



## St Michael & St John's RC Primary School

### NEWSLETTER – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015

**“I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” (John Ch10 vs10)**

Welcome back! I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. It was lovely to see our children return on Wednesday refreshed and ready to work hard. They have settled back incredibly well.

A new school year presents the perfect opportunity to review our school's mission and aims. We are very proud of our wonderful school and all who are connected with it. We have begun reviewing our school mission statement and aims with the children, staff and governors and will soon consult with you, our families, about what you think our mission and purpose is at St Michael and St John's.

The summer holidays are a busy time and the school has undergone a deep clean and tidy. The staff have worked hard and I would like to thank the premises staff Mr Moon and Mrs Brown for making our school look refreshed and the teachers, teaching assistants and office staff for their preparations in readiness for the new school year.

#### **Welcome**

We warmly welcome Miss Smith and Mrs Thornton to the SSMJ team. Miss Smith will be teaching year 3 and Mrs Thornton will be teaching year 2 with Mrs Monaghan.

On Monday we will welcome our new reception children. We are excited and look forward to seeing them settle in as they become part of our SSMJ family.

We also welcome two new children and their families to our school and are looking forward to our continued partnership with our parents, families and parish.

#### **Farewell & Thankyou**

We would like to say thank you and farewell to Father Gee. We will be welcoming Father Kevin Murphy to our parish very soon.

Mr Peter Lambert who has been a valued member of our governing body for many years has resigned and we would like to thank Mr Lambert for his many years of voluntary service and support to the school.

We offer our congratulations to Mel one of our crossing patrol staff who has a new job and we welcome Stuart Herkes who alongside Mr Moon will be ensuring the children and adults are safely crossing the road as they make their way to and from school.

#### **Well Done Will**

Over the summer holidays, Will Jepson became the under 9 boys singles Lancashire County Champion for tennis. He also won the Manchester Northern Grand Prix U9s boys singles, which is a prestigious regional level tournament. Will represented Lancashire U9s helping the team to win the Aegon County Cup and reached the quarter finals of a national level tournament at Loughborough University. These are amazing achievements and I am sure you join me in congratulating Will. Well done!

### **Joint Mass**

Our Parish of Our Lady of the Valley now has three schools; St Michael and St John's, St Mary's Sabden and Thorneyholme. We will be working together as a family of schools within the parish and on Tuesday, year 6 will represent our school at the first joint Mass of the three schools to be held at Thorneyholme.

Today, your child will also bring home the first of the new termly newsletter jointly created by the three parish schools. Copies are also available at the back of church.

### **Sad News**

An ex pupil of the school, Sally Hickling, who was also related to one of our families in school sadly passed away during the summer holidays as did Nicola Kerr, who was a mummy of one of our pupils from last year's year 6.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families. Please join us in praying for them and their families.

### **Sponsored Walk**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September a sponsored walk is taking place in aid of HCPT. The walk will begin at 1pm from St Michael and St John's Church and sponsor forms are available from the school office. I would like to encourage as many families as possible to support this event.

**Toast** - Sale of toast will begin on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 20p per slice.

### **Celebration Assembly**

Parents and family members are invited to our Celebration Assembly every Friday at 2.50pm. The assemblies celebrate the successes and achievements of individual children both at home and at school. Certificates and awards are presented and a 'Star of the Week' is also chosen. Over the year we will be giving additional awards as determined by our school priorities and for the autumn term we will focus on reading.

Each class will also continue to share some of their learning with us, in their own special ways, as part of this celebration. Advance notice of the dates is provided below, but please note these are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances and parents would be advised by Parent mail.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September – No Celebration Assembly

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – No Celebration Assembly

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 1

### **Meet the Teacher Sessions**

Next week we will hold our 'meet the teacher sessions' which we invite you to attend. The sessions will begin at 9am once the children are registered and taken to the hall for assembly. The sessions will last approximately 20 minutes and are a chance for you to meet your child's new teacher, hear about the routines for the class and briefly ask any questions you have. However, as the children will be in assembly for a limited time, we would ask that if you need to speak to the teacher for longer, then a different time is arranged.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Years 2, 4 and 6

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Years 1, 3 and 5.

Don't worry if you are unable to attend as curriculum newsletters and welcome letters from the class teachers will provide you with what you need to know.

We operate an 'open door policy' and teachers are available to speak to parents after school or by appointment.

### **Other Important Dates**

We will soon provide you with a list of dates which we have set for the year. In the meantime, below are some up and coming dates for your diary, more details will follow.

Friends of SSMJ Meeting – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September – time to be confirmed.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September – 7pm – St Augustine's meeting for parents of the current Year 6 in the school hall at SSMJ

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September - Welcome back Whole School Mass – 9.15am - Please join us.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 7pm – Meeting for current Y3 parents regarding the Sacramental Program this year.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Parent' Evening

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October – School closes for pupils – half term.

### **Tour of Britain**

As you will be aware, this exciting event is taking place on Monday. Travel disruption is to be expected and you may need to plan extra time for your journey, walk if you can or maybe car share. Information can be found at [www.tourofbritain.co.uk](http://www.tourofbritain.co.uk) or [www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/tour\\_of\\_britain](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk/tour_of_britain)

The children have been learning about the event and we will be 'decorating the field' and taking the children to watch the event on Peel Street.

### **Data Collection**

Enclosed with this newsletter is a data collection form. Please complete and return the form so that we can update all of the information we hold. We must be able to make contact with you or your chosen representatives in the event of an emergency with a child. The information also ensures we are fully informed about any medical needs your child may have.

The health and safety and safeguarding of all of our children is of paramount importance and it is essential that we have up to date contact information should this be required.

### **School Behaviour Policy**

We began the year with a whole school assembly during which my message was about how 'We are all unique and special'. We are focussing with the children on respect for all, asking ourselves WWJD (What would Jesus Do?), making good choices and being reflective about our choices.

We have reviewed some of our systems in school and are trialling a new behaviour policy which is available for you to view on our school website or a hard copy is available on request from the school office. I will be consulting parents, at parents' evening in October, to ascertain your views on the effectiveness of the policy and procedures. We will also be reviewing the systems with the children and all staff.

### **Home School Agreement**

Attached is our home school agreement. We are inviting our parents and children to sign and return the agreement.

### **School Uniform**

It is lovely to see the children looking smart and part of our school family as they proudly wear their new school uniforms. Thank you for helping the children to take pride in their appearance and to understand the importance of following our school policies and procedures. The uniform policy of the Governing Body is available on the school website.

Please remember, you are very welcome to speak with me, in confidence, if you are dealing with financial hardship.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs (Sports)**

These begin week commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Mrs Moon has contacted all parents to let you know whether your child has secured a place. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Moon.

### **Exciting Times Ahead**

As we begin the year, we look forward to many exciting events. We have secured some funding from the Salford Diocese Building fund and will be renovating areas of the school including relocating some of the junior toilets and creating an outdoor area for year 1 continuous provision.

We will also be improving the playground through the use of playground markings and continuing to invest in playtime equipment.

As we begin this new school year and look forward to all of the wonderful opportunities and experiences ahead of us we pray "Stay with us Lord, on our journey".

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

*Z. Mabbott*

