

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

18 July 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 12

Firstly, thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support during this busy, yet productive year! If you want to see exactly how busy it has been, just look at our termly [Shining Lights newsletter](#) that will be sent on Firefly or available on our [school website](#). As a family we have worked in partnership, committed to ensuring the very best for our school community. I am very thankful to all who contribute to making our school community the vibrant place it is to live and grow in and your part in that needs to be celebrated. We all look forward to some sun and summer holidays. Hopefully it will come out for us! Before we leave for a well-deserved break, I'd like to update and remind you of key information in preparation for September.

Staffing Changes

This year we say farewell and send our very best wishes to staff who are leaving this year. Last year, I commented on those that left serving us for 33 years. This year that number has almost tripled as we wave goodbye to members of staff who between them have served school for 90 years. Mr Wilson, Mr Robson, Mrs Hall, Miss Bowe, Mrs Duggleby and Mrs Almond, all leave us for new adventures; either promoted positions, retirement or new pathways. On behalf of all our Browndge family, I wish them good luck and send love and best wishes to them all. May they continue to be a beacon of hope wherever they go. May their paths be filled with grace and may the seeds they have sown continue to bloom. In September, we will be joined by Mr Cummings – Head of English, Miss Farrimond – teacher of Science, Mr Clarke-Davison – teacher of PE, Mr Braime – teacher of History and Mike Clark – Lay Chaplain. I look forward to introducing them to you in the new academic year.

Prize Night

On Thursday 27th July we celebrated our 64th Annual Prize Night in the beautiful parish church of St Mary's, Browndge. I am very pleased to say that Fr Mark was able to use the technology available at church to record the proceedings and if any parent, grandparent or relative were not able to attend, a recording can be seen by following [this link](#). I must say that our guest speaker, Professor Kamilla Elliott was superb, bringing laughter from the audience with her speech on the theme of "Good job". I would recommend a watch to all and to catch it quick before the recording expires from the church listings.

New technologies at Browndge

Our vision to ensuring that every child has access to integrated digital technology in their learning continues next year and it goes from strength to strength. We know as a school that the benefits of pupils being equipped with a personal device are numerous, whether that be through it complementing their learning every step of the way or preparing them for future education, training and employment in a technological era. It does make a difference. It is therefore with great delight to announce our partnership with MCC Digital to make this vision a reality. We have secured an outstanding deal for our current year 7 pupils to have access to the latest 10th Generation iPad for use in lessons and at home from September. To enrol on this scheme parents must register on our Parent Portal which can be found at <https://brownedge.parentportal.biz>. Mrs Godbold has sent out activation codes to year 7 parents on Firefly, so please check your inbox for further details. The last date for registration is the 31st July so don't miss out on this great opportunity.

Holiday activities and food programme (HAF) Summer 2024

As the summer holidays are nearly here, preparations are well underway by Lancashire County Council to deliver a fun packed programme of activities and support for families which will run from 22nd July to 30th August. Activities include swimming, football, sports camps, dance, gymnastics and much more. If you are interested in seeing what is on offer this Summer, please visit southribble.gov.uk/haf or contact haf@southribble.gov.uk.

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Uniform Pop-up shop

The South Ribble Borough Council School Uniform Pop Up Shop is back for 2024. Donations of clean, wearable, outgrown or unused uniform have been collected for South Ribble primary and secondary schools which will be available from two locations in the borough. All families are welcome, and all stock is free! See the end of the newsletter for information on locations open during the summer holidays. **Donations** will be accepted up until 4 August and can be dropped off at: Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, Station Road - Open Weds & Thurs 9am -12pm only. Co-op, Lostock Hall, Watkin Lane - Open 7 days a week and SRBC Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland - Open Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm.

FSM Vouchers over summer

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order summer term vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £90 voucher to cover the six-week holiday period. Please contact Mr Burrows, our school Business Manager if you have any questions.

Concern RE: Vape shop

It is with concern that I inform you that a new vape shop has been opened directly outside school. As you know we work hard to educate our pupils on the dangers of vaping, specifically those who are vulnerable and are pressured into trying it. The shop also sells sweets, and I am concerned that these two items are in direct contradiction to each other and the influence this will have on tempting pupils into the shop. I would appreciate your support in reiterating the dangers of starting to vape. If we can support you on this, please get in touch with Miss Mault for advice and support.

Uniform, Haircuts, Shoes and Piercings

As always at this time of year, it is essential that I remind pupils and parents of the school rules in terms of haircuts, shoes, false nails and piercings. In recent days pupils have had presentations to remind them of our school rules and expectations in preparation for September. Quite rightly over the summer, pupils have the freedom to express themselves differently than they do when they are in school. This is, in my opinion, an important aspect of their development. However, once September comes around, it is imperative that the high expectations and rules we have regarding school uniform are followed. Please see our website ([click on this link](#)) to view information about appropriate school rules in terms of hairstyles, false lashes and nails and shoe types school permits. In September, we will continue to NOT allow plastic retainers to be worn in ears and noses. Please ensure that any new piercings are done early enough for them to be removed at the start of term. This is also the case throughout the year. Pupils are abundantly clear on our rules regarding this and unfortunately any pupil choosing to break the rules will be placed in our internal exclusion unit, the POD, from September.

Thank you for your continued support with ensuring our uniform standards remain high. In September, we will continue to provide temporary uniform to any pupil who does not wear their uniform correctly, including shoes and appropriate length skirts etc. Should any parent require financial support in ensuring that their child's uniform meets our high standards, please get in touch and we will do all we can to support you. For 2024-25 we are continuing our drive on pupils being fully equipped and ready for their learning. This is essential in achieving the success they are capable of. Being fully equipped includes having an appropriate school bag in which they can carry their equipment needed for a successful day: exercise books, pens, pencils, etc. All exercise books are expected to be backed with clear plastic and pupils will be given responsibility for the ownership and care of these books and so a school bag is essential in this.

