



# NEWSLETTER 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

St Mary's & St Benedict's Catholic Primary School  
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WE PRAY ❤️ WE LEARN ❤️ WE SERVE

“There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.” – Walt Disney

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Attendance School Target – 96%
<b>Beesley</b>	Pawel and Arushi	Sophie	95.6%
<b>Benedict</b>	Daksha and Kingsley	Amir	91.4%
<b>Finch</b>	Amelia and Sienna	Jamie	94.8%
<b>Haydock</b>	Niamh and Janith	Noah	95.0%
<b>Marsden</b>	Penelope and Madeline	Ariya	94.3%
<b>Mary</b>	Tommy and Lucas	Hannah	94.5%
<b>Rigby</b>	Henry and Lucas	Jacob	<b>99.0%</b>
<b>Southworth</b>	Riley and Willow-Rose	Ruby	86.7%
<b>Ward</b>	Piotr and Johnny	Elizabeth	90.7%
<b>Woodcock</b>	Nikifor and Liliana	Harry	94.2%



**Every Day Counts!** - At St Mary's & St Benedict's we know that good attendance is the key to success and we believe our children can be amongst the best! Thank you for your continued support with ensuring that your children arrive to school on time and attend school each day. It helps children to develop their confidence and to make and keep lasting friendships. Attendance habits established in the first few years of education can affect their entire school life. Whilst we aim for 100%, our target is 96% attendance across the whole school. Unfortunately, we have had a bit of a dip this week, lets all work together to make next week better!

## Attendance Matters



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 Rigby class for having the highest and nearly perfect attendance this week!

**Earth Day** – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April was Earth Day. This is a global annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The official theme for 2024 is 'Planet vs Plastics'. Our ECO Club are running a competition with this theme in mind and a letter was sent home on Monday with all the details. Please remember the deadline for entries is 9:00am Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**KS2 SATs** – Please remember children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs over four days from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**School Newsletter Survey** – We had a tremendous response to our School Newsletter Survey. Thank you! We are pleased to report that of 140 responses 77.1% read the newsletter, 100% still want to receive a newsletter and 82.1% said they would like to receive the newsletter weekly. Items most wanted to be included were events that happened during the week (both curricular and extra-curricular), upcoming events, future dates, notices and reminders, sports events and photographs. Many responses were very positive regarding our newsletter, but we will aim to make it even better with your suggestions and ideas!

**Active Travel** – At SMSB we offer children the opportunity to take part in South Ribble Borough Council's Active Travel programme.

Last week, Dr Bike visited school offering a free bike repair session. They will be in school again on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May to deliver Bike Fix training with Year 6. They will teach the children how to look after their bike and in particular how to repair a tyre if they were unfortunate enough to get a puncture! Children in reception took part in their Tots on Tyres first session last week, which aims to develop their coordination and balance, progressing from a balance bike, to riding a bike with pedals. Today, Year 6 have had the opportunity to participate in a Bikeability course which teaches the children the skills and confidence needed to ride a bike safely in particular when they are on the roads. Scoot Safe is a fun safety training course for scooter riders. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be taking part in this activity on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Thank you to the Active Health Team for their excellent delivery of this programme.

**Easter Sports Camp** – We had a great response to the Sports Camp held over the Easter holidays. It was run by Chris and Marcus, our Sports coaches who are in school 4 days a week working alongside our teachers delivering quality sports lessons and after-school clubs to our children. During Celebration assembly last Friday, they awarded all the children who attended medals for being amazing! Trophies for 'Player of the Week' were awarded to Jamie from Finch class and Raisa from Marsden class. Well done to both of you!

We will be running the camp again for two days during the half-term holiday on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The cost is £11 a day. Please book and pay on ParentPay if you wish your child to attend. We will also be running the camp the first week of the summer holidays. Please look out for further details.



**Don't Miss Out on Funded Childcare** - Did you know that from the term after your child's third birthday, they can have up to 15 hours a week early education funding from the government? You may be able to get up to 30 hours a week if you meet the eligibility criteria. Attending the fun sessions at a nursery, play group or childminder, can help your child:

- Make new friends and build their confidence
- Improve their speaking and listening skills
- Learn and develop through play
- Get ready for starting school

Some two-year-olds in Lancashire may also qualify for a funded place of up to 15 hours a week depending on your household income or if you are in receipt of certain benefits. Find out more about 15 hours and 30 hours funded places at: [www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/childcare) and go to 'paying for childcare'.

