



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

NEWSLETTER 9 – 9th January 2026

A very Happy New Year to you all. It has been great to see the children back in school this week and to get back to the important business of learning. We know that this can be a challenging time of year for many and do hope that everyone managed to have some rest and relaxation and quality time with loved ones.

Mr Mackley
Headteacher

Winter Wellbeing

A timely reminder with the very cold weather we have had recently, if you are struggling with the challenges of winter, Preston City Council have access to advice and support. More information can be found here <https://www.helpinpreston.com/winterwellbeing25>

Wellbeing Survey

As part of our commitment to developing children academically, emotionally and socially, we want to know specifically what the needs of our children are. We are working with the Schools Advisory Service on developing wellbeing support for our staff **and** our children and to get the data to help us plan, over the rest of January, children from Year 2 to Year 6 will be given the opportunity to undertake an anonymous survey which will help us generate a clear picture of where we need to target our support. The survey is created and managed by a company called "Bounce Together" who already work with many schools - you can find out more here <https://www.bouncetogether.co.uk/our-testimonials>

School Admissions

A final reminder that Primary School applications **must be completed** by January 15th 2026! Please do tell anyone you know who is looking for a place to consider us, we are more than happy to offer opportunities for people new to the school to come and have a look around. Applications can be made here

<https://schooladmissions.lancashire.gov.uk/prefs.php>

Punctuality

We have seen a real improvement in children arriving on time over the Autumn Term and we want to see that continue this term - remember 5 minutes a day late adds up to 2 and half hours missed learning over a ½ term. Once the bell goes and the gates are closed, children are officially late and will be recorded as such.

It is great to see so many waiting for the gates to open at 8:45 and to see the children eager to get to their classes and start learning, let's get the whole school in before the bell goes!

Confused by the Digital Lives of Children?

With the way online content is constantly changing, it can be quite daunting. The Children's Commissioner for England has published some online guidance for parents to help them navigate the many challenges which exist. Please visit

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/> to find out more!

Get outdoors!

Even though the weather is cold, it is great to get children off their devices and get outdoors! Even in the city, there are many things which can be seen, we have the advantage of having Fishwick Bottoms and Brockholes within walking distances of school. The BBC have produced a webpage of suggestions of things to look out for in winter and it can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zwbmg2p>

Uniform

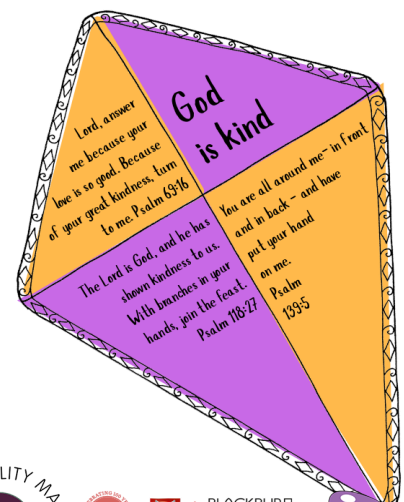
A number of children have come to school this week in shiny new trainers instead of school shoes. Please can we remind you that trainers are **not** acceptable as uniform and plain black shoes should be worn; children coming to school in trainers will be asked to change into their PE pumps whilst indoors.

Reflection & Prayer

This week we began a series of worships along with schools all over Blackburn Diocese to celebrate it being 100 years old this year. The theme is "God is kind" and we are all being encouraged to learn more about kindness and being kind this year.

We heard several excerpts from the book of Psalms which talked about God's kindness:

At the end, children were invited to join in with this prayer together:



Father God, thank you that you are the best example of kindness. You invented it. I am so thankful that your kindness never runs out. You are kind forever.

Amen

Many of our worships can be viewed online here <https://www.st-matthewscofe.lancs.sch.uk/blog/category/worship>

Stars of the Week and Values Awards.

Week ending 9th January 2026

Year	Star of the Week	Values Award
Rec	Ayesha & Ibrahim	Haider & Saharsitu
Y1	Lena & Azhar	Emily & Khadija
Y2	Shafay & Hamdan	Azlan & Sofia
Y3	Denis & Nawaz	soheil & Amina
Y4	Maira & Maria	Britney & Zaynab
Y5	Amardeep & M. Patel	Abinoor & Uzair
Y6	Aleen & Hibah	Oscar & Kainaat

KS2 Maths Challenge (Mr Ward)	Usman - Y5
Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) (Mrs Gretton)	-
Numbots (Mrs Gretton)	Luke, Kamila & Haroon - all Y2 have made the biggest improvements in accuracy this week.
Geography Challenge (Mrs Copeland)	-