Safety over the summer

You will be aware that there have been some significant incidents over the recent months that cause us safety concerns for our pupils over the summer period. We have recently been visited by Lancashire Fire and Rescue team to deliver assemblies to pupils on water safety. Pupils have been educated on the important safety risks and if you could repeat the important messages about them, we can continue to keep our school community safe. I have attached some additional information relating to this.

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Parent Governor Vacancy

There will be a vacancy for a Parent Governor from September and so, if you have a child in school, please consider serving as a Governor. It is a fantastic way to shape the direction and success of our school and I would really appreciate any support from parents. You would attend three full governing body meetings a year and three more as part of a sub-committee. Meetings tend to be early evening and are a mixture of remote and face-to-face. I understand it is a time commitment, however, it is such an important job and such an exciting time in our school development. I will send out more information next term, but please consider supporting school in this role; your help will be hugely appreciated.

School Holidays Next Year

The school holiday times are printed at the end of this letter. Please do not take holidays during term time.

End of Term July 2024 and Start of Term September 2024

We end the school year, as we always do, with a whole school liturgy at our beautiful St Mary's Church on Friday 19th July. School will finish at approximately 1.15pm. There will be no school dinners served on this day, but the usual food will be available at break. **We reopen on Wednesday 4th September.** Year 7 pupils will start their high school journey at 8.30am, with **all other year groups joining at 9.30am.** Pupils are to gather on the Tennis Courts to be welcomed by their Form Tutors and Heads of House.

Once again, a huge thank you to the staff, parents and pupils for all their work this year. The pupils have certainly risen to the challenges put in front of them. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you a restful and sunny summer holiday when it arrives.

Kind regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher

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Term Dates 2024-25

<u>Autumn Term 2024</u>	
INSET DAY	Monday 2 nd September 2024
INSET DAY	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
School Reopens	Wednesday 4 th September 2024
Last Day of School for Half-Term 1	Friday 18th October 2024
INSET DAY	Monday 28th October 2024
School Reopens for Half-Term 2	Tuesday 29th October 2024
Last Day of School for Half-Term 2	Friday 20th December 2024
<u>Spring Term 2025</u>	
School Reopens for Half-Term 3	Monday 6th January 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 3	Friday 14th February 2025
School Reopens for Half-Term 4	Monday 24th February 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 4	Friday 4th April 2025
<u>Summer Term 2025</u>	
School Reopens for Half-Term 5	Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 5	Friday 23rd May 2025
School Reopens for Half-Term 6	Monday 2nd June 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 6	Friday 18th July 2025
INSET DAY	Monday 21st July 2025
INSET Day	Tuesday 22 nd July 2025



SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



22 July - 30 August, 2024

**BOOK
NOW**

Fun activities and healthy food for children who qualify for benefit-related free school meals (or who meet the other criteria listed on our website), funded by The Department for Education.

- **FREE** activities for children, aged 5-16 and their families
- **FREE** healthy food at every session
- Venues located across South Ribble
- Activities include swimming, football, sports camps, dance, gymnastics and much more

To book, visit southribble.gov.uk/haf
or contact us at haf@southribble.gov.uk



southribble.gov.uk/haf



WHAT'S ON NEAR ME

Bamber Bridge and surrounding area

Venue	Activity	When is it on?
Cuerden Church Primary School with SRBC Active Health	Active Dance Camps	Week 1
Cuerden Church Primary School with SRBC Active Health	Neurodiversity Multi Games	Week 1
St Joseph's RC Primary School with Absolute Futbol	Multi-Sports School Camp	Weeks 1 and 2
St Patricks Place, W-I-D with Carr Manor Holiday Club	Outdoor play, crafts and planting	Weeks 1 to 4
South Ribble Tennis Centre with South Ribble Leisure	Tennis Camp	Weeks 1 to 6
Cuerden Church Primary School with SRBC Active Health	SEND Dance	Week 2
South Ribble Tennis Centre with Kick on Football	Football Camp	Weeks 2 and 3
Cuerden Church Primary School with SRBC Active Health	Active Camps Multi Games	Weeks 2 and 3
South Ribble Tennis Centre with South Ribble Leisure	Gymnastics Camp	Weeks 2 to 5
Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre with South Ribble Leisure	Family Swim (family of 4)	Weeks 2 to 6
Walton le Dale Primary School with Amy's AquaStars	Junior lifeguard, first aid and CPR	Week 5
Walton le Dale Primary School with Amy's AquaStars	SEND Specific Junior Lifeguard, first aid and CPR	Week 5
St Patrick's RC Primary School with Absolute Futbol	Multi-Sports School Camp	Weeks 5 to 6

For full details and dates of activities across South Ribble,
visit southribble.gov.uk/haf





THE GREAT BIG SCHOOL UNIFORM POP UP SHOP 2024

In Partnership with TippyToes Babybank



Do you need uniform for September '24?

We have collected clean, wearable,
outgrown or unused South Ribble uniforms

All families welcome, all stock is free,
we are here to support you &
encourage reusing & recycling

POP UP SHOP WILL BE OPEN

10am - 3pm

Civic Centre, Leyland, PR25 1DH
Monday 22nd July - Friday 26th July
Monday 29th July - Thursday 1st August

South Ribble Family Wellbeing Centre,
Wilkinson Street, PR5 5BP
Monday 5th August - Friday 9 August
Monday 12th August - Wednesday 14th August

Find us on facebook for further details - www.facebook.com/schoolpopupshopSR

