



NEWSLETTER 19TH APRIL 2024

St Mary's & St Benedict's Catholic Primary School
 01772 336650 office@smsb.lancs.sch.uk www.smsb.lancs.sch.uk

WE PRAY WE LEARN WE SERVE

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go” – Dr Seuss

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Attendance School Target – 96%
Beesley	Noah and Olivia	Freddie	95.0%
Benedict	Alice and Ryan	Zachary	92.3%
Finch	Erin M and Erin S	Maddie	97.0%
Haydock	Maximilian and Bella	Jenson	97.3%
Marsden	Theon and Silver	Oliver B	94.3%
Mary	Jessica and Reagan	Tawana	88.6%
Rigby	Robert and Freddie	Elodie	95.0%
Southworth	Mylo and Daniyal	Elliot	96.7%
Ward	Jessica and Lucas	Piotr	92.7%
Woodcock	Ochelle and Dhyana	Tyler	96.5%



Attendance Ladder



Attendance Matters - Thank you for your continued support with ensuring that your children arrive to school on time and attend school each day. We are delighted to see that our attendance is improving each week and we are getting closer to reaching our target of 96% across the whole school. However, we are still being impacted by term-time holidays and children arriving after the registers have been taken.

Please inform the school office if your child is going to be absent or late for school and if you require any support with getting your child to school on time, please discuss this with us. We are here to help you. If your child does arrive at school late, please make sure you sign them in and stay with them until an adult can see them safely into school.

Well done to Haydock class for having the highest attendance this week!

St Joseph's Penny - Before Easter, children in Ward and Woodcock classes had a great time organising stalls and activities to raise money for St Joseph's Penny. They raised £281, so a big shout out to them! Thank you to all the children for taking part and helping them to achieve this fantastic amount for a worthwhile cause.

Newsletter – What do you think of our new style newsletter? We value your opinion. Please fill in the survey on School Spider to inform us what you would like to read in the school newsletter. We welcome your thoughts.

PTA AGM – Thank you to those who attended the PTA AGM yesterday. The PTA have lots of exciting events planned and we value the contribution they make in benefiting the school life of our children.

Coffee Morning – Thank you to the Chaplaincy Team for organising a parish Coffee Morning before Easter. It was very well attended and they raised a massive £86.00! The money will be split between CAFOD and St Joseph's Penny. Thank you to those who joined us for refreshments and a chat!

Come to Our Super Exciting Book Fair –

We are having a Scholastic Book Fair in the KS2 library on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th April, after school until 3:45pm. You should have received a digital invitation and leaflet this week so you can browse the highlights beforehand. Payment for the books can be made using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay. Select our school in the drop-down box. If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask school for further details.

KS2 SATs - The children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs over four days from Monday 13th May to Thursday 16th May. More information will follow nearer the time, but please make sure that you do not arrange for your child to attend appointments during school time in that week.

Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies - If your child would like a leavers' hoodie, please order by Monday 22nd April on ParentPay and select the size on School Spider. Thank you.

After School Clubs - After school clubs for this half term are available to book on School Spider. They include: Years 1 and 2 handball, Years 3 and 4 hockey, Years 5 and 6 tennis.

Headlice Treatment - As part of the NHS Minor Ailments service, anyone registered with a GP, and entitled to free prescriptions, can get free head lice treatment. If you see signs of head lice in your child's hair, please treat as soon as possible. Once the hair is treated, the child may return to school. Please check your child's hair regularly.



EYFS Visit to Smithills Open Farm – Last term, children from Barlow and Beesley classes visited Smithills Farm. They took part in a range of activities including; donkey rides, tractor and trailer rides to see and feed the horses and donkeys, cow feeding time. They also got opportunity to feed lots of animals, hold some new born animals including chicks, guinea pigs, lambs, rabbits and stroke other animals such as an alpaca, a lamb and a goat. The children had a great time and listened well to Farmer Carl and our guides, Gabby and Emma. We had a fantastic day and the children were a credit to their parents and carers!

Musical Opportunities – At St Mary's & St Benedict's we have a variety of musical opportunities for your child. Rocksteady Music School are in school every Friday delivering fun lessons teaching children to learn vocals, electric guitar, bass guitar, keyboard or drums in their very own band. All instruments are provided and further information can be found at rocksteadymusicschool.com. Once they are in KS2 they will get the opportunity to have guitar and piano lessons and they will learn how to play the recorder and ukulele as part of the curriculum. We also have a chorister in school each week from Salford Diocese teaching vocals to Year 4.

