



Newsletter Friday 17th July 2026

Hebrews 12:1

So we have many people of faith around us. Their lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. We should remove from our lives anything that would get in the way. And we should remove the sin that so easily catches us.

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends,

As we reach the final days of the school year, we want to take a moment to look back and celebrate the absolutely fantastic year of learning, laughter, and growth we've shared here at GMSJ.

From the classroom to the great outdoors, our children have shone brightly, and we could not be prouder of everything they have achieved. Here are just a few of the highlights from this memorable year!

Learning at GMSJ always extends far beyond the classroom walls. This year has been packed with unforgettable trips and adventures for example:

- ❖ The Heights of Robin Wood: Our adventurers pushed their limits, conquered fears, and built brilliant teamwork skills.
- ❖ A Touch of Drama: We enjoyed some magical cultural experiences with our exciting trips to the theatre.
- ❖ Going Underground: We explored the stunning depths of the Ingleborough Caves, learning about geography and history firsthand.

It's been a remarkably wild year at school! We've welcomed a whole host of animals into our lives:

- ❖ Year 2 watched in wonder as their adorable chicks hatched and took their first steps.
- ❖ Year 4 took on the mantle of fantastic fish farmers, caring beautifully for their classroom fish.
- ❖ We also enjoyed hands-on learning with visits to see both farm and zoo animals, bringing science and nature directly to life for our pupils.

A school community is shaped by its people, and this year we have experienced both exciting new beginnings and emotional goodbyes. We were delighted to welcome Mr Briggs and Miss T Thompson to our team this year. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to our pupils.

A special and incredibly heartfelt mention must go to Mrs Hollas, our Deputy Head, English Lead, vital member of our Safeguarding Team and so much more, who is leaving us this summer. When I first arrived at GMSJ back in 2014, Mrs Hollas was already here. She had originally been specifically asked by the Local Authority to come to our school to help guide it into a better, stronger place—and she has certainly done exactly that. Over the last twelve plus years, her dedication, leadership, and deep care for our pupils have truly transformed our school. She has been a cornerstone of the GMSJ family, an invaluable colleague, and she will be so very sadly missed by the entire team. We wish her the absolute best in her next chapter!

Every single child at GMSJ has achieved so much this year. However, we want to shine a special spotlight on two very important groups. To our Year 6 pupils—as you prepare to leave GMSJ, we want to say a massive congratulations and a very fond farewell. You have been outstanding role models, and we wish you the absolute best of luck as you take your next steps into secondary school. Remember: once part of the GMSJ family, always part of the GMSJ family!

At the other end of the school our terrific Reception class are no longer the "new" children. You are now firmly and confidently part of the GMSJ family. It has been a joy to watch you grow in confidence and independence this year.

We know the summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity to make memories, but we also completely understand that they can be a time of pressure. Trying to balance work, life, and childcare is no easy feat!

If you are looking for support or activities to keep the children occupied, please remember:

- The HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) Club: Running right here at school, offering fantastic activities and meals.
- Local Hubs: Be sure to check out the wide range of scheduled events and activities running at our local community hubs throughout the summer.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your unwavering support, partnership, and community spirit throughout this year. See you all In September.

Warmest regards,

Mrs M Underwood



Goodbye and Good Luck, Year 6!

We want to wish a huge goodbye and good luck to our amazing Year 6 pupils as they leave us this week. Thank you for being such brilliant role models and for filling our school with so much joy. We are so proud of you all and wish you the absolute best of luck as you start your new adventure in secondary school. You will always be a part of our school family! 🎓

Happy Retirement, Mrs Hollas! On

Thursday 16th July, we will be saying a very fond farewell to the wonderful Mrs Hollas as she begins her well-deserved retirement. We want to say a huge thank you for her incredible dedication, kindness, and all the fantastic memories she has given our school community over the years. You will be missed terribly, Mrs Hollas, but we wish you a long, happy, and relaxing retirement!

Don't Forget:

School breaks up for the Summer holidays on Friday 17th July at 2pm. Have a great break!

