



St Pius X Catholic Primary School & Little Lambs Nursery



Monthly Newsletter – July 2026

Gospel Value of the Month – Compassion
Church Devotion of the Month – The Precious Blood
Prayer Room Focus – Open Prayer
Last Day of Term is **Friday 17th July**. The whole school will finish at **1:30pm**.
School Bus - On the last day of term, the school bus will begin its journey home at 1:30pm in line with our early finish. Children who travel on the school bus will therefore be dropped off at home earlier than usual.
September Start – Children will return to school on **Thursday 3rd September 2026**.
Term Dates 2026-27:
Autumn – Thu 3rd Sept–Thurs 17th Dec
Half-term – Mon 26th Oct–Fri 30th Oct
Spring – Tue 5th Jan–Thu 25th Mar
Half-term – Mon 15th Feb–Fri 19th Feb
Summer – Tue 13th Apr–Fri 16th July
Half-term – Mon 31st May–Fri 4th June
Bank Holidays:
Good Friday – 26th March
Easter Monday – 29th March
Early May – 3rd May
INSET Days:
Tuesday, 1 September
Wednesday, 2 September
Friday, 18 December
Tuesday, 4 January
Monday, 12 April
Term Dates for the next three years can be found on our website (<https://www.st-piusx.cumbria.sch.uk/parents/term-dates>).
Extra-Curricular Clubs – This is a reminder that the majority of clubs end the week commencing **29th June**. Please check the weekly newsletter for any clubs that will be continuing.
Retirement – Mrs Hurley retires at the end of this academic year. We would like to thank her for her 34 years of service, and we wish her a very happy retirement. To celebrate this special occasion, we will be holding a ‘Dancing Queen Day’ on **Tuesday 14th July**, with pupils and staff invited to come dressed in their best ABBA-inspired outfits. A special celebration assembly will take place at **2.00pm**, and we would be delighted to welcome current and former pupils, families, staff, parishioners and friends of the school to join us in celebrating Mrs Hurley’s remarkable contribution to our community. Refreshments will be served following the assembly. All are welcome.
Goodbye – At the end of this academic year, we will be saying goodbye to both Mrs Crellin and Miss Milligan. After nine wonderful years at St Pius X, Mrs Crellin has decided to leave teaching to pursue a new career path that better suits her and her family’s needs. Miss Milligan will also be leaving us after eight years as she moves back home to be closer to her family. We are incredibly grateful to both members of staff for their dedication, care and commitment to our school community over many years. We wish them every happiness and success in the future.
Nursery Applications – The deadline for Spring (January) nursery applications is **Friday 10th July**. Applications forms can be requested from the school office or found online.
Nursery Application deadlines are:
- **10th July** for January intake.
- **11th December** for April intake
- **19th March** for September intake
Get your application forms in early to avoid disappointment.
School Spaces – We still have some spaces available at our wonderful school! Please get in touch if you would like more information or to come and have a look around. Please spread the word.
CAFOD Chocolate Raffle will take place at the end of term. Tickets are available via School Gateway for £1 each. Donations of chocolate prizes would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at the school office. The raffle will be drawn during the end of term assembly on the final day of term, with all proceeds supporting CAFOD.
Ofsted Update – We are delighted that our recent Ofsted report has now been published and confirms that St. Pius X provides at least the standard of education expected nationally across the majority of key areas, with a strong judgement for Personal Development and Wellbeing. This marks an important milestone for our school community, particularly as it removes the previous Requires Improvement judgement following a wait of seven and a half years for re-inspection. The report recognises the high-quality education, care and support provided at St. Pius X every day and reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment of our staff, governors, pupils and families. The full report is available on our school website and via the Ofsted website. We are incredibly proud of our school and will continue striving to provide the very best for every child in our care.
September Price Review - The following prices will be reviewed from 1st September 2026:

- Meal (School)
- Meal (Nursery)

Free School Meals - The Government has announced changes to Free School Meal eligibility from September 2026, meaning that more families may qualify for support. If your household receives Universal Credit, your child may now be eligible. We encourage all families to check their eligibility and apply, as this not only provides free meals for your child but also helps school access additional funding to support pupils. Applications can be made online via the Westmorland and Furness Council website:
<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>
Statutory Assessment Dates 2026/27 - It is important that children attend school for statutory assessments- see dates below We ask that no holidays or trips are booked during these weeks.
Y6 SATs – **Monday 10th–Thursday 13th May**
Y1/2 Phonics Screening Check – **Monday 14th–Friday 18th June**
Y4 Multiplication Check – **Monday 7th–Friday 18th June**
Staff Gifts - As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support. Whilst staff always appreciate kind gestures, there is absolutely no expectation for families to purchase gifts. We know that many families are facing financial pressures, and a simple thank you message or card is more than enough and is always greatly appreciated.
Reading Books will be collected for the final time on Friday 10th July to allow us to complete our end of year audit. We encourage families to continue reading regularly over the summer holidays by visiting the local library and signing up for the free Summer Reading Challenge. This year’s theme is *Read to the Beat*, with children able to enjoy books, collect rewards and take part in fun activities throughout the summer. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>
Preloved Uniform – The FOSPX will be holding a preloved uniform sale on **Monday 13th July from 2:45-3:45pm** in the school hall. In addition, there will be another preloved uniform sale on **Thursday 20th August from 11am-12noon**. Orders may be placed ahead of the sales (subject to availability) via the FOSPX Facebook page or by messaging them via ClassDojo (this function has now been added).
New Teachers – We are delighted to share that we have appointed teachers for our Year 1 and Year 3 classes for the next academic year. Ms Beth Varley, currently a Key Worker in our Little Lambs Nursery and a qualified teacher, will be returning to the classroom as our new Year 1 teacher. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Hannah Leece, originally from Barrow and currently completing her PGCE at Durham University, as our new Year 3 teacher. We know that both Beth and Hannah will make a valuable contribution to our school community.
Staffing Structure 2026/27 – A letter has been shared with parents, but a summary of the class teachers and allocated classrooms can be found below:

