

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

17th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Newsletter 2

It has been delightful to see the pupils engaging in their learning and enrichment activities taking place across school during this first half term of 2024-25. As I walk around school, during and after the school day, I can see pupils engaging in clubs and interhouse activities and the smiles on pupils' faces show what a positive impact the activity has had on them. It's really important for us to provide as many opportunities as possible for pupils to take part and lead in and I would like to thank all our hard working staff for all they do to develop our young people. They go above and beyond and serve our pupils with unwavering commitment. A large part of this is our pupils' engagement in charity work and serving others. We have had a very successful Cancer Awareness morning and a Year 7 Welcome Mass. I would like to thank you for your support in these events. Over the course of this half term, we have raised over £700 for local charities. Please watch out for our termly Shining Lights newsletter, where you will be able to read examples of how our pupils live out our Gospel Values in school and put their faith into action in the wider Brownedge community and beyond.

Open Evening 2024

A huge thanks to all the pupils who helped make our annual Open Evening such a success in early October. We had over 500 prospective pupils and parents visit our wonderful community. As I say repeatedly, it is the pupils who are our school, not the building, and on the evening they were wonderful. We have had such positive praise and comments from visiting parents. The pupils did so well sharing and engaging primary pupils in their experiences of Brownedge across all our different subject areas and our tour guides, from Year 7 to 11, were eager to show our school off to prospective families as they stood by ready to guide visitors around their school.

Parent Governor

Thank you to those parents who put themselves forward to join our Governing Body. An election process has now begun, and information will be sent home to all parents before 18 October with details on how to vote.

Library Opening - 29th October

After a huge refurbishment and renovation, our new library space will be open at break, lunchtime and afterschool, when we return from half-term on the 29th October 2024. All pupils will be able to borrow up to three books each at any one time, and our team of Pupil Librarians will lead the way with promoting a love of reading and circulating books. We hope every pupil takes advantage of this wonderful space, to find quiet in the busyness of the working week, and to utilise the resources we have on offer. For more information and updates, please see the library page on our school website.

Safety over the half term break

The bonfire and fireworks period will soon be upon us and this year we will be delivering training from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service using their Bright Sparx programme. This will be delivered on our return from the half term holiday. However, I am aware that pupils do partake before the event and focussing on how to stay safe during the bonfire period should be a priority. Please talk to your children to make them aware of the dangers and we will share resources with you in the week beginning 29th October.

Autumn Rewards Trip Criteria

As always, we will be running our Autumn Rewards Trip in December. In September, Mr Hayhurst shared with pupils and parents this year's criteria. Pupils started a clean slate as of Monday 16th September. A reminder that the criteria is as follows:

1. Pupils must receive a minimum of 55 positives
2. Pupils must receive less than 15 negatives
3. Pupils must not receive a Senior Staff Call Out.
4. Pupils must have no POD sanctions.

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5. 97% Attendance, no more than 5 times late to school.
6. No more than a total of 10 minutes late to lessons.

All Saints' Day

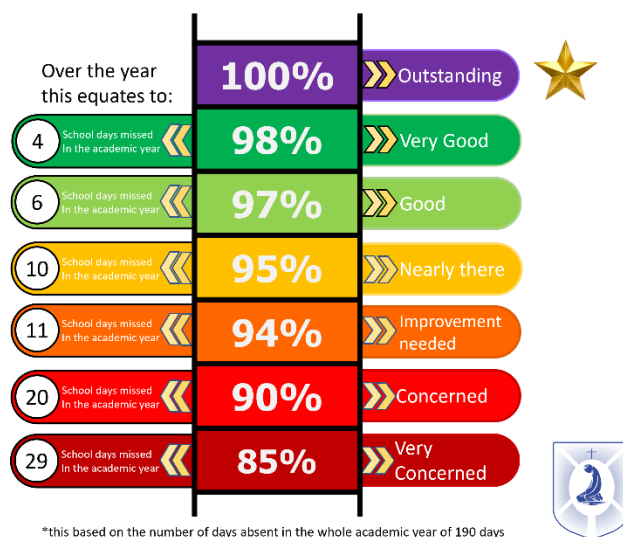
Friday 1 November is a Holy Day of Obligation and we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints' by offering any pupil who wishes to attend Mass, to join the St Mary's, Brownedge parish community at their 9.30am celebration. We will ask pupils after the half term break for their interest.

