



**St Michael & St John's RC Primary School**  
**Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG**  
**Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Mabbott BEd (Hons) NPQH**

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

Dear Parents/Carers

I think we spoke too soon about the snow disappearing and Spring arriving!. Today proved a bit chaotic on the roads with the snow but nearly all the children managed to get in to school. All our staff got in too, despite Mr Moon being stuck in a jam for more than 2 hours! Thank you again for your patience.

The children & staff looked wonderful in their World Book Day outfits so the weather didn't put a dampener on that. You helped us to raise **£102.20** towards new books so this is very much appreciated. Our home school reading books are currently being restocked with new books thanks to the generosity of money raised through the PTA. Hopefully this will soon be fully stocked and the children can continue to enjoy learning through reading.



### Colouring competition

Well done to Emily, Lucy M, & Niamh in year 3 who raised £17.15 for the RSPCA by holding a colouring competition. Well done girls

### Parent pay

We still have a number of parents not registered on the parent pay system. Please can we ask that everybody signs up to this system as the office will no longer be accepting cash or cheques for dinner money/trips/ sports clubs etc in the Summer term. This is a safe and secure way of paying for items. The initial set up is very simple to do and Mrs Wilkinson can do this for you if you need the help.

To access your account you will need an account code which you can get from the office.



May I also remind about keeping dinner money paid. If dinner money goes over the LCC recommended amount of £30 we will have to cease dinner being taken. As previously mentioned, school cannot afford to absorb the cost of unpaid dinners. This ultimately comes out of the budget used for the whole school. If you are contacted by Mrs Wilkinson please action this.

Did you know that Universal Credit is currently a qualifying benefit for Free School Meals?

If you receive Universal Credit then your children are entitled to a free meal in school. Claiming free school meals could save you almost £400 per child per year, and could enable the school to gain over £2,000 per year extra funding for every child as well. So even if your child doesn't take the free meal, or your child gets a free meal because they are currently in reception or Key stage 1, you should apply now if you haven't already.

From **1 April 2018**, the government are introducing a net Universal Credit earning threshold of £7,400 per year for free school meal eligibility which means that some families who are eligible now would not be if they apply after 1 April.

It is important that you apply now as all **children assessed as eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) by 1 April 2018 will continue to be eligible until at least 2022**, while Universal Credit is rolled out across the country. There would also be no need for any further FSM eligibility checks as well.

To make sure that you don't miss out **please apply now and before the 1<sup>st</sup> April**.

Forms are available from the school office or you can ring 01254 220717

### Lost Property

We still have a number of jumpers/cardigans in lost property. These have no names in so we are unable to return them to their rightful owners. Please can you ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled as we are unable to find lost items without names. Please can you check your children's jumpers, cardigans when they come home that they have the correct one as we have a few items missing that **do** have names in. I appreciate how frustrating it is to lose clothing so please try to encourage your children to be responsible for their belongings.

### Sacrament of First Reconciliation

Some of Year 3 made their first reconciliation on Tuesday evening. They had all prepared well supported by Miss Smith, Miss Britnell, Mrs Lambert and the catechists and were respectful and reverent. Thank you to the catechists, parish choir members, parents, family members and staff who came to sing and support them, and to our singers, who sang beautifully during this special occasion. Also thank you to Fr Corcoran.

### Deanery Mass

On Wednesday, Mrs Clarkson and Mrs Webb accompanied Olive, Ruby T, Eve L, Abi, Magda, Lucas, Elise and Tilda to St Joseph's Church in Blackburn for the Deanery Mass where they performed a choreographed prayer beautifully. Their behaviour was a credit to the school and their parents. They received a wonderful compliment from the Priest. Thank you to Mrs Clarkson & Mrs Webb for taking them and preparing them for this.



### PTA book sale

The PTA book sale will be held this Friday after assembly where tea/coffee will be served and you will be able to purchase any books that are on display. These are being sold for £1. If you are unable to attend the sale, please send in £1 with your child if you wish to let them purchase a book.



### Stations of the Cross

Beginning on Tuesday 15th March Miss Britnell and the children in school will lead the Stations of the Cross, each day, at 8.45am in the Year 1 classroom. All children, parents, family members and parishioners are very welcome. Junior children wishing to attend do not need to go in to class early for 'response to marking' time.



### Spring Happening

We are collecting chocolate that you or your children may have given up for lent. This is going to the Spring Happening in May in the Parish. More details will follow.

## Parents evening appointments

Appointments will be sent out on Monday. Please ensure you have sent back your slips. The times that have been allocated cannot be changed. If you cannot make the given time, please speak to the class teacher on the yard.

## Students

The pupils and Chaplaincy Team at Stonyhurst would like to say a big thank you for allowing their pupils to carry out their Arrupe placement with our pupils and staff this term.

Sadly Thursday 8th March will be the last placement day for the pupils this academic year.

We really are most grateful for the help the pupils have given.



## Science Quiz

Well done to, Harvey, Lucas, Tilda, Elise, Abi and Monika, who represented SSMJ at St Augustine's On Tuesday for the annual Science Quiz. They managed to come 4<sup>th</sup> and were a credit to the school. Well done and thank you to Mr Connolly for taking them.



## Diary Dates

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Yr 1 assembly  
PTA Book sale

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - CAFOD assembly  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March- Catalyst Tower Challenge with Yr 6  
Netball at Oakhill 4.00- 4.30pm

Tuesday Class Mass Yr 1 & 5  
Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Year 4 celebration assembly

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March -British Values Week  
Catalyst Final at The Grand  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> - Viking visit to year 6  
Reception, 3 & 4 Class Mass  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - EYFS coffee morning  
Parents' Evening Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> -  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>- Year 3 Celebration Assembly

**Purple Epilepsy Day - More info to follow**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March - Holy Week  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 & 4 trip to Blackpool Zoo  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - EYFS bikes and scooters  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> - Whole School Mass 9.15am - All welcome

School closes at 3.30pm

School reopens Monday 16th April

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Z Mabbott