

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



*Let your
light shine*

30 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

NEWSLETTER 8 – Happy Easter

As we move through this final week of term, we do so entering into the solemn and significant time of Holy Week. Unlike last year, when our term ended before this point, it is particularly special for us to share this important part of our faith journey together in school. To gather as a school family during Holy Week allows us to reflect more deeply on its meaning, supporting one another as a community in prayer, reflection and preparation for Easter. Our Lenten journey continues to shape us in these final days, calling us to grow in awareness, compassion and understanding. This week, our **Charity Afternoon** offers a meaningful opportunity to put our faith into action, supporting local causes and making a difference to those in need. I encourage all pupils to take part and contribute in whatever way they can. It is an own clothes day, for the donation of £1, and payment can be made via our ParentPay system. Pupils can also bring loose change to spend at the stalls during the afternoon. Our week will finish as we gather together as a school family on Maundy Thursday to mark this special time before the break. **School will finish at approximately 1.30pm on Thursday 2nd April.**

Charity Work over Lent

As a school community, we would like to thank everyone for the generosity shown throughout this Lenten season. One of the key pillars of Lent is almsgiving, reaching out to others with kindness, compassion and practical support, it has been wonderful to see this lived out so fully by our pupils. Through contributions to Caritas through the St Joseph's penny boxes and CAFOD in the Big Lent Walk, our young people have shown a real commitment to putting faith into action. We are incredibly proud of the way pupils have looked beyond themselves to support those in need, recognising the importance of giving during Lent. A final total of the amount of money raised for the numerous charities we support will be shared after Easter – once our spectacular Charity Afternoon takes place!

Easter Holiday Vouchers and activities

South Ribble Borough Council are once again offering a range of free activities for young people eligible for free school meals over the Easter holidays. These include opportunities such as free family swimming and multisports, arts and crafts for pupils aged 11–16. [Further details, including how to book, can be found via the Holiday Activity and Food \(HAF\) programme on the South Ribble website.](#) In addition, eligible pupils will receive a £30 voucher to support families over the Easter break, issued in the usual way through the LCC Edenred system. If you have any questions about this, please contact [Mr Burrows, our School Business Manager.](#) We would also like to highlight a number of local organisations offering ongoing support and activities for young people. Inspire Youth Zone in Chorley and The Vault in Preston provide safe and engaging spaces with a wide range of activities and support services on offer. Primesport in Bamber Bridge offers sports and activity sessions to keep young people active and involved, while Lancashire Mind also run sessions locally in Bamber Bridge, supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing. These are excellent opportunities for pupils to stay active, connected and supported within the community. More information is available at the end of this newsletter.

Uniform and Standards

As we move into the summer term, we would like to remind all pupils and families of our expectations around school uniform. Maintaining high standards in how our uniform is worn reflects the pride we take in our school and our shared commitment to excellence. We ask that all pupils arrive in full and correct uniform each day. To support this, we have a supply of pre-loved uniform available, and any pupil not in full uniform will be provided with the correct items where needed. Trainers are not permitted, and we are able to provide spare school shoes if required. For further guidance on acceptable school shoes, please visit our website. A reminder also that, after Easter, school coats should not be worn inside the building. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in helping us maintain these high standards, which contribute so positively to the culture and presentation of our school. From the start of the 2026–27 academic year, we will be updating our uniform in

Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mrs N Oddie BA(Hons) NPQH



Let your
light shine

line with new government guidance, which requires schools to limit the number of compulsory branded items. This change is designed to make school uniform more affordable for families, while still maintaining the high standards we expect. The core elements of our uniform will remain the same, with four required branded items: the school blazer, school tie, school skirt or trousers, and the PE top. Additional branded items—such as PE shorts, PE skirt and a ¼ zip fleece (which may be worn as a jumper)—will be available but optional. These changes are intended to provide greater flexibility for families, while ensuring that our pupils continue to present themselves smartly and take pride in being part of our school community. More information on this will be issued nearer the end of the summer term.

Mobile Phones and Contact During the School Day

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers about our expectations regarding mobile phone use in school. While pupils generally meet these expectations well and mobile phones do not often disrupt learning, we have seen an increase in pupils contacting home directly during the school day. This can cause unnecessary concern for families before school staff have had the opportunity to support and resolve any issues. Pupils should always go through staff if they need to contact home, and we ask for your continued support in reinforcing this message. School sanctions will be used if a pupil fails to follow the behaviour policy and use their phone during the day. As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a calm, focused and distraction-free learning environment, we are also exploring the introduction of mobile phone pouches from next academic year. Further information will be shared in due course.

School Production

A shameless plug again for our school Production 'Sister Act Jnr'. Save the date! Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July 2026. Tickets on sale after Easter.



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.**

Considerate parking plea

Over the last couple of weeks, we have received a number of complaints from residents about parents parking dangerously along Collins Road/Withy Gardens and other areas around school, on double yellow lines, and in front of people's houses. Please refrain from parking dangerously and be considerate to residents when parking to drop off/collect your child from school. There are several car parks around Bamber Bridge and in close vicinity of school which can be used to drop off/collect children. For your information the Withy Gardens estate, just off Collins Road and adjacent to school, has a 'Residents Only' parking scheme in place. Wardens patrol the site and cars illegally parked will be given fixed fines/penalty notices. **Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.**

We come to the end of a busy and rewarding term with the joy and hope of Easter at the heart of all we have shared together. It has been a term filled with growth, generosity and a strong sense of community, and we are truly grateful for the continued support of our families in all that we do. We wish all pupils and their families a peaceful and joyful Easter, filled with rest, renewal and time together. In particular, we keep our Year 11 pupils in our thoughts as they approach the next stage of their journey, wishing them every success and confidence in the weeks ahead. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back and ready for our final term of 2025-26 on **Monday, 20th April at 8:30 am.**

Kind regards

Mrs Oddie, Headteacher



Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)



Find out at:
southribble.gov.uk/haf



Family Swims: Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
Tuesday 7 April - Friday 10 April - 10.45am - 12.45pm

Multi-Sports, Arts and Crafts: South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre
Tuesday 7 April - Friday 10 April - 10am - 2pm

Multi-Sports: Prime Sports, Our Lady and St Gerard's RC Primary School
Tuesday 7 April – Thursday 16 April - 8.30am - 1pm



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

BAMBER BRIDGE SPORTS HUB



PRIME SPORTS

FOR AGES 11-18



MULTI SPORTS



**ANIMATION
/FILM**



MUSIC

Join us for a **FREE** programme full of sport, creativity, animation, TV, music and new friendships.

Young people can take part in a variety of activities including multi-sports, music workshops and film, TV & animation sessions.

Places are limited – book now to secure your spot!

Why Join

- MULTI-SPORTS SESSIONS AND TEAM GAMES
- CREATIVE FILM, TV & ANIMATION WORKSHOPS
- MUSIC WORKSHOPS TO EXPLORE SOUND AND CREATIVITY
- DELIVERED BY EXPERIENCED COACHES AND FACILITATORS



www.primesportsacademy.co.uk

IN ASSOCIATION WITH





Children & Young People's Support

For ages 11-18
Mondays and
Thursdays: 5pm -8pm
Starts: Monday 26th.
January.2026

Lancashire
Mind's
Open Space

At Walton-Le-Dale Youth & Community Centre

Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, PR5 6YT

Open Space is a safe, friendly place to relax,
meet friends, make friends and boost your
mental health and wellbeing.

It's free, it's fun and all about YOU!
Come along and try it out.



Scan QR
to register



 mind
Lancashire

Registered charity number: 1081427