South Ribble Borough Council

South Ribble Borough Council are currently offering some exciting opportunities for our community to engage in shaping the area around us. Year 10 and 11 pupils can apply to become members of the South Ribble Youth Council. Local Youth Councils are forums that represent the views of young people at a local level. Run by young people for young people, they offer a voice and enable them to make their views heard in the decision-making process. Contact [Mrs McDonagh](#) for more information. For parents, there will be an informal Community Hub with local councillors and police from Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and Walton Le Dale on Tuesday 19th October, 5-6.30pm at Lostock Hall Library. If any parents/guardians have any questions, suggestions and ideas about their local area, this is your opportunity to bring it up with your elected members.

Attendance Matters

As we reach the end of a busy half term, I would like to reiterate the importance of your child's attendance at school. We all know that regular attendance at school is the single most important factor in a child/children making appropriate progress and achieving success. To help put days absent into context, we regularly use this image with our pupils. Please remember that unless unavoidable, do not arrange medical or dental appointments during school hours and that habits are formed early. It is much more difficult to get your child to school regularly if they stay at home 'just this once'. Please use the first day absence reporting procedure and failure to do so may result in the absence being unauthorised. Please contact school with any attendance concerns, or Mrs Carrera/Mr Crusham if it is a specific attendance query.



Uniform

Good uniform standards are important and I thank you for your continued support in ensuring our high standards of uniform are maintained. As I outlined in my last newsletter, hooded tops are not permitted as part of the school uniform. **Pupils are allowed to wear their PE zipped fleece under their blazer, but not hooded tops like a jumper, and they must wear their zip down to show their tie. Please can I also remind you about the school rules on NO false eyelashes and no jewellery including bracelets or plastic retainers for earrings.** I would like to reiterate my offer to support any parent that may 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. I would also like to ask if any families have any old school uniform they wish to donate to children in our school. Any second-hand uniform can be handed into our Pupil reception.

Half Term Food Vouchers

We are pleased to announce that the half term food vouchers will continue until March 2025. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £15 voucher to cover the one week holiday period. Please contact [Mr Burrows](#), our school Business Manager if you have any questions regarding this.

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INSET DAY Monday 28th October

Please be reminded that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 28th October. This is a calendared INSET day and therefore a holiday for pupils. We hope they enjoy their extended half term break. We restart school on Tuesday 29th October at 8.30am as normal.

Kind regards

Mrs
Headteacher

N

Oddie

Key Dates over the next half term

Year 10 GCSE Information Evening	Thursday 7 th November starting at 6pm – ONLINE EVENT
Year 11 GCSE Information Evening	Thursday 7 th November starting at 7pm – IN SCHOOL EVENT
Year 7 Information Evening	Thursday 14 th November starting at 7pm – IN SCHOOL EVENT
Leavers GCSE Certificate Evening	Monday 2 nd December 7pm
Christmas Fayre	Friday 6 th December 4.00pm – 8.30pm
Year 7 Parents` Evening	Wednesday 11 th December 4.00pm – 6.30pm – IN SCHOOL EVENT
Carol Service	Monday 16 th December starting at 7pm – IN SCHOOL EVENT
Last day of term	Friday 20 th December



South Ribble Parent Information & Wellbeing Drop In

Information and advice from the South Ribble Social Prescribing Team and Compass Bloom Mental Health Support Team.



Wednesday 23rd
October 2024
10-1pm

Civic Centre, West
Paddock, Leyland,
Lancashire PR25 1DH



South Ribble Social Prescribing



- Money worries
- Housing issues
- Isolation / loneliness
- Employment / new skills
- Diet / exercise
- Mental health / wellbeing



01772 625286

social.prescribingSR
@southribble.gov.uk

www.southribble.gov.uk/
southribbletogether

Compass BLOOM

PARENT/CARER CONSULTATION DROP-IN

Who Are Compass Bloom?

We offer a free and confidential service supporting children and young people, aged 5-18, with mild to moderate emotional health and wellbeing needs.

We work in 87 schools and colleges throughout Chorley, South Ribble, Preston and West Lancs.

Are you the parent/carer of a young person who is experiencing mild to moderate anxiety or low mood?

This could look like:



FEELING WORRIED



STRUGGLING TO SLEEP



WITHDRAWAL FROM FAMILY, FRIENDS AND/OR USUAL ACTIVITIES



STRUGGLING TO CONCENTRATE



TEARFUL

IF ANY OF THE ABOVE SOUNDS LIKE YOUR CHILD/YOUNG PERSON WE CAN HELP!



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