Year Group	Teacher/Lead	Cover Teacher/s	Classroom
Little Lambs	Mrs Sadler	STA/TA Ratio	Little Lambs
Reception	Miss Stephens	Mrs Ross	Reception
Year 1	Ms Varley	TBC	Year 1
Year 2	Miss Merrell	Mr Holmes & Mr McGoldrick	Year 2
Year 3	Miss Leece	Miss Samms	Current Year 4
Year 4	Mrs Boylan (M-T) Miss Dale (W-F)	Mr McGoldrick	Current Year 3
Year 5	Mr Bolton	Mrs Ward	Year 5
Year 6	Mrs Roberts (M-F am, M-T pm) Mrs Ward (W-F pm)	n/a	Year 6
SENDCo	Miss Dale (M-T)	n/a	n/a

Baby & Toddler Group Volunteers Needed - We are urgently looking for volunteers to help support our weekly Baby & Toddler Group. We have had to pause it this academic year due to a lack of volunteer support.
We need volunteers to:
Set up - 8:30- 9:00am
Assist during the session - 9:00-10:30am
Tidy up - 10:30-10:45am
If you can offer any time to help, even on an occasional basis, we would be extremely grateful. All volunteers will be required to complete a DBS check before volunteering begins. Please contact the school office if you can help support this valuable group.
FOSPX Trustees & Volunteers – We would like to thank our Trustees and Volunteers. Their hard work and fundraising efforts are hugely appreciated.
PRU - We would like to thank Dan and his pupils for maintaining and enhancing our outdoor provision again this year.
Freeze Pop Friday - Freeze Pops will be on sale for 50p each at the exit gate every Friday until the end of term.

New Caretaker – We are pleased to announce the appointment of our new school caretaker, Mr Colin Chatfield, who will be joining the St Pius X team shortly. We look forward to welcoming Colin to our school community and wish him every success in his new role.
FOSPX Pius Calling – Thank you to everyone who attended, performed, volunteered, donated, sponsored and supported our school music festival. It was a fantastic evening filled with music, fun and community spirit. We raised an incredible **£3,683.93**.
Annual Reports – Annual reports will be shared with parents on **Tuesday 14th July**. This date ensures that all national assessment data can be shared at the same time. Reminder: Reports will now be sent electronically via email rather than via ClassDojo. Please ensure that the email address we have on record for you is correct and up to date so that you receive your child’s report without delay. If you need to update your contact details, please contact the school office as soon as possible.
Uniform Reminder – As we approach the end of term, we kindly remind all parents and carers that our school uniform policy remains in place until the final day of term. School shoes (or plain black trainers) must be worn each day. Students who arrive in non-uniform footwear will be asked to change into plimsolls for the day. Why uniform matters...
Wearing the correct uniform helps to:
-Promote a sense of belonging and school pride
-Encourage equality among students
-Support a focused learning environment
-Prepare children for the next stage of the education and future employment
We appreciate your continued support in helping us maintain high standards and a positive school culture for all.
Uniform Policy - Our uniform policy can be found on our school website here: <https://www.st-piusx.cumbria.sch.uk/parents/uniform>. Please note that skirts must be at least knee length, socks must be plain and only one pair of simple stud earrings must be worn – we will be stricter on this from September.
Branded Uniform – The only uniform item that we request a school logo on is a sweatshirt/cardigan. All other school uniform items, including PE kits, don’t need to have the school logo.
Uniform Change (Reminder) - From September 2026, we will be introducing a change to our school uniform, replacing white polo shirts with red ones. More information can be found on last month’s newsletter.
Year 6 Leavers’ Events – A summary of our Year 6 Leavers’ events can be found below:
Leavers’ Assembly – 15th July at 2:30pm. Year 6 family members are invited to attend – bring your tissues!
Awards Ceremony (pupils only) – 15th July, 6pm-8pm. The governors and staff will be hosting a Year 6 Awards Ceremony. This will be for children, staff and governors only. Children will be invited for food followed by an awards ceremony and disco. Awards will be voted for by staff and children. In addition, there will be a special Governors’ Award. Children are asked to dress smart.
Abbey Mass – 16th July at 9:30am. We will be taking our Year 6 pupils to the annual Abbey Mass organised by St Bernard’s at Furness Abbey. This Mass will also be dedicated to our Year 6 leavers. All are welcome to attend.
Water Fight (pupils only) – 16th July at 2.45pm. Children may bring a water pistol/gun into school. The children will get changed into their PE kits for the water fight and will get changed back into their uniform or come home wet (weather permitting). Please ensure your child brings a towel and spare underwear and socks.
Brockhole Trip – 7th July. The children will be visiting Brockhole and will play on the tree top nets.
Residential Payments – Please remember to keep up with your payments on School Gateway. The school office will be chasing late payments.
FOSPX Coffee Morning – We would like to reintroduce a coffee morning on the first Thursday of each month in St Joseph’s Cabin. If you are willing to lead on this, please get in touch.
School Minibus Service - The minibus service runs to provide transport for children who live outside of the local Ormskirk area. It is not a childcare service. An approximate time of collection is provided to all parents/carers, but this may vary due to traffic, weather, etc. If you require your child to be collected by a particular time, due to work commitments, we do offer a Breakfast Club from 7:30am. There are spaces available for September – please contact the school office.