

9th January 2026

<https://stellamarisschool.co.uk/>



NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK

As we begin a new term, the trustees and staff would like to wish all our pupils and families a very warm welcome back to school. We hope everyone in our school community enjoyed a happy and holy Christmas, filled with rest, joy and special time together. We also wish you all every blessing for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year in 2026.

Although we have had a light sprinkling of snow this week, we seem to have escaped the worst of Storm Goretta, and it has been lovely to see the children returning full of energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to an exciting term ahead, working together in partnership to support learning, wellbeing and the continued growth of our wonderful school community.



GOSPEL VALUES

During our assembly this morning we focussed upon the Gospel Value of 'Perseverance' and we listened to a poem related to that well known fable 'The Hare and the Tortoise.' We reflected upon how it is important to do our best at all times and that continued effort brings its rewards eventually. The staff awarded merits to the children who have displayed one of our Gospel Values around the school this week. Well done to them!



YEAR 6 ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Please keep our Year 6 pupils in your thoughts and prayers as they sit their entrance exams for their desired grammar school places. They have worked incredibly hard in preparation, showing determination, resilience and a positive attitude throughout. We are so proud of the effort they have put in and know that each child will try their very best. We wish them every success and hope they approach the exams with confidence.



Follow us on Facebook
for more photos and updates!



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT THIS TERM

We are pleased to share some exciting curriculum enrichment opportunities planned for this term. Pre-Prep and Key Stage 1 pupils are hoping to visit Smithills Open Farm in Bolton to support their learning. Key Stage 2 teachers are organising visits to Tatton Park for the History topic on Vikings and Anglo-Saxons, and the Museum of Science and Industry to enrich learning in Science (Space). Key Stage 2 pupils have also been invited to the Halle for Youth Concert with other local schools.

More details will follow—lots of exciting experiences to look forward to!



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We are excited to be working on two new school improvement projects this term, both involving our Year 6 pupils.

One project is the development of a new library and computing suite. Year 6 children have been given a budget to help choose furniture, using their financial literacy skills to create a welcoming and practical learning space.

The second project is the purchase of new sports equipment, funded by our hardworking PTA, alongside improvements to the P.E. storage area. Year 6 pupils are also supporting this work through budgeting activities in their lessons.

We look forward to sharing updates as these projects progress.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Please feel free to follow us on Facebook and Instagram and like our posts.

<https://facebook.com/StellaMarisSchool>





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CLASS NEWS

Pre-Prep

We have been thinking about winter weather this week in Pre-Prep. We enjoyed exploring and investigating the snow and ice at the beginning of the week whilst learning about freezing and melting. We also began learning about Arctic and Antarctic animals and how they have adapted to live in their wintery worlds. In Maths, we focussed on number recognition and number sequencing with numerals 0 - 10.

Year 4/5

It has been an exciting week for Year 4 and 5 as they tackled new challenges in Maths and reached a dramatic point in our class novel. In Maths, the children have strengthened their multiplication skills and shown real confidence with multi-digit calculations. In English, reading *The Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars has captivated the class, improving their reading aloud and listening skills as they use pace and tone to bring the story's suspense to life.

Year 1/2

The children in Year 1-2 have had a busy first week of the spring term. In English, they focused on traditional tales, reading and sequencing *Little Red Riding Hood*. In Maths, they explored money, solving problems with coins and notes. History was equally exciting, as they learned about Christopher Columbus and traced his journeys of exploration on a world map. During Religion, the class studied Epiphany, and in French they made Epiphany crowns.

Year 6

The children in Year 6 have returned to school refreshed and ready to sit their entrance examinations. They have worked really hard over the Christmas holiday in order to prepare. This week has been all about last minute revision and identifying any areas that they feel that they need to work on. They enjoyed their games lesson on basketball and their art lesson all about the Norse God-Odin!



Extra Activities

Monday

Chess Club - Mr Usher - FREE

After-school (3.05pm-3.45pm)



Tuesday

Computing Club - Mr Brown FREE

After-school (3.05 pm – 3.45 pm)

Gardening Club - Mrs Jones - FREE

(Lunchtime for all ages)



Wednesday

Multi-Sports Club - An after-school club led by coaches

from Stockport County C.T. - Year 1 and upwards - £3.50 per session (3.05 pm – 4 pm)

Speech Club - Mrs Mesagno - £7.50 per

sessions (Lunchtime for Year 3-6)

Thursday

Art Club - Mrs Baldwin - £10 per session

(Lunchtime club for all ages.)

Sewing & Craft Club – Mrs Ashworth –

FREE after-school club for all ages (3.05 pm

– 3.45 pm)

