

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

01 April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

NEWSLETTER 8 – Happy Easter

As we approach the end of another busy term, we take a moment to pause and reflect. This time of year often coincides with Holy Week, a period of deep significance and renewal. However, with Easter still two weeks away, we remain in a space of waiting—a time to prepare our hearts and minds, just as we guide our pupils in their learning and growth. Our Lenten journey continues, and this week's focus is on **fasting from ignorance and embracing diversity**, encouraging us to open our hearts to greater understanding and inclusion. Alongside this, our **Charity Afternoon** reminds us of the call to generosity and service. Monies raised will go to worthwhile local charities, so I urge your child to get involved and help support those needing our help. Tomorrow, pupils can also engage in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Fr Mark will join us, together with other priests from across the local community. If your child is interested in this opportunity, please ask them to let their Form Tutor know. We will finish our Lenten celebrations as a school family on Friday. We will not be going to church but begin our new summer term in Easter week with a Resurrection Service instead. **School will finish at approximately 1.30pm on Friday.**

Easter Holiday Vouchers and activities

South Ribble Borough Council are once again running fun activities for children on free school meals during the Easter Holidays. Activities include a climbing wall, carnival games and arts and crafts. This is available for children aged 12 to 16. Please click on this link [Holiday Activity and Food \(HAF\) Clubs | South Ribble](#) for more information and contact details. Free school meal vouchers are available once again over these Easter holidays. Each eligible pupil will be issued with a £30 voucher to cover the Easter holiday 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.

Charity Work over Lent

As a school community, we would like to say a huge thank you for all fund-raising participation that has taken place this Lent. Throughout the past 3 weeks we have collected for Caritas with the St Joseph's penny box and care boxes for the homeless and supported CAFOD in our Big Lent Walk, with Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils walking over 690k in just 3 hours! We have been blown away with our young people's uptake in putting their faith into action and looking beyond our school gates into the community that surrounds us, whilst celebrating with fun and a little chaos! We have raised £866 already, and there still is our Charity Afternoon to come!

Summer Rewards Criteria

As always, we will be running our Summer Rewards Trip in July. This week, Mr Hayhurst shared with pupils and parents this year's criteria. This criterion was developed using pupil voice and is a great example of pupils' getting involved in school improvement. Pupils started a clean slate as of Monday 31st March. A reminder that the criteria is as follows:

1. Pupils must receive a minimum of 60 positives
2. Pupils must receive less than 10 negatives
3. Pupils must not receive a Senior Staff Call Out.
4. Pupils must have no POD sanctions.
5. 97% attendance (no more than 2 days absence during this 8-week time period)
6. Pupils must be in school on the last 2 days of Spring Term (this Thursday and Friday)
7. No more than 5 minutes late to school
8. No more than a total of 10 minutes late to lessons

Interfaith week

In the week beginning 19th May, school will be holding it's Interfaith Week. Interfaith Week is an important part of our school calendar, reflecting our commitment as a Catholic school to respect, understanding, and dialogue between different faiths. Rooted in the Gospel values of love and unity, this week allows our pupils to explore and appreciate the beliefs, traditions, and practices of others, fostering a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect. By learning about

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different faiths, we deepen our own understanding of the world, strengthen our shared values, and build a community where all are welcomed and valued. Interfaith Week reminds us that, while we may come from different backgrounds, we are all called to live in peace, compassion, and service to one another. More information will follow nearer the time.

School Production

A shameless plug again for our school Production 'Into the Woods'. Save the date! Please note the date was incorrect in my last Newsletter. **It is on Tuesday 29th April, Wednesday 30th April and Thursday 1 May.** You will enjoy it hugely!

Governor Recognition

Congratulations to our long-serving Foundation Governor – Mrs Dorothy Monaghan. Mrs Monaghan was recently recognised by Lancashire County Council and received the Inspiration Award for her services to school. Over the last 22 years, Mrs Monaghan has volunteered her services tirelessly to supporting school recruitment, behaviour and attendance. Thank you, Mrs Monaghan, for your generous time and support over the years. If any member of our school community knows of a practising catholic who would like to join our governing body as a Foundation Governor, please contact head@st-maryshigh.lancs.sch.uk. There is currently a vacancy. It is a fantastic way to shape the direction and success of our school. The position requires attendance at 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.

Zebra and Pelican crossings outside school

Pupils are reminded to use the crossings outside school, particularly when getting off the buses. With your support we can continue to educate the pupils on crossing the road safely.

Uniform and Standards

As we move into the summer term, we know that many pupils will have started to outgrow the uniform purchased at the start of the school year. While we understand that growth is inevitable, it must not be used as an excuse for a decline in uniform standards. Wearing our uniform with pride reflects our school's values and commitment to excellence. To support families, we have a supply of pre-loved uniform available. Any pupil not in full uniform will be provided with the correct items. Trainers are not allowed, and we have spare school shoes for those who need them. For guidance on permitted school shoes, please visit our website. Thank you to parents and carers for your support in maintaining high uniform standards—this sets us apart and ensures a great first impression. A reminder that after Easter, school coats will not be allowed inside the building. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our standards high.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our Breakfast Club runs from 8.00am until 8.30am every day in our school hall. The menu includes bagels, toast, cheese on toast and juice. Prices range from 20p-80p per item. **Pupils who receive a free school meal are also eligible for a free breakfast up to the value of £1.50.**

As we enter our final week of term and look ahead to the holidays, I hope we are treated to a little more sunshine than we have seen recently. With spring unfolding around us, we can see and feel the signs of new life—a reminder of renewal, hope, and the joy that Easter brings. I wish all members of our school community a well-deserved break, filled with rest, joy, and blessings. May this Easter be a time of happiness and renewal for you and your loved ones. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back and ready for our final term of 2024-25 on **Tuesday, 22nd April at 8:30 am.**

Kind regards

Mrs Oddie - Headteacher