

9th January 2026



St Mary Magdalen's CPS

Matthew 2:10, "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."

2026



Nurturing hearts & minds

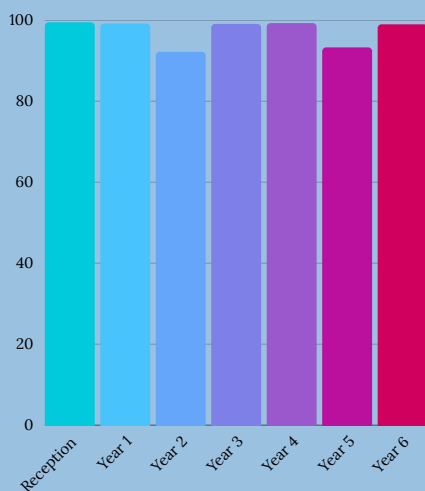


Happy New Year! I hope 2026 is full of hope, peace, joy and love for all of our school community. It has been a lovely, calm week as we all adjust back into the routine of being back in school. I had the pleasure this week of meeting with all of the class teachers and discussing every pupil and the progress that they are making this year - it is always such a celebration of the hard work of both staff and pupils, allowing us to discuss where we can do more and where any particular child needs extra support.

One area of celebration for all of our school community is attendance. At the beginning of each term, it is a great opportunity to look at individual, groups and trends in attendance. As a school, our attendance overall is good. We frequently have classes with 98%+ attendance - highlighted on the left of the newsletter every week. Our attendance to date for this year is 96.1%; in Lancashire, the figure is 94.9%, and nationally, it is 95.1%. That being said, we are receiving an increase in holiday requests within term time and have several pupils who are persistently missing the start of the day.

I completely understand the cost implications of term-time holidays, and the valuable experiences that children will have with their families, but please can I ask you also to consider the academic and social cost within school for your child?

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK: 97.4%



Prayer

Dear God,
Thank You for giving us the opportunity to read and learn. Please help us to be curious and seek out new knowledge everyday.
Amen.

British Values Mutual Respect and Tolerance.

The National Year of reading encourages everyone to explore a wide range of texts. By sharing what we enjoy and listening to others, we can learn about different experiences and viewpoints this helps us read and learn together with respect.

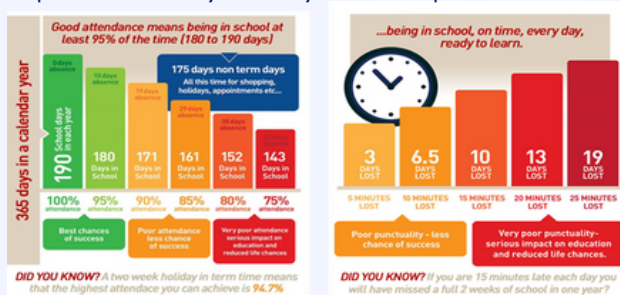
REFLECTION

As we think about the future we can remember that reading can open doors to new ideas, new possibilities and new ways of understanding the world around us

In line with All Hallows and all local schools, we have been asked not to authorise term-time absences unless there are extenuating circumstances, and we will continue to do so. We really appreciate all of your support with this - our attendance figures would not be where they are without the incredible support of the majority of parents. The graphic below illustrates the significant impact of regularly missing a few minutes or a day off.

All of that being said, we know children can be unwell, and they need to stay out of school; we know the traffic can sometimes be unpredictable, but please work with us and communicate to help our children!

As we celebrate the New Year and the Epiphany today in assembly, if you are sometimes late or have the 'odd day off', please resolve to do a little better in 2026! As a supermarket says, every little helps!



Core Value Role Models this week....



Y1: Olivia



Y2: Archie



Y3: Noah



Y4: Biorn



Y5: Betsy



Y6: Mason

Assembly Theme: Epiphany



Nurturing hearts & minds

2026 marks the **National Year of Reading** for both young people and adults. We have kick-started with every child (and staff member) taking home a funny bookmark today to encourage reading at home.

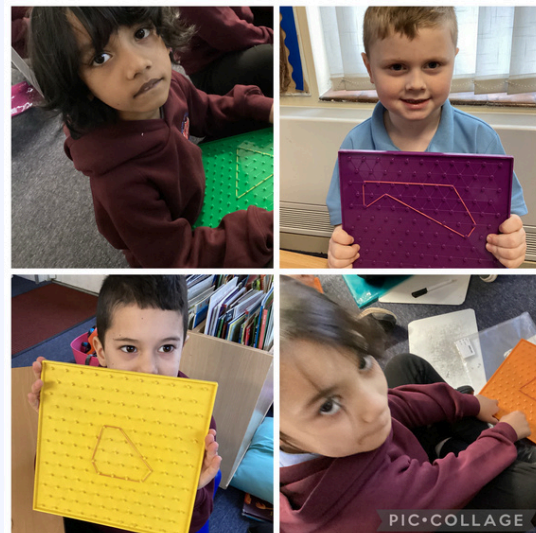
The goals of the national year are to:

- encourage reading for pleasure
- transform reading culture
- support for diverse audiences

These are our goals as we encourage pupils to read regularly at home through the Supersonic Friends phonics scheme, our reading scheme and then the general class readers. Every child also has access to library books weekly within class time. Spending time helping your child to read is a gift that you will never regret giving!

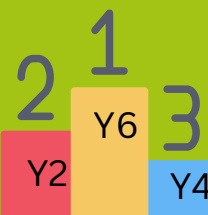
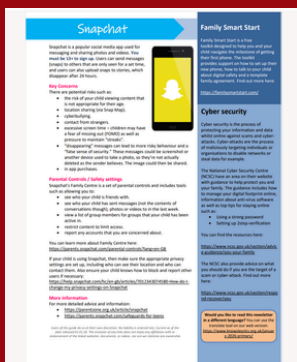


Our Week in Photos....



Online Safety :

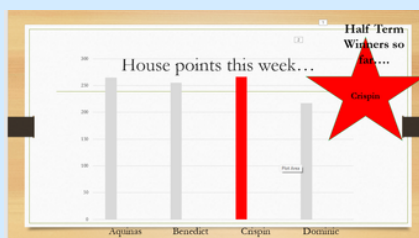
January's Online Newsletter is packed full of useful information to help your child online! Every child is learning how to use hardware and software safely - as we are - so this monthly newsletter, written by Knowsley's technical support, who look after our IT provision, is invaluable.



Dates for your Diary

9/10 Feb Y6 Bikeability
13/Feb finish for Half term
19/Mar Let's Go Sing concert - Y4 - Blackburn Ice Arena
24/25 Mar Parents' Evening
1/Apr 10am Easter Mass
2/Apr 9:15 Three Trees Easter Reflection Y5
2/April School finishes 1:30

House Points this week & half term:



Reception 2026:

Our strength is in the school community and your recommendation, as a parent, is appreciated. Closing date is the end of January for applications to LCC for Reception places - if you know of anyone, please support our school.

Our Nursery has places available for 3yr+