Reminder:

School re-opens on Thursday, 3rd September at 8:45 AM. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the summer!

Thank You to Our School Helpers! ❤️

A

huge thank you to the fantastic **GMSJ Friends Group** and all the wonderful volunteers, parents, and carers who have supported us throughout the year. From helping on trips to organizing brilliant events, your time and effort are deeply appreciated by everyone at school. Thank you for your continued dedication and support!

Changes to free school meals:

You may or not be aware that Free School Meals are changing. From September any family that is in receipt of Universal Credit is eligible for Free School Meals. If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, please follow the following link and submit an application.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/apply/?page=3>

This will hopefully provide much needed relief to anyone that requires it. If you require any assistance in making an application then please get in touch with either myself, Mrs Fletcher or Mrs Lawton.

Labelling School Uniform

A polite reminder to please ensure that **all** items of clothing - especially coats, jumpers, and cardigans - have your child's name clearly written on them. Labeling clothes helps us return lost items to their rightful owners quickly. Thank you for your cooperation!

GMSJ Award Winners

Alfie-Lee Year 5

For exceptional independent writing which included LOADS of writing features.

Albert Year 1

For a perfect 'p'

Isla Year 4

For exciting newspapers based on the book Macavity.

Alice Year 4

For exciting newspapers based on the book Macavity.

Fatima Year 2

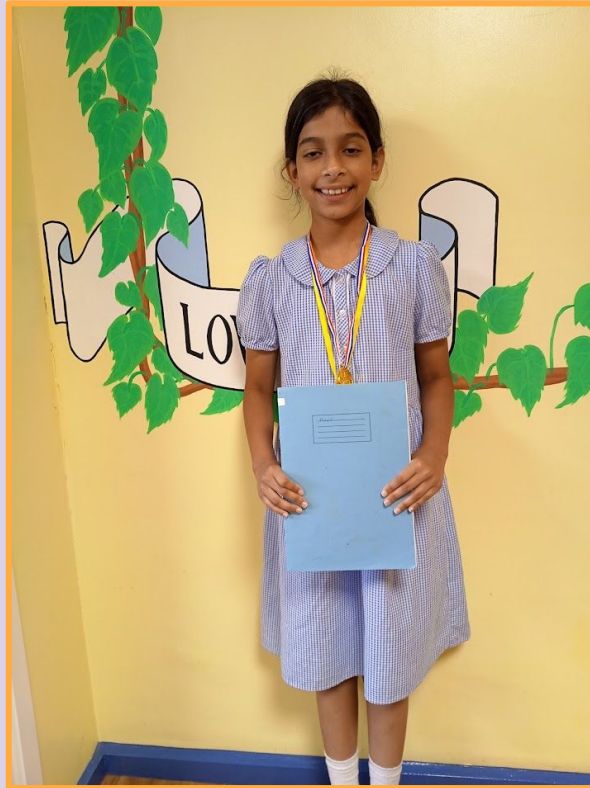
For a incredible writing

Olivia Year 4

For exciting newspapers based on the book Macavity.

Inaya Year 4

For exciting newspapers based on the book Macavity.



Iris Year 4

For exciting newspapers based on the book Macavity.



Attendance winners

**Attendance Winners w/c 6th July:
Year 4**

**Most Improved:
Reception**

Attendance Heroes

Celebrating 100% Attendance All Year

We are incredibly proud to celebrate our amazing students who have achieved a **perfect 100% attendance record** for the entire school year!

 Our 100% Champions 

Jessica	Year 1
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Ashriel	Year 3
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Alice	Year 4
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Noah	Year 4
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Iris	Year 4
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Wilfred	Year 4
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Chloe	Year 5
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Showing up every single day ready to learn, play, and grow is a massive achievement. A huge congratulations to these dedicated students and a big thank you to their families for supporting them!



Masterchefs in the Making in Year 3!



