of course, connect four! In addition to learning about the Victorians in history which the children have loved, we have looked at the role of a libberist and how they contribute to the words (script and lyrics) for operas and musicals, collaborating with composers to build characters, plot, and emotional depth!

### YEAR 6

Ms Kaur & Ms Doyle

Year 6 has had a super first week back, we have rolled into 2026 confident, resilient and determined! Our highlights this week involve all of us getting out of our comfort zones in PE and performing small dances for our first topic back, working in groups to present and educate different types of discrimination to the rest of the class in PSHE, revealing our vehicle text in English and getting to play in the snow that first day back! Our class snow-cano survived til the end of the day! We are so excited for more fun next week!