Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH

Let your light shine

03 April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

NEWSLETTER 8 – Happy Easter

As we head into our final week of this Spring term, we see the sun and the beginnings of new life all around us. Let's hope the good weather continues over the holiday period and pupils and staff get the well-deserved break they have earned over the last 12 weeks. This week we enter into one of the most important weeks in the Catholic Church – Holy Week. Not only is it a part of the Lenten season, but it is also the week where we remember the life and death of Christ. In Holy Week, we celebrate Jesus' love for us, as he died on the cross and resurrected for us to have eternal life. We will finish our Lenten celebrations as a school family on Wednesday, where all our school community will walk to church for our Easter liturgy. School will finish at approximately 1.30pm.

Charity Afternoon: Tuesday 4th April

We continue our Brownedge tradition of holding our annual Lenten charity fund raising event on Tuesday, the penultimate day of the spring term. Please encourage your son or daughter to play an active part in this afternoon by organising and running their charity Form stalls or by bringing in funds to spend on the activities put on by students. It will also be an own clothes day, with £1 donation to our Lenten charities CAFOD and Papyrus: Prevention of Young Suicide. This day gives our young people the opportunity to put their faith into action and look beyond our school gates into the community that surrounds us. It will be a day filled with fun and a little chaos – just how we like to raise money and enjoy the end of term.

Uniform and Standards

Invariably, the summer term always sees a small minority of pupils start to slip on uniform expectations. This is possibly due to pupils out growing uniform. Whilst I appreciate that pupils grow (and this is particularly noticeable in the summer sunshine!); this must not be an excuse for poor standards. We have a wardrobe full of second-hand uniform and this will be given to any pupil who does not wear our uniform fully. Any parent who needs financial support in ensuring that their child's uniform meets our high standards, please get in touch with Miss Mault and we will do all we can to support you.

Trainers will **not** be permitted. Again we have multiple pairs of both girl and boy shoes for any pupil to borrow should they need to. If there are any questions about the type of school shoes that are permitted, please visit our website for images of what shoes comply with our Uniform Policy. I would like to thank parents and carers for their partnership and support in ensuring that our standards of uniform remain high. This is what sets us apart from other schools and it is important we get it right and make the great first impression. After Easter, school coats will not be allowed to be worn once pupils are inside the school building.

Easter Holiday Vouchers and activities

Free school meal vouchers are available once again over these Easter holidays. The Department for Work and Pensions Household Support Fund grant is being made available to County Councils to support those most in need this spring. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £30 voucher to cover the Easter holiday

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period. Access to the funding will be the same as normal through the LCC Edenred. Please contact Mr Burrows, our school Business Manager if you have any questions regarding this.

In addition to this, South Ribble Borough Council are running fun activities for children on free school meals during the Easter Holidays. Activities include swimming, tennis, gymnastics, boxing, kick boxing, football, arts & crafts, climbing wall, dancing, multi-sports and much more. This is available for children aged 4 to 16. To book your child's place, visit South Ribble Borough Council's website for timetables and activities available. A small sample of what is available is at the end of this newsletter.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This 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. If you are interested in putting yourself forward for election, please send me an email by Friday 21 April to head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk and we can discuss further what the role entails and begin the election process.

Additional Building Works

We are pleased to announce the opening of our new dining room that has been developed on the ground floor of the our Extended Learning Centre. This new space provides a light, bright area for pupil to have their lunch and has been well received by pupils and staff. Work will continue on this area over the next few months to include Wallart, and the movement of our catering van to support a new dining experience for pupils. Since the building work of our new entrance area and gender neutral toilets was completed and obvious ground disturbances for this to take place, there have been incidents of field mice being spotted in classrooms and school hall. Combined efforts of control measures and encouraging pupils to refrain from dropping food and litter will hopefully eradicate anymore sightings. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me at school.

Thank you as always for your support this term. Hoping your Easter is happy and blessed. We look forward to seeing our pupils on Thursday 20th April at 8.50am for a short week and the start to our final 2022-23 term.

Kind regards

Mrs Oddie
Headteacher

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