



*St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Workington. CA14 5LN*

### Newsletter November 2025

*"Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him." Psalm 127:3*



*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*Its hard to believe were already well into the second half of the autumn term! The children have been working incredibly hard and enjoying a wide range of fun and engaging learning experiences. Recent trips and sporting competitions have been a great success, and excitement is building for our upcoming residential visit for the Year 3 and Year 4 class.*

*Before we know it, it will be time for our Christmas performances – always a highlight of the year! Further information about tickets will be shared soon, please read our updates on key dates and notice the change of time to the EYFS production which is now in the morning.*

*We're delighted to have started our OPAL play initiative, which is already bringing lots of creativity and joy to our playtimes. Please be sure to speak to your child/children about this and how involved they have been in the planning of the areas.*

*Attendance across the whole school is slightly improving, which is wonderful to see. As the weather turns colder and those seasonal bugs make an appearance, please continue to support us by ensuring children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so. If they become unwell during the day, we will of course contact you.*

*Parents evening appointment links have been sent this week via email - if you are struggling to make an appointment please be sure to contact the main office.*

*I am sure we are in for a very busy, hard working and fun filled second half of the Autumn Term - Id like to thank you, as always, for your continued support.*

*Mrs Douglas*

#### **Please wrap up warm!**

*As the temperature begins to drop, please make sure children come to school dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Our pupils spend a lot of time outdoors – not only during break and lunchtime, but also as part of their learning throughout the day.*

*All children will need a warm coat and a hat to keep them cosy. Scarves and gloves are optional but always a good idea for those chillier mornings! Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly named so that any misplaced belongings can be returned quickly. Thank you for helping to keep everyone warm and ready to learn!*



#### **Our OPAL Journey Has Begun!**

*We're very excited to have started our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey! Last week, Miss Orr led a fantastic assembly to introduce everyone to OPAL, and yesterday the children had their first chance to explore some of our new play areas. There was lots of fun and creativity on display – especially with the chalks, as the children decorated our school brilliantly!*



*As part of developing our OPAL play, we are currently welcoming donations of any unwanted fancy dress costumes (for all ages!) to add to our play resources. These can be dropped off at the main office.*

*We're also in the process of purchasing some "wellie sheds" so that children can bring their wellies and waterproofs to school. This will help us make the most of our outdoor areas in all kinds of weather! More information about these will follow soon.*

## Online Safety Reminder

As technology continues to play a big part in our childrens lives, its important that we all work together to help keep them safe online. Please take some time to talk to your child about how to stay safe and use the internet responsibly.

We encourage all parents and carers to be vigilant about the apps, games, and websites their children are using. Many popular platforms, such as TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, and WhatsApp, have minimum age requirements of 13, while games such as Fortnite, Call of Duty, and Grand Theft Auto carry age ratings of 12, 16, or 18 due to their content. These restrictions are in place to help protect young users from inappropriate material and online risks.

A few simple ways to support your childs online safety at home:

- Check privacy settings on devices, apps, and games regularly.
- Use parental controls to manage what your child can access.
- Keep devices in shared family spaces where you can supervise use.
- Talk openly about what they enjoy online and what to do if something makes them uncomfortable



In November, we take time to remember all those who have given their lives in service to others. This morning, our Year 6 pupils lead a wholeschool assembly as we came together to reflect and show our respect. We also observed a two-minute silence to honour the fallen and all who continue to serve in the pursuit of peace.

### A Prayer for Remembrance

Loving God,

We remember with gratitude those who have given their lives for our freedom and peace.

May we learn from their courage, live with kindness, and work together for a world where peace prevails.

Amen.



## NOVEMBER

11/11/2025 Year 4 @ Benchball competition

13/11/2025 MnM production in school - A Christmas Carol

17/11/2025 Book fair in school Monday to Thursday

17/11/2025 Parents Evening

18/11/2025 Parents Evening

20/11/2025 Year 4 at Mass – 10am

21/11/2025 Non Uniform - to mark the end of the year of hope.

25/11/2025 Reception class @ Helena Thompson museum – Build a reindeer workshop

25/11/2025 Year 1 class @ Helena Thompson museum – Build a reindeer workshop

26&27 Year 3 & 4 residential to Castlerigg

28/11/2025 Year 5 at Helena Thompson Museum for a Victorian Christmas - (Fancy dress optional).

## DECEMBER

01/12/2025 Year 5 Primary Advent Service at St Josephs High school

04/12/2025 Maths "Escape room" day - Whole school

04/12/2025 Year 3 at Mass – 10am

10/12/2025 9.30am EYFS Nativity in the school hall - **note to change of time**

11/12/2025 9.30am KS1 Nativity in the school hall

11/12/2025 2pm - KS2 Advent service in church

16/12/2025 Class Christmas parties (Own party clothes can be worn)

17/12/2025 Christmas dinner day

19/12/2025 Christmas Jumper day

19/12/2025 FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK - 1.30pm finish. **All children MUST be collected by an adult at 1.30pm.**