

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

17 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

NEWSLETTER 12

As we come to the close of another school year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support throughout what has been a busy, challenging, and deeply rewarding year. Whether it's cheering from the sidelines at events, supporting learning at home, or simply encouraging your children day to day, your role in the life of our school community cannot be overstated. 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](#). Together, we have continued to grow a community where care, compassion and commitment are lived values. As the summer break beckons, I'd like to share some key updates and reflections as we look ahead to the new academic year.

Staffing Changes

It is at this time of year we send our very best wishes to staff who are leaving our Brownedge family. Miss Casement, Mr Hill and Miss Thompson leave us for new adventures; either promoted positions or new pathways. I would also like to thank Mr Davies and Mr Braime who have been supporting us with absence and maternity covers, as we welcome back Mrs Tilling and Mrs Kellett following the birth of their babies. On behalf of us all, I wish them good luck and our very best wishes. May they shine brightly in all that lies ahead and may the seeds of kindness and dedication they've planted continue to grow and bear fruit. In September, we will be joined by Mr Cooper – teacher of Geography and Mr Kiernan, Miss Kellett and Mrs Sabino – teachers of Mathematics. I look forward to introducing them to you in the new academic year.

New technologies at Brownedge

Our commitment to ensuring every child has access to high-quality digital technology in their learning remains a key priority—and this vision continues to grow stronger each year. We firmly believe that providing pupils with their own personal device offers countless benefits, from enhancing their everyday learning to preparing them for the demands of further education, training, and careers in an increasingly digital world. It truly makes a difference. We're therefore delighted to announce our continued partnership with **MCC Digital**, supporting us in making this vision a reality.

To date, all **new** Year 7 pupils and our Year 8 and 9 pupils next year will have access to a **10th Generation iPad** for use in lessons and at home from September. Due to parental enquires, we are looking at extending the opportunity to purchase an iPad for our existing Year 9, new Year 10 in 2025-26. Although this is not compulsory, we are delighted at the enthusiasm that pupils and parents have shown. Please look out for the opening of the online EDDE portal to purchase an iPad in September.

Bike Safety

We have a growing number of pupils who are using the new cycle shelter to travel to and from school. As part of our commitment to pupil safety, we are introducing a new policy from September 2025: **All pupils who cycle or ride a scooter to and from school will be required to wear a helmet.** This measure is being put in place to help prevent serious injuries and promote safe travel habits. Research shows that wearing a properly fitted helmet significantly reduces the risk of head injury in the event of an accident. We ask for your support in ensuring your child has a suitable helmet ready for the start of the new school year. Staff on duty at the school gates will monitor this, and pupils not wearing a helmet will be asked to walk with their bike or scooter until this is resolved or may be refused permission to store their bike on school premises. If purchasing a helmet is a financial concern, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office in confidence – we may be able to help. Whilst the cycle shelter is locked during the school day, it is recommended that pupils use a lock to secure their bike as school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage that occurs whilst on premises.

In terms of E-Bikes and E-Scooters, Lancashire Constabulary have issued a letter and guide (attached) to support understanding of the legalities of these machines, where they can be ridden and the penalties if stopped by the police. In school, pupils can store E-Bikes that meet the legal framework, however, batteries must not be removed and brought into the school building but remain attached to the bike in the cycle shelter.

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Holiday activities and FSM Vouchers Summer 2025

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. Preparations are underway by Lancashire County Council to deliver a fun packed programme of activities and support our FSM families. Families will have received HAF vouchers on 23rd June. If you are interested in seeing what is on offer, please visit southribble.gov.uk/haf or contact haf@southribble.gov.uk.

Uniform, Haircuts, Shoes and Piercings

As we approach the end of term, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils and parents of our school expectations around appearance and uniform—specifically regarding school bags, haircuts, shoes, false nails, and piercings. Naturally, we recognise that summer is a time for young people to express themselves freely, and rightly so—it's an important part of growing up. However, when we return in September, it is essential that all pupils adhere to our uniform and appearance standards, which play a vital role in maintaining our school's high expectations and sense of pride. Full details regarding acceptable hairstyles, shoes, nails, and other uniform requirements can be found on our website [\[click here for details\]](#). A reminder again that plastic retainers in ears and noses are not permitted. Any new piercings should be done in time to allow for safe removal before the start of term. This rule applies throughout the school year, and all pupils are well aware of our expectations. Regrettably, any pupil who does not follow these rules will be placed in **our internal exclusion unit, the POD**, from the beginning of term. In September, we will continue to issue temporary uniform where necessary, including appropriate shoes and skirts, to ensure consistency across the school. If any parent requires financial support in providing the correct uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us—we are always here to help.

Safety over the summer

You may be aware that, in recent months, there have been a number of serious incidents locally that raised concerns about pupil safety during the summer break. In response, we were pleased to welcome **Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service** into school recently to deliver information shares on **water safety**. Pupils were informed about the key risks associated with open water and how to stay safe during the summer months. Attached also is information from Safer Preston regarding empty buildings and their dangers. To reinforce these vital messages, we would appreciate your support in revisiting these discussions at home. Together, we can continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community. Additional information and guidance can be found on these links:

LCC's good practical water safety advice: [Water Safety | Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service \(lancsfirerescue.org.uk\)](https://www.lancashirefireandrescue.org.uk/water-safety)
World Drowning Prevention Day (Friday July 25): [World Drowning Prevention Day - 25 July \(rnli.org\)](https://www.rnli.org/world-drowning-prevention-day)

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 2025 and Start of Term September 2025

We end the school year, as we always do, with a whole school Celebration of the Word at our beautiful St Mary's Church on Friday 18th 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 3rd 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.

As I look back on the year, I am filled with pride – not only in the progress our pupils have made but, in the resilience, and kindness they have shown. We are proud to be a community where every child is known, valued, and inspired to be their best self. A huge thank you to the staff, parents and pupils for all their work this year. Enjoy a safe, restful, and sunny summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on **Wednesday 3rd September**.

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With every blessing,

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher

Term Dates 2025-26

<u>Autumn Term 2025</u>	
INSET DAY	Monday 1 st September 2025
INSET DAY	Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
School Reopens	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 1	Friday 24 th October 2025
INSET DAY	Monday 3 rd November 2025
School Reopens for Half-Term 2	Tuesday 4 th November 2025
Last Day of School for Half-Term 2	Friday 19 th December 2025
<u>Spring Term 2026</u>	
School Reopens for Half-Term 3	Monday 5 th January 2026
Last Day of School for Half-Term 3	Friday 13 th February 2026
School Reopens for Half-Term 4	Monday 23 rd February 2026
Last Day of School for Half-Term 4	Thursday 2 nd April 2026
<u>Summer Term 2026</u>	
School Reopens for Half-Term 5	Monday 20 th April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026
Last Day of School for Half-Term 5	Friday 22 nd May 2026
School Reopens for Half-Term 6	Monday 1 st June 2026
Last Day of School for Half-Term 6	Friday 17 th July 2026
INSET DAY	Monday 20 th July 2026
INSET Day	Tuesday 21 st July 2026