



Our Lady of the Assumption

December 2024



Staff Learning

Our staff training and development has progressed at a pace this term. All staff accessed emotional coaching workshops to build on our trauma informed approaches. Curriculum work has progressed through study of researched approaches as well as live training via Blackpool Research School, The Maths Hub, Voice 21 a national Oracy specialist, The English Hub, the Diocese, BEBCMAT central team and most recently The Royal Shakespeare Company. A highlight for our fire safety team included class based study at Blackpool Airport then a trip across the runway in fire engines to then practice extinguishing fires with planes and helicopters landing and taking off around them...very James Bond.

Every child a leader

Our children have been really enjoying their leadership responsibilities.

Year 4 have taken on a new role in our school as our resilience team, leading us in wellbeing activities including a fitness activity for all of our pupils as well as simple ways to bring a smile. They have also accessed circus skills workshops and will be building on this in the next term.

Year 5 have been developing all pupils understanding of democracy. During UK Parliament Week they held a whole school vote and will enjoy hosting a whole school dance a thon on Wednesday morning.

First reconciliation Congratulations

Year 4&5 pupils made their first reconciliation on Saturday 23rd November. They will start again early next year with after school learning in church as they prepare for their First Holy Communion in June 2025. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they continue this special journey.

Wider Curriculum highlights this term

We've been busy with sport and wider curriculum activities this term and have had much success. Some highlights include: Year 2 made the finals of the Fit2Glow football tournament at Blackpool Tower. Our Year 6 girls' football team won the Blackpool finals and will now go through to the Lancashire schools finals day in January. Our newly formed KS2 cross country club competed in their first event in December with Year 6 girls team taking 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th places giving them first place overall. Our Year 5 and 6 boys finished 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 8th.

Our dance club are busy preparing for Schools Alive with weekly rehearsals and our choir have performed at community events and attended The Mayors Parlour for a Christmas event. The choir will be sharing their skills on Thursday at the Key Stage 2 Carol Service.

Year 6 girls football team Blackpool Schools Winners 2024



Bikeability Success

You may have noticed we had lots of bikes around school for the last half term.



This was due to Bikeability courses running for Year 5 and 6 this term. This is an incredible offer of two days training which is free for the children to access. They spend one morning on the school site on their Level 1 and then if they pass this progress to Level 2 which is training on the roads to learn to navigate safely. They are taken out in small groups with extremely experienced trainers. For some the weather was very mixed but they showed excellent resilience to achieve the Level 2 Award.

This is a great opportunity for pupils to access high quality training in such a valuable life skill. Congratulations to all who took part and thanks to their families for support with bikes and the appropriate clothing for the event.

Advent

Open our eyes to see

Open our ears to hear

Open our lives to live your calling

Open us Lord to love

Everyone busy, everyone rushing...,

Creating time to slow down in this busy part of the year is the joy of Advent.

It has been very joyous to slow down and take part in Advent reflections in school and church over the last two weeks. A group of Year 3 pupils presented a gentle reminder of the season when they represented our school at the Blackpool Catholic Schools Annual Advent Service last week and then we have enjoyed the Year 1 and 2 and of course our Reception class nativity services which were beautiful.

We are looking forward to ending the term with Our Key Stage 2 Carol Service in church on Thursday at 2pm. We look forward to welcoming families to share in this joyous end of term event with us.

PTFA Thanks



We have all enjoyed the contributions of the PTFA this half term. The key stage 2 disco and the Reception, Year 1 and 2 movie night as well as the recent Christmas Fair were great celebrations of community.

The younger children were filled with surprise to see Father Christmas and Olaf. Thank you to the PTFA and all families who contributed with gifts to make the events possible and of course by supporting the events.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 17th December – School Christmas lunch and Christmas own clothes celebration

- 2.30pm Year 4 cornet concert in school hall – Yr4 parents welcome to attend (limited spaces, max 2 seats per child)

Wednesday 18th December - Year 5 leading whole school dance- a-thon

- 10am – year 4 Reconciliation in church

Thursday 19th December – 2pm KS2 Carol Service in church, families welcome

School close for Christmas break

First day back - Monday 6th January 2025

School clubs 2025 will begin on Monday 13th January 2025

Mondays – Year 2 Multi Skills (after school)

Tuesdays - KS2 Creation Station Art Club (after school) – link to book:

<https://portal.thecreationstation.franscape.io/class-overview/7806>

Year 3 and 4 multi skills club (after school)

Year 4,5 & 6 cornet tuition and flute tuition (Lunchtime)

Wednesdays - Year 5 and 6 football girls and boys clubs (after school)

Thursdays - KS2 choir (lunchtime)

KS2 Cross Country Club (after school)

KS2 Drama Club (after school, from 23/1/25)

Fridays - Year 5 and 6 drumming tuition (mornings)

KS2 Dance Club (after school, until half term)

Year 1 story reading lunchtime club lead by Year 6

Wednesday wellbeing lunch skip a thon events KS2

Wishing all a festive and happy Christmastide

