

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

14 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we start to prepare for the Christmas break, I just wanted to extend my thanks to all parents for all your support and to pupils for all their hard work in 2022. At the end of this long term, there is so much to celebrate during this Advent season. Events and activities have been captured in our termly newsletter Shining Lights. This will be published on Friday 16th December. [Please celebrate with us by reading it here.](#)

We enter the third week of Advent this week. The air is rife with expectation, anticipation, longing. We light the third candle of our Advent wreath, the rose-coloured candle, and rejoice at the nearness of Christ. This year in our Advent preparations, pupils have been fundraising and supporting local food bank collections. Thank you for all pupils and families that have put their faith into action and we will present our efforts to St Catherine's Hospice, CAFOD and the local churches food bank on Friday.

Staffing Update

We say goodbye to four members of staff leaving the Brownedge family at the end of term. We wish Mrs McDonagh, Mrs Ormerod and Miss Simpson good luck and best wishes in their appointments at new schools and say congratulations and farewell to Mrs Kay, a member of our catering team on her well deserved retirement. Her smiling face and cheerful manner will be sadly missed behind the serving counter in the canteen. We wish them all the very best in their new ventures.

Half Term Food Vouchers

We can confirm that approval has been granted for schools to utilise the LCC Edenred account to order Christmas vouchers for benefits-eligible FSM pupils. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £30 voucher to cover the two-week holiday period. Please contact [Mr Burrows](#), our school Business Manager if you have any questions.

Pupil Voice

We firmly believe that pupil voice at school helps our community work as one family. Throughout this term, we have witnessed some amazing work from our school House Council, including our newly appointed pupil Senior Management Team. Both councils have led in some strategic, and day to day decisions for the school and the members of each have shown a maturity and dedication to school which is to be applauded. The School House Councils have led on decisions about new behaviour systems and end of term rewards day. They have also been included in the evaluation of attendance and punctuality, and Collective Worship practices.

Holiday Pattern 2023-24

The details of school holidays for 2023-24 have now been published on the school website. A summary appears on the back of this letter. With children from many feeder primary

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

schools, it is not always easy to ensure our holiday pattern fits in with all other schools. However, next year we have followed closely the Lancashire pattern. I hope this will help reduce the number of requests for holidays to be taken in term time, which as you will know, I can only approve in exceptional circumstances.

High expectations for uniform

The weather has definitely taken a turn for the worse! Our high uniform expectations will be especially important next term as the weather may turn even colder. I must remind pupils that they are allowed to wear the **school jumper** or their **PE zipped fleece** under their blazers and are not allowed to wear any hooded tops in school. Many pupils use these as coats, and whilst it is acceptable to wear these over blazers for their journey to school, they are not permitted under blazers once in school. They must be removed on arrival at school AND should not replace the importance of a suitable coat.

Parish Register

We are asking every family that live within the Parish of Bamber Bridge to complete a Parish Register form. The form is specifically for families who are likely to need Baptism or Funerals etc in the future and helps the church to check that people live within the boundary. The form is available in the church porch and is to be returned to the parish office. You can also complete the form on-line using the QR code or if you prefer by following this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/JJKiLyNCbG>. This is a big exercise for the church and your support in completing the forms is appreciated.



End of School Arrangements

May I remind you of our end of term arrangements. School finishes for Christmas on Friday 16th December after 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 January at 8.50am and look forward to welcoming our pupils back and to the opening of our new second school canteen. Exciting times!

Wishing you a very joyful and rested Christmas. I wish you a very well-earned festive break and here's to a new year with plenty of opportunities to explore.

Kindest regards

Mrs N Oddie
Headteacher