Family Support – There are times when everyone feels they could do with a little support for many different reasons. We are fortunate to have an experienced Family Support Worker, Julia Johnson, who is in school every day to support children and families, where a need arises. You can also usually find Julia outside at the start and the end of the day or she can be contacted on:
Mobile-07706008185
Email-family.support@smsb.lancs.sch.uk

eHNA and NCMP - Parents and carers of children in Year 6 should have received an Electronic School Health Needs Assessment letter, which is due to take place Tuesday 30th April. This is to enable you to 'opt out' of the programme, if needed. Parents and carers of children in Reception and Year 6 should have also received a copy of the National Child Measurement Programme letter which is also due to take place Tuesday 30th April.

Medical/Dental Appointments – If you have no other option than to take your child out of school for an appointment, please could you avoid lunchtime. If this is unavoidable, please understand it may take longer to locate your child.

September Reception Intake – We have now been informed by LCC of the children joining us in Reception this coming September. If this applies to you, we will be contacting you soon inviting you to an Information Evening. We are looking forward to meeting you and your children.

St George's Day – On Tuesday 23rd April it will be St George's Day. As St George is the patron saint of England, we will mark this day in school with children belonging to uniformed organisations being encouraged to attend school in uniforms: Squirrels, Beavers, Brownies etc.

Summer Term Parents' Evenings – Parents' Evening for Ward and Woodcock classes will be held on Wednesday 24th April and for the rest of the school, Tuesday 30th April. The consultations will be held in the KS2 hall 3:30 – 6:30pm. Please book your time slot on School Spider. Unfortunately, we can only accommodate one time slot for each child. The booking system will close at 2:00pm on the day of each consultation. Reports have been sent home this week which will enable you to discuss your child's progress.

Class Weekly News

There have been lots going on at St Mary's & St Benedict's this week. Always check the website for more news and photos.

- Barlow class have been learning about 'Big and Small'. In their PE activities creating body shapes of big animals and small creatures.
- Beesley class have been superstars learning doubles in maths! They have been creating their own versions of 'Shark in the Park' in drawing club.
- Making a good start to their science topic, Benedict class have been searching around the school grounds for living and dead things. They have been investigating how we can help living things and how we can look after and protect our school grounds.
- Finch class had a lovely day this week in the woodland area. The sun shone and they had a great fun looking at things that represented dead and alive. They talked about "How do we know we're alive?"
- Haydock class had an unexpected surprise when they returned after the holidays. Their classroom had been vandalised. What a mess! After investigation, they concluded it was the villain Mr Toad! They have been reading all about Mr Toad and his misdemeanours in 'The Wind in The Willows'.
- Voices of budding playwrights have been heard from the classrooms of Marsden and Mary. They have been learning all about playscripts, after which they practised and presented their own plays.
- Rigby class have been reading the story 'The Mousehole Cat'. They have been looking at Mowzer's menu and creating their own menu using their imagination to think of descriptive noun phrases.
- Southworth and Ward classes have been researching animals to create action packed scripts to present to each other in the style of David Attenborough. They had great fun!
- "Why do teachers need to drink coffee?" Woodcock class have been working on voice overs as part of their topic on explanation.

KS2 PE Days

Marsden: Monday and Friday

Mary: Monday and Friday

Rigby: Monday and Friday

Southworth: Tuesday and Friday

Ward: Tuesday and Thursday

Woodcock: Tuesday and Wednesday

Forest School News

We have a wonderful woodland area where Mrs Murrell will be delivering Forest School sessions for Marsden and Mary classes on Friday 26th April, Friday 3rd May and Friday 10th May. Please provide appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for the sessions and give consent for your child to participate on School Spider.



Get Well Wishes - The whole school community would like to wish Mrs Venables, Mrs Butterworth and Mrs Duncan-Jameson speedy recoveries and we hope to see you all soon. We miss you!

Fundraising For Palestine - Daniyal in Year 5 and Jamal in Year 2 have completed a 20 mile cycle ride to raise money for the Palestine Emergency Appeal. So far, they have raised over £1,900! Well done boys - what a fantastic achievement! If you would like to donate to this cause please visit [Palestine Emergency Appeal | Rise Support](#).

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 24 th April	Mary and Rigby Classes Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 26 th April	National Superhero Day
Monday 29 th April	Years 3 and 4 Egyptian Workshop
Tuesday 30 th April	Years 3 and 4 Egyptian Workshop
	Reception and Year 6 National Child Health Measurement Programme
	Year 6 School Health Needs Programme
Wednesday 1 st May	Marsden and Haydock Classes Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Monday 6 th May	May Day – School Closed
Thursday 9 th May	Ascension Day – Whole School Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Wednesday 15 th May	Southworth Class Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Sunday 19 th May	Pentecost Day
Wednesday 22 nd May	Woodcock Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 24 th May	Break-up at 3:15pm for half-term.

Fun Fact of the Week - For every human there are 170 million insects on the planet!

Quiz of the Week – If you put me in the door, then you have a chance, but if you put me in it, then you've made a mistake. What am I?

(answers to office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk)