



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School

NEWSLETTER - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn,  
love and respect one another to be the best we can be.*

Dear Parents/Carers

### **The Door of Mercy**

Today we received the Door of Mercy in a handover ceremony from Oakhill. Children from Oakhill and St Michael and St John's said prayers as the door was passed over to some of our children. This afternoon the whole school, Father Kevin and Father John took part in a special para liturgy in the hall where the whole school reflected upon what it means to be merciful and passed through the Door of Mercy. All of our children have written special intentions, which they placed in our intentions box.

After half term the Pupil Chaplains will accompany Mr Britnell and I to St Mary's, Sabden as we take the Door of Mercy to them.

### **Ash Wednesday Mass and Lent**

On Wednesday the whole school, staff and children attended Ash Wednesday Mass and received the ashes. Once again, the children were excellent and extremely well-behaved and reverent. The singing was beautiful and the children thought carefully about what they will be giving up or what they will be doing extra as we journey through Lent.

In school, after half term, we will be continuing to help the children to prepare for the great celebration of Easter. We help them understand that Lent is about trying to become closer to Jesus through Prayer, Penance and Alms-giving. Each class will have a special time of prayer each day. We try to make Penance a positive act so rather than giving something up, we encourage the children to actively show they are trying to be more like Jesus - perhaps by helping at home, being more patient with others, doing what they are asked the first time! Your child has been given a St. Joseph's Penny box - this is our annual Lenten Collection - please give generously.

### **Wear Purple for Thoughtful Thursday**

Thank you to all the children and adults who wore an item of purple clothing alongside their school uniform on Thursday to celebrate Lent and Thoughtful Thursday. To supplement our St Joseph's Penny collections, we raised £8.20 on Thursday with the



collection of 20p pieces. Remember Thoughtful Thursday is every Thursday throughout Lent.

### **Pupil Chaplain Interviews**

On Thursday Father Kevin, Mrs Clarkson, Mrs Webb and I had the very difficult task of interviewing children in Year 5 for the role of Pupil Chaplain. This is a very important commitment, with a job description set out by the Diocese and for which the children undertake the commitment and are then Commissioned, by Father Kevin, on behalf of the Bishop. The children will begin by working alongside our Year 6 Pupil Chaplain as they learn about their new role which will involve developing the faith life in school and the Parish.

It was very difficult to arrive at a final decision, however, eight children have been selected and will be commissioned by Father Kevin on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February in the Parish Mass at 9:15am. Parents and relatives are very welcome to attend. We were so impressed by all the children that we have decided that we would like to offer the children who were not appointed as Pupil Chaplains another role in school.

### **E-Safety Day & Parent Session**

Safer Internet Day is designed to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones among children and young people across the world. Safer Internet Day 2016 has the theme this year of 'Play your part for a better internet!'

This week the children learnt how they can keep safe and use the internet responsibly. As a parent myself I do think that the internet, although a wonderful resource when used correctly, is one of the biggest challenges that faces us as parents and our children growing up in this online world.

Thank you to Mrs Jackson for organising the E-Safety activities that the children have taken part in this week and also the parents who were able to attend the E-safety session after school on Tuesday evening. Mrs Jackson led an informative session to support parents with keeping their children safe whilst online. In an ever increasingly technological world this is very important and the partnership between school and home is essential.

Following this newsletter, in a separate parentmail, are leaflets from the workshop which I hope you find useful.

### **Anti Bullying**

On Wednesday the anti-bullying ambassadors greeted and cheered on Ben, the Marathon Man as he ran past our school on his 162<sup>nd</sup> marathon of 401. Ben is raising money for Kidscape and Stonewall and he was very impressed by our anti-bullying pledge which all the staff and children have signed up to.

## **Year 6 visit to Global Renewables**

On Thursday our Year 6 children visited global renewables where they learnt about recycling. The children had a wonderful day and were exceptionally well behaved. Well done children.

## **Milk - Payment**

Just a reminder, as half term approaches, any parents wishing their child to have milk from Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February will need to sign up and pay via the Milk4Life's website: [www.milk4life.com](http://www.milk4life.com) The discount code for our school is M4L-22LA.

If your child is under 5 please could you ring Genevieve Griffiths at Milk4Life on: 01443-742112 rather than using the above website.

We are aware that some parents have paid up until the end of the Spring term or, even the end of the Summer term, should this be the case you do not need to take action.

## **Book Week**

We are having a book week the week beginning, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to Miss Acklam who has organised and planned a range of exciting activities for this week (a separate letter has been sent out). We will be inviting the children to dress up, as book characters, on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Young Voices Concert**

This year, we have signed up again to take part in the Young Voices Concert, which will be held at the MEN Arena, in Manchester, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Our school choir have started to work hard in preparation. If they can practice over half term, this would be great.

## **The Edge**

Once again, our Year 6 children have been invited to The Edge sessions. These commence on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February from 6.30pm-8.00pm for 4 Wednesdays. These are evenings of faith and fun and are exciting, engaging and enjoyable faith experiences for young people.

This is a joint collaboration between St Mary's, Langho and Our Lady of the Valley Parishes and the venue will be St Mary's Parish Hall, York Lane, Langho, Blackburn. BB6 8DW.

## **Cake Sale**

Susie and Ruby from Year 6 would like to thank parents for their donated cakes for the cake sale, last Tuesday, in which they were raising funds for the Scout Jamboree.

## Friends Disco

The "Friends" disco, last Friday, was a huge success - a grand total of £262.49 was raised.

Thank you to all the "friends" and parents, who gave up their time, to organise this event which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

## Dates for next half term

Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	School re-opens to pupils
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Commissioning Mass for Pupil Chaplain (9.15am)
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Science & Maths Quiz at St Augustine's (7.00pm)
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February	The Edge, St Mary's Parish Hall, Langho
Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	Global Renewables to visit Year 6
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Drama Club
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Book week all week
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Reception class - Bikes & Scooters
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Friends meeting (8.00pm)
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Choir to Young Voices, Manchester
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day - Dress as a book character
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Drama Club
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross (all week)
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Lent Mass - Year 3 & Year 6 (9.15am)
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Rugby Tournament, Clitheroe Rugby Club
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Drama Club
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Stations of the Cross (all week)
Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Last week of Sports Clubs
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 My Skillz Showcase, Grand
Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Reconciliation in Church (6.30pm)
Wednesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception class Coffee Morning
Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Lent Mass - Year 1 & Year 5
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Class Lent Mass - Reception, Year 2 & Year 4
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Drama Club
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Holy Week
Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Stations of the Cross (all week)
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Infant Easter Assembly - parents welcome
Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Parents' Evening - Singles
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Parents' Evening - Families
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Maundy Thursday
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Junior Easter Assembly - parents welcome
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes at 3.30pm
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens to pupils

### **Celebration Assemblies**

Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Celebration Assembly - no class
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Celebration Assembly - Year 4
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Celebration Assembly - Year 5
Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> March	No Celebration Assembly

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

*Mrs Z Mabbott*

Mrs Z Mabbott  
**Headteacher**