



**St Michael & St John's RC Primary School**  
**Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG**  
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### Science Week - Amazing!

This week the children have enjoyed a fun filled week full of practical science and hands on learning and fun. Thank you to Mrs Jackson for organising all of the events. On Tuesday 120 children took part in the British Heart Foundation re-start a heart training. Mr Evans one of our governors supported this event. He was also involved in writing these materials which are now being widely used across schools. Thank you Mr Evans. On Thursday Mr Ramm and Mr Hassan from Booths supermarket worked with Years 3 and 4 using milk, food colouring and fairy liquid for experiments. Mr and Mrs Cookson also kindly volunteered their services to work with the infants, Year 5 and Year 6 taking part in experiments including looking at acids and base and seeing how dry ice is created. They also created magic dough and monster toothpaste. The children had an amazing time and asked some very thoughtful scientific questions. Well done to the children who have entered the competition. Booths will be deciding winners and providing prizes next week.



### Be on Time

A polite reminder that the school day starts at 8.55am. Register is taken then the children are straight in to their lessons. Late arrivals means that they miss the register and can miss important announcements in class or the start of lessons or worship. When a child is late, even if only by a few minutes, this can cause considerable disruption. It is disruptive not just to their own learning, but to the learning of the rest of the class. 'Lost minutes equal lost learning'. Just 5 minutes late per day equates to 3 days of school missed each year.



### Absence from school due to 'illness'

We have recently had an increase in absences due to illness. Please be aware of the following information.



- When a child has a day off we must be notified by a parent or carer as to why. This can be a note or a telephone call. A child returning to school after an absence will be marked as unauthorised absence until we receive a valid explanation.
- If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off please send them to school. If they are truly ill we will ring you.
- Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
  - Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
  - Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?



### Dinner money

Dinner money should be paid at the beginning of the week, half term or for the term it is being taken. Please ensure you are up to date with dinner money payments. The online parent pay facility is up and running should you wish to pay on line. In line with the governor's policy, parents will be contacted directly should they owe more than 2 weeks dinners to ensure debts aren't run up. Next terms amounts will be shown on next week's newsletter.



### Spooky Lunch

Mrs Coar and her team will be serving a spooky lunch on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. This will consist of hot dogs, pizza, spooky cakes and buns. If you wish your child to have one of these who isn't on school dinners, please inform the office. The cost is £2.20.

### Thankyou

Thank you for your contributions to the School building fund. You have donated £894. This is very much appreciated. School has to cover the full cost of this contribution and so if you haven't sent in a donation but wish to then this would be appreciated.



### Family Fun night

The PTA will be hosting a Family fun night on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 7-9pm in the parish hall. £5 per family, no need to pre purchase tickets, just turn up. Hot dogs available at £1.00. Lots of fun, games and prizes for best fancy dress, infant boy/girl and junior boy/girl. Raffle prize donations would be gratefully received. Please hand in to the school office or bring on the night. Please be aware, parents will need to stay and supervise their children.

Come along and join the fun. It will be spooktastic!

### **AGM- Friends of SSMJ**

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November, at 2.15pm the PTA will hold their annual AGM. We are looking for new members to take over the running of the PTA. The parents who are stepping down have done a fantastic job over the years and have helped to raise money for the school and will be continuing to help rather than lead. We are looking for volunteers to give their time towards organising school fairs, discos etc to continue the good work and keep raising money to purchase much needed equipment and resources for your children and to continue to subsidise the cost of school trips.

### **Parents evening**

This year we will be operating Parents' Evening slightly differently. All teachers will be in the school hall for appointments. Children's books will be available for you to look at before or after your appointment in the dining room. Seating will be available in the hall for you to wait to see the teacher.

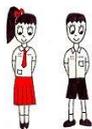
Year 6 helpers will be circulating to ascertain your views through the parental questionnaire.

Please ensure that if you use the car park, you are not blocking any cars in. Access is required throughout the evening for members of staff and in the event of an emergency. **As previously informed, Tuesday and Wednesday afterschool cross country, football and netball are cancelled due to parents evening.**



### **Mobile phones in school**

We politely request that children do not bring mobile phones in to school. This is for a number of reasons, mainly safeguarding. If your child needs to have one as they are walking home or need to be contacted at the end of the day, we ask that they are brought to the office where they will be held until the end of the school day. Please take a look at our mobile phone policy on the website.



### **New uniform**

We pride ourselves on our individuality of the green in our uniform. However, our uniform has been the same for 20 years, so we are in the very early stages of beginning to review our school uniform. Our aim is to review the uniform through thorough consultation. Some samples will be available on the night of parents' evening for you to view with a comments box. These will then be in the entrance hall for further viewing/comments following parents' evening.



### **Awards for school**

We are proud to have received a 5\* certificate of excellence for our school on the Good School Guide website.

### Choir

Reminder that all permission slips/ticket orders and t-shirt orders for Young Voices must be returned by Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Thankyou



### Making a Guy for the Bonfire

Mrs Collinge and some of the children in Year 6 are currently busy making a guy for the Clitheroe bonfire. This will be entered into the competition on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

### Whole School Mass

Next Thursday will be a whole school Mass. Reception children will not take part in the whole Mass but will be 'introduced to the Parish' towards the end of the Mass. Please come and join this special celebration if you can.

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October- Whole school mass 9.15am

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Year 1 celebration assembly

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 9.15am Remembrance Day assembly

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Z Mabbott

Headteacher