

Leader of RE, Welfare and Worship Report to Governors

Spring Term 2026

- Term began on 5/1/26. On 6/1/26 the school celebrated the Epiphany. The children were spoken to in assembly. Then each class did work on the Epiphany in their own classes. They watched the Mark10 Mission Liturgy and included acknowledgement of the feast in their own pupil-led liturgies during the week.
- During this first week, all classes completed work on the Life and Ministry of Jesus. Mrs Hesketh carefully chose moments in Jesus' life and ministry which the classes would be covering during their half term of work. Work was chosen to be put up in the entrance hall and was a combination of writing, pictures and photos.
- Prayer stations in KS1 and 2 in this half term focussed on making new year promises and how they can make a new start with God as our guide.
- On 22nd January we had the first school Mass of 2026 in the hall, with parishioners and parents invited. It was celebrated by Fr Richard and enhanced by Y4 who did readings, created their own Prayers of the Faithful and brought up the Offertory, assisted by two pupils from Y2.
- Over January, February and March, each year group invited parents and carers to a Stay, Pray and Learn session in the school hall for an hour. The session began with a pupil-led Celebration of the Word. The adults were then invited to share learning in different subjects with their children, including RE activities. They were once again a huge success. Prayer sponsors of Sacramental Programme children were also invited to the Y3 session on 19th March.
- Also throughout the term, pupils from different classes were invited to attend Zoom Meetings entitled Ask the Activist, who worked to bring change around issues that are important to them. Each time, children joined many other schools to listen to different people speak and got to ask them questions. Such people included Andrew Gilmore, former United Nations Assistant Secretary and general for Human Rights, Dr Mark Ellis, an international lawyer who has spent his career working to protect fairness and human rights in the justice system around the world, and Paul Lindley OBE who focusses on philanthropy and activism focused on children's wellbeing, education, rights and public health. Pupils were interested in why

the speakers were significant and how they acted on behalf of others.

- On 4/2/2026 Mrs Hesketh attended the RE Leads Spring Conference at Oldham Athletic Football Club. The focus was Supporting the Implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) in Primary Schools through Lightning the Path led by Dr Nancy Walbank, who has written the scheme. We also had opportunity to share books we had brought from our schools and compare practise and outcome. It was a very productive day.
- 4/2/26 also saw the Parents Meeting for this year's Sacramental Programme, which began on Sunday 7th with the Presentation Mass at St Mary's Church at 10.30am. In total 20 children were presented and enrolled on the Programme, 17 from our school. Part 1 is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The year we are once again using the resource Heart Speaks to Heart. Catechist sessions were subsequently held each week on a Thursday, led by Fr Richard and Mrs Hesketh.
- Week beginning 9th February was Good To Be Me Week. During this week all children focussed on what makes themselves special and how we can spread kindness to others through random acts of kindness. We also celebrated Safer Internet Day with activities provided by our computing lead, Mr Nalton.
- As Ash Wednesday fell during our half term we were unable to celebrate with a service in school. However, when we returned on 23/2/26, the first assembly was a refresher for the children about Lent and how we are called to 'Give, Act and Pray'. Lenten activities were carried out in classes, including making Lenten promises. The KS1 and 2 prayer stations around school gave the opportunity for pupils to write/draw prayer intentions too.
- Friday 26th February saw the Lenten Mass in the school hall, led by Fr Richard and enhanced by Y3. It was a great way to begin our Lenten journey.
- Wednesday 4th March was a Gift Team Retreat Day at St Joseph's High School, led by Mrs Pepperday and some of the Y9 Mission Team. St Mary's joined other feeder primary schools. The students worked together wonderfully and took part in singing, writing bidding prayers, celebrated Mass with the parish and created scenes of hope. These scenes of hope were made into a video which was

shared among all the schools as part of the Lenten liturgies before we finished for Easter. All the students worked so well together and shared wonderful ideas of what brings hope.

- 12/3/26 Mrs Hesketh attended a meeting at Sacred Heart RC Primary School, led by Bernie Furey, with regard to building a human rights curriculum at school and incorporating human rights lessons into our existing PSHE curriculum. This is part of the RFK UK Human Rights organisation, who organised the Ask the Activist Sessions too. A follow up session is to be held in June to consolidate ideas.
- Friday 13th March saw EYFS lead school in a Mother's Day Assembly. The focus was how much they appreciate their own mums but also a focus on Jesus' own mum, Mary. The assembly was followed by a breakfast for EYFS pupils and their mums and grandmothers. It was a very special morning.
- Throughout Lent it was planned for all classes from Y1 to Y6 to attend Mass at St Mary's church with the parishioners. Unfortunately the Y6/Y2 walk was cancelled due to poor weather. The other classes appreciated the time to visit our beautiful church (some of our younger pupils for the first time), and learn how to genuflect and how to conduct themselves in church.
- Saturday 21st March was a special day for our Sacramental Programme pupils from St Mary's, as they made their Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Mary's Church. All children successfully made their sacrament (except for one child who is due to be baptised shortly, but who came to watch). It was a very special moment.
- Tuesday 31st March was the performance by Y3 and 4 of the Easter Cantata in St Mary's Church at 6pm. As usual it was a moving retelling of Holy Week and Easter with acting and music. It was very well received and the children were excellently behaved. Y3 were especially praised, as participation numbers were particularly low this year which meant that Y3 pupils had to take on lots of the main roles. Mrs Shaw and Miss Eaton worked hard and it was a huge success!
- Maundy Thursday was our last day of the term. Our term ended with our annual Love in Action Walk to St Joseph's High School to spread our love in the community. Pupils were invited to wear red and to sing the Three Way Gospel to pupils at St Joseph's from their

yard! The walk was sponsored and raised a lot of money for St Joseph's Penny (Caritas).

- Once we had returned to school, we held a moving Stations of the Cross service in the school hall. A large cross representing calvary was constructed in the hall, all classes sat in a circle around it. Members of staff read a short reading and prayer for each station. Everyone prayed and the Gift Team led with an action which we could carry out for each station. The readings were interspersed with Lenten hymns and reflective music. Pupils from each class placed daffodils around the cross. Classes left in silence at the end, with all pupils circling and bowing. It was a thought-provoking and solemn end to the term, reflecting the events at the end of Jesus' life, remembered on Good Friday.

Mrs Hesketh 1.5.26