As part of their Design and Technology project this term, our creative Year 3 pupils designed and made delicious seasonal tarts. The children did a brilliant job practicing their vegetable-chopping skills and carefully selecting a range of ingredients to design their own unique, tasty fillings.





Our Year 6 pupils put their culinary skills to the ultimate test by preparing an incredible three-course meal! The talented young chefs cooked up a storm, serving delicious stuffed peppers to start, a vibrant stir-fry for the main course, and a mouth-watering crumble for dessert.





Year 2



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Help our school raise funds—completely free!

Did you know you can support Great Marsden St John's every time you shop online, without it costing you a single penny extra?

Through Easyfundraising, thousands of brands (like Tesco, Asda, shein eBay, Argos, and M&S) will donate to our school when you use their site to shop.

How it works in 3 simple steps:

Click our unique link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnsgmarsden>

Search for your favorite online shop.

Shop as usual! The brand will donate a percentage of your spend to our school—completely free.

It's that simple! Please share this link with family and friends. Every purchase, no matter how small, makes a huge difference for our pupils.

Thank you so much for your continued support!

Summer Holiday Events

at Nelson Library



w/c 20/07/2026				
All Week	See below for opening hours	Scavenger Hunt: The Hunt for the Sea Monster's Treasure.	Family	No
Monday	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Tuesday	10:00 – 12:00	Pirate Stop-Go Animation Workshop	8+	Yes
	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Wednesday	14:00 – 14:45	Storytime	2+	No
	16:00 – 18:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Thursday	11:00 – 11:45	Action Rhyme Time	2-5	No
Friday	11:00 – 11:45	Baby Bounce and Rhyme	0-2	No
	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Saturday	11:00 – 15:00	Lego Club	Family	No
w/c 27/07/2026				
All Week	See below for opening hours	Scavenger Hunt: The Hunt for the Sea Monster's Treasure.	Family	No
Monday	11:00 – 12:00	Pirate Crafts	Family	No
	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Tuesday	14:30 – 16:00	Let's Build a Pirate Ship Together!	8+	Yes
Wednesday	14:00 – 14:45	Storytime	2+	No
	16:00 – 18:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Thursday	11:00 – 11:45	Action Rhyme Time	2-5	No
Friday	11:00 – 11:45	Baby Bounce and Rhyme	0-2	No
	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Saturday	11:00 – 12:30	Fold Your Own Pirate Ship	Family	No

All activities are free of charge. If you have any questions, or would like to book a slot where necessary, please visit the library and ask at the enquiries desk, call 0300 123 6703 or book online


 at www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries

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w/c 03/08/2026				
All Week	See below for opening hours	Scavenger Hunt: The Hunt for the Sea Monster's Treasure.	Family	No
Monday	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
	14:30 – 15:30	Junior Pirates Quiz	8+	Yes
Tuesday	14:30 – 16:00	Let's Build a Pirate Ship Together!	Family	No
Wednesday	14:00 – 14:45	Storytime	2+	No
	16:00 – 18:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Thursday	11:00 – 11:45	Action Rhyme Time	2-5	No
Friday	11:00 – 11:45	Baby Bounce and Rhyme	0-2	No
	14:30 – 16:00	Pokemon Quest	Family	No
Saturday	11:00 – 15:00	Lego Club	Family	No
w/c 10/08/2026				
All Week	See below for opening hours	Scavenger Hunt: The Hunt for the Sea Monster's Treasure.	Family	No
Monday	14:30 – 15:30	Pirate Storytime and Paper Plate Pirates	Family	No
Tuesday	14:30 – 16:00	Let's Build a Pirate Ship Together!	Family	No
Wednesday	14:00 – 14:45	Storytime	2+	No
	16:00 – 18:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Thursday	11:00 – 11:45	Action Rhyme Time	2-5	No
Friday	11:00 – 11:45	Baby Bounce and Rhyme	0-2	No
	14:00 – 16:00	Let's Go Lego!	Family	No
Saturday	14:30 – 15:30	Make Your Own Pirate Flag	Family	No

All activities are free of charge. If you have any questions, or would like to book a slot where

