



St Pius X Catholic Primary School & Little Lambs Nursery



Monthly Newsletter – March/April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Apologies, this monthly newsletter is going out later than scheduled and that some information is no longer applicable.

Gospel Value of the Month – Forgiveness

Church Devotion of the Month – St Joseph

Prayer Room – Reconciliation

CSI Inspection – Earlier in the term we were inspected under the Catholic School Inspectorate framework.

We are pleased to share that we achieved OUTSTANDING in all nine areas of the inspection and an overall grade of OUTSTANDING! A HUGE thank you to staff, governors, pupils and parents.

School Showcase - Following the success of our recent CSI inspection, we are delighted to share that the Lancaster Diocese has invited us to host a showcase for other schools to visit and see the wonderful work taking place across our school. This is a fantastic recognition of the dedication of our staff, pupils and wider community - how lovely to be able to share what we do so well with others!

First Holy Communion – This year's First Holy Communion will take place on **Sunday 7th June**. Our First Holy Communion programme dates can be found in the key dates section of the weekly newsletter. This year there will be a mixture of parish sessions and school sessions. Parish sessions will be 6-7pm at the Parish Centre and are for children only. School sessions will take place during the school day. It is important that your child attends all meetings. Failure to attend meetings may result in your child being unable to make their First Holy Communion. Parish dates are **9th March, 23rd March, 27th April, 11th May, 1st June**. Please note that the parish session on **20th April** has been moved to a school session.

Governors' Day – Our Local Governing Body will spend the day in school on **Tuesday 17th March**. They will spend the morning visiting classes, speak to the children and staff. In the afternoon, they will carry out training, audits and self-assessments, as well as carrying out a pupil voice. They will be on the gate with Mr McGoldrick at the beginning of the day.

Trust Feast Day – On **Tuesday 25th March**, we will celebrate our Trust's feast day. We celebrate our Mater Christi Trust feast day alongside the Feast of the Annunciation - a special moment when Mary showed her trust in God after the Angel Gabriel told her she would become the mother of Jesus. Children will take part in a range of activities.

Trust Feast Day Art Competition - The Trust are holding a trust-wide competition. Children are invited to create a drawing that reflects Mary's trust in God when she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. In addition, junior pupils are encouraged to write a short prayer. The deadline for submitting our school entries, in time for Trust judging, is **Wednesday 25th March**, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Whole School Mass at Church - The whole school will be attending the Parish Mass on **Tuesday 21st April at 10:00am** to celebrate our school's birthday (22nd April). We began this special tradition in 2024 for our 50th anniversary, and as it was such a lovely and meaningful occasion, we are pleased to continue it as an annual event. This is a unique opportunity for our entire school community to come together in celebration through Mass. Families and parishioners are warmly invited to join us - it would be wonderful to see both familiar and new faces there.

Contact Details - If your contact details have changed (phone numbers, address, etc), please ring or dojo the school office to update.

Spring Assessment Week will take place the week commencing **Monday 17th March**.

Uniform Change - From September 2026, we will be introducing a change to our school uniform, replacing white polo shirts with red ones. This will be a gradual transition, and red polo shirts will not become compulsory until September 2027. If you are purchasing new polo shirts over the Easter holiday for the upcoming summer term, you are welcome to choose red. This change has been made to help our school stand out, as many other schools have a similar combination of red sweatshirts and white polos. In addition, having a consistent colour will make it easier for parents to wash the full uniform together, without needing to separate items. We have also carried out research into the cost of uniform items and found that there is little to no difference in price between white and red polo shirts. We hope that red polo shirts will prove more practical for families, as they are less likely to become discoloured over time, helping them to look smarter for longer.

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.

Mother's Day Lunch

Date: **Wednesday 18th March Time @ 12noon**

Menu: Afternoon Tea

One adult per family may attend (it can be any significant woman in the children's lives i.e auntie, sister, grandma, neighbour). Other family members, including siblings not in school, are unable to attend purely due to the logistics. This has been added to School Gateway at a cost of £3.50. The cut off to book your lunch is **12noon on Thursday 12th March**. This will allow us time to order stock and allocate time slots. The school office will contact parents to inform them of their allocated slot by **12 noon on Monday 16th March**. If you book a meal, your child/ren will collect their food at the same time as their important visitor and eat with them. Remember to book your child's meal too.

