



St Pius X Catholic Primary School & Little Lambs Nursery



Monthly Newsletter – February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearly halfway through the academic year. Time flies when you're having fun! Hopefully, we will begin to see improvements in the weather. However, the lighter mornings and evenings have started to creep in as we prepare for Spring, which is very welcome.

Gospel Value of the Month – Love

Church Devotion of the Month – The Holy Family

Prayer Room – Holy Family Novena

First Holy Communion Date – The date for First Holy Communion has now been announced on the Parish Newsletter. This year it will take place on Sunday 7th June. Once we have more information about the First Holy Communion sessions, we will let you all know.

World Book Day will take place on **Friday 7th March**. More information to follow.

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>

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

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

FOSPX – The FOSPX have organised the following events:

- 5p Challenge – 9th February
- Non-uniform – 13th February (Raffle/Tombola Donations)
- Non-uniform – 13th March (House Colour Raffle Donations)
- Easter Fayre – 26th March
- Coniston to Barrow – 9th May
- Pius Calling – 26th June (save the date)

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

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.

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.

National Year of Reading – 2026 is the National Year of Reading led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust to combat declining reading enjoyment, encouraging people to "Go All In" on reading for pleasure. Below I have included a reminder of reading expectations at St Pius X **Reading (General)** - Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them on their journey to becoming independent and successful readers. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be sent home as a sharing book. These books will be sent home for you to read with your child, helping us to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. Books will be changed on a Friday.

Reading in Reception, Year 1 and 2 – To best support us in teaching your child to read, we ask that you read the decodable texts provided by the school at least four times across the week. Children are expected to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. For children, re-reading words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision) is a key part of learning to read. By reading texts several times, children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school and your child's phonic knowledge.

Children will bring home:

- 1 x ELS Phonics Reader - based on children's phonic knowledge and gaps,
- 1 x Little Blending Books - based on sounds taught in Phonics,
- 1 x Library (Sharing) Book – parents are expected to read this book to their child. This book will be kept for two weeks.

Reading in Years 3-6 - It is important that while children are developing reading fluency, they have the opportunity to frequently read a wide range of books. We encourage children to read independently but it is important that all children still read aloud to an adult on occasion. To promote understanding and a love of reading, we ask that your child reads at home at least four times a week. Parents should sign their child's reading record when their child has read. We also welcome comments as this helps staff to know what new vocabulary they have encountered and how well they are engaging with the books they have read.

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.

Nursery Applications deadlines for the year ahead are:

- **20th March** – September Intake
- **10th July** – January Intake

One Way System – Parents are reminded that we have a one-way system in operation. This includes Year 1 parents/carer. We are seeing an increasing number of parents/carers exiting via the carpark gate. Please respect the system we have in place, for the safety of our children.

School Drive – The school drive is never to be used as a path. It is for vehicles only. This is in place for the safety of our pupils and families. Never use the school drive as a shortcut.

Illness - It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. Please use the following link to support you in your decision.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Extra-Curricular Clubs – Please remember that Extra-Curricular Clubs ended week commencing **Monday 16th March**, except paid clubs, and will start again the week beginning **Monday 20th April**. Staff will be volunteering at the Easter Fayre during the final week. **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

Cold Weather & Coats – As the weather is getting colder, children should wear a coat to school every day. They are also encouraged to wear a hat and gloves. Remember to label all items of clothing!
Governor Appointments - We are pleased to announce that we have elected a new Parent Governor, who is a grandparent and volunteer at school, Mrs Janice Fittes. In addition, a new Foundation Governor has been appointed, Mr Dave Franks.

Wellbeing in the Woods - From the start of the spring term, Wellbeing in the Woods has moved to the morning. Children should come into school dressed and ready for their session, which will begin straight after the Celebration Assembly. On a Friday this term, your child's class will be taking part in Wellbeing in the Woods outdoors – please check the weekly newsletter for dates.

Please ensure your child brings:

- Warm, old clothes to change into
 - Shoes or wellies that can get muddy
 - A towel
 - Waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat
- Our field is extremely boggy during the winter months, and children will get wet and muddy – this is all part of the experience and shows how much fun they've had! We do have some spare waterproofs and wellies in school, but not enough for everyone, so please send your child prepared. Avoid sending new or light-coloured clothing, as the ground is very wet at the moment. Please send their school uniform in a labelled bag so they can change afterwards. This should include underwear, as the ground can still be wet and water can sometimes seep through waterproofs and clothing.