**LFRS Road Sense** – Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service will be visiting school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May delivering a road safety session looking at the transition from primary to high school and how they will travel to their new school safely.

**May Procession** - On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 9:30am in church, as part of the children's monthly Mass, we will be holding our Annual May Procession. This is a special celebration in honour of Our Lady, patron of our School and Church. We hope that you will join us and that many of our children will be able to take part.

**PTA Events Coming Up** – The PTA have arranged a non-uniform day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

**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.

**Family Support** – Julia Johnson, our Family Support Worker, is in school every day to support children and families. You can 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](mailto:family.support@smsb.lancs.sch.uk)

Julia runs lunchtime clubs with each class, in small groups every day. Every child gets the opportunity to go where is a variety of board games, colouring and drawing. The club is designed to help enhance social and communication skills, whilst having lots of fun!

**September Reception Intake** – If your child is starting school with us in September, we will be contacting you soon inviting you to an Information Evening. We are looking forward to meeting you and your children.

**Volunteering in School** – If you would like to volunteer in school listening to children read, please let us know. We always need extra one-to-one reading support. You could also volunteer by helping the PTA. Whether this is at events or sharing your skills and ideas. If you can help in any way, please let us know. The PTA need you!

**Summer Term Parents' Evenings** - Parents' Evening for all classes apart from Ward and Woodcock, is to be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April in the KS2 hall 3:30 - 6:30pm. Book your time slot on School Spider and please remember we can only offer one appointment for each child. The booking system will close at 2:00pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Reports have been sent home this week which will enable you to discuss your child's progress.

## Class Weekly News

There's always lots going on at St Mary's & St Benedict's. Check out the website for more news and photos.

- Barlow class have been practising pencil control this week, understanding the World and learning fun facts about Dinosaurs. They have also been following instructions by drawing a Tiger.
- In Drawing Club, Beesley class have been using the book 'The Very Busy Spider' by Eric Carle to create their own spiders! The children were then set the problem of thinking if the spider meets a different animal what would it be?
- Benedict class have been counting in 2, 5 and 10s and learning new fun songs to help with this
- This week, Finch class have been on a mini beast bug hunt in the woodland area. In DT they have been making hand puppets out of fabric.
- Haydock class have been busy looking for living things in their microhabitats around school, in particular in the woodland area.
- Marsden class began their Forest School sessions and are enjoying fun learning outside. They have also been writing their own play scripts
- Mary class have been investigating states, solids, liquids and gases in Science.
- Continuing their work on 'Mousehole Cat', the children in Rigby have been delving deeper into the characters: writing letters from the point of view of the villagers. They've also been working hard on their decimals, exploring and learning about equivalent decimals and fractions.
- This week Southworth class have completed their observation on bread mould and conductors, and found their train on a timetable. They have started their Amazon adventure and can't wait for next week!
- Ward class had fun making circuits in science, doing relays with batons in PE and the children in Year 6 were looking forward to Bikeability today.
- Woodcock class have been enjoying riding their bikes in the sun as part of their first Bikeability session.

### 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

Marsden and Mary classes have made an enthusiastic start to their Forest School sessions today. The children found out how to keep safe whilst having fun in the woods. They learnt how to use a variety of tools including how to whittle with a sheath knife and peelers and how to create paintbrushes from natural materials. They have two more sessions on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	National Child Health Measurement Programme – Reception and Year 6 School Health Needs Programme – Year 6
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Egyptian Workshop – Years 3 and 4 Marsden and Haydock Classes Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Egyptian Workshop – Years 3 and 4
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bikeability – Year 6
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Procession 9:30am in Church
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day – School Closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	LFRS Road Sense - Year 6
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day – Whole School Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Tots on Tyres - Reception Scoot Safe - Year 2
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Begin – Year 6
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Southworth Class Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Non-uniform Day
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Woodcock Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Tots on Tyres – Reception Bike Fix Break-up at 3:15pm for half-term

**Community Larder** – Please continue to support our local food bank by bringing into school an item of food each week. The Community Larder is situated at the back of St Aidan's Church Hall and provides food and support to individuals and families from the surrounding local area. It is open Monday – Friday 9:30 – 11:30am and is dependent upon food donations from local Christian communities and schools. Thank you for your continued donations to this worthwhile cause.

**Fun Fact of the Week** - The human eye can distinguish about 10 million different colours!

**Riddle of the Week** – When you have me, you want to share me. When you share me, I no longer exist. What am I? (answer to [office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk](mailto:office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk))

Well done to Scarlett from Rigby class for correctly answering last week's riddle – Foot!