World Book Day will take place on **Friday 6th March**. This year our book is: *The Tale of Two Shoes* by Helen Haraldson. What use is a shoe without its partner? Shane and Sheila are a pair of red buckled shoes. They were made for each other and never expected to be parted. When they find themselves all alone in the world, they don't know what to do. If they can't find each other, what will their future be? Nobody wants a single shoe. Join Shane and Sheila as their adventures take them in different directions. They'll discover that new friendships are out there waiting for them... but will they meet again? This warm and original story is beautifully illustrated and shows how new experiences help us to grow and broaden our horizons.

WHAT TO WEAR - For dressing up we thought your child might like to wear completely odd shoes or even pair up with a friend to wear one of each other's shoes to find their partner shoe during the day OR maybe they would like to wear a copy of their favourite famous shoes like the ruby slippers.

Reception and Year 6 Class Photographs will take place on the morning of **Thursday 12th March**.

Parking – We have been contacted several times recently by residents regarding inappropriate and inconsiderate parking. Please be mindful and respectful when parking around school, especially around St Francis' Gardens. Residents have been advised to contact the police directly.

CAFOD Easter Egg Raffle – We are running an Easter Egg Raffle in aid of CAFOD. Tickets are available for £1 via School Gateway. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term.

Free School Meals – If you think you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please follow the link below. Successful Free School Meals applications will entitle parents for support towards school trips, residential, supermarket vouchers during school holidays, as well as a uniform grant.

https://ems.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/e

Reading Volunteers Needed - We are looking for volunteers to support our children with reading on a regular basis. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference by helping build confidence and a love of reading. No prior experience is necessary - just enthusiasm, patience, and a willingness to listen. Training will be provided for all volunteers, and it is important that all volunteers are able to take part in the training. If you are interested in becoming a reading volunteer, please get in touch with the school office. We would love to have you involved!

ELS in Action – Year 1 parents are invited to see ELS in action on **Tuesday 21st April at 9:15-9:45am** in the Year 1 classroom.

Phonics Screening Check Meeting – Following ELS in Action on **Tuesday 21st April**, Mr McGoldrick will lead a short workshop **at 9:45am** about the Phonics Screening Check, which children will complete in June. He will explain how parents can support their children at home.

ELS Decodable Readers Parent Workshop – There will be a workshop for Reception & Year 1 parents (and parents of children who are assigned an ELS decodable book) on **Wednesday 15th April at 3:30pm** in the Year 1 classroom. This will include an opportunity to practise hearing your child to read and staff will be on hand to assist.

Residential Payments – Please remember to keep up with your payments on School Gateway.

FOSPX – The FOSPX have organised the following events:

- Coniston to Barrow – 9th May
- Pius Calling – 26th June

More information can be found on ClassDojo and their Facebook page.

PE Lessons will be outside, weather permitting. In addition to their normal PE kit, your child will need warm clothing e.g. joggers, hoodie, sweatshirt, outdoor trainers.

Nursery Applications deadlines are:

- **10th July** for January Intake.

Extra-Curricular Clubs will start again the week beginning **Monday 20th April**. A letter and timetable will be shared the first week back.

Statutory Assessment Dates 2025/26 - It is important that children attend school for statutory assessments. We ask that no holidays or trips are booked during these weeks.

Y6 SATs – Monday 11th-Thursday 14th May 2026

Y1/2 Phonics Screening Check – Monday 8th-Friday 12th June 2026

Y4 Multiplication Check – Monday 1st-Friday 12th June 2026

Furness Peninsula Rotary Easter Event

Date: **Wednesday 25th March @ 1:45pm**

The Furness Peninsula Rotary Club are hosting an afternoon tea in our school hall on Tuesday afternoon. They will be inviting residents of a care home, parishioners, the local community, parents and family members - all welcome. Each class will deliver a short performance (song, poetry, drama, etc) to entertain our audience. The Furness Peninsula Rotary Club will present each child with a creme egg, following their performance.

