

# Newsletter June 2024



Dear Families,

Can you believe we are in the final half term of what can only be described the fastest academic year ever? Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and we look forward to continuing to welcome you into school as the end of term events loom ever closer. This is be the penultimate newsletter of the year! Last week, I was so very fortunate to be in the presence of His Holiness, Pope Francis. Along with the Catholic Heads from our diocese he sent a blessing to all our school families back at home, it is my pleasure to pass that onto you all.



## Attendance

You will be fully aware of the national drive to increase school attendance and ensure all pupils receive their full entitlement to the education available to them. Please find this school year's attendance so far. Please do help us by bringing your child to school every day unless they are unwell and by booking holidays outside of term time. We are really trying to reach a whole school percentage of 97% - you can help!

Current academic year up to Friday 28 June 2024

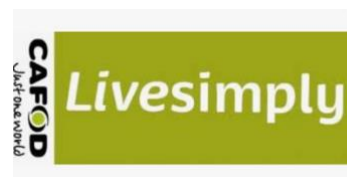
Number of pupils 127	Overall attendance % 96.6%	Overall absence % 3.4%	Unauthorised absence % 0.4%
Persistently absent Number of persistently absent pupils 6		Severely absent Number of severely absent pupils 0	
Percentage of persistently absent pupils 4.7%		Percentage of severely absent pupils 0.0%	

Last 5 days (24 June 2024 to 28 June 2024)

Overall attendance % 95.2%	Overall absence % 4.8%	Unauthorised absence % 1.3%
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## Thankful Thursdays

Thank you for your generous giving on our thankful Thursdays; you are helping us to make a difference in two ways! Local charities are benefitting from your kindness and the school council, who have organised this, are working



towards the CAFOD Live Simply award – this is a significant part of the work they must undertake. Thank you!

## Updates and events!

More and more families are accessing our online calendar, thanks for doing this; we are updating it every week and hope to text out more regular reminders to you.

<https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1,3,4&pid=10&viewid=2>

Please may I urge you to look at these to prepare for the busy few weeks ahead especially for our Y6 parents. There are also some whole school events to which you are all invited including a choir concert, our art exhibition and mass.

## May news update

Thank you for your understanding in us not being able to send out a newsletter at the end of May. However, so much happened in that month and the busy theme has continued in June with theatre trips, musicals attended, Samba band workshops GB athlete visits, bus trips to Barton Grange, intense daily swimming and so much more!

Congratulations to the children who made their First Holy Communion, they looked beautiful and were given the most amazing Communion breakfast



by the team of adults who organised this, Huge thanks to Mrs Clegg and Mrs Smith (on behalf of the PTFA) for leading this.

Hothersall Lodge was fantastic, the children really enjoyed this amazing experience and my heartfelt

thanks go to all the staff who worked around the clock, day and night, for three days to provide the very best time for all the children.

KS2 SATs are finished – thank goodness! Well done, the children were brilliant and the staff prepared them excellently for this experience.

Jays loved going to theatre to see 'The Boy at the back of the class' a very emotional story of the current refugee crisis

## Sports day and Summer fair

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the children in their sports day – it was a fantastic day for all and great fun to see so many grown ups get involved in the big races. A huge thanks to Mrs Noonan and Mrs Foy for their hard work in organising the whole event.

'Sports Day' the movie will be coming to a screen near you soon, watch this space...

The summer fair was a roaring success and entirely organised by the PTFA – A small but fabulous group of parents who work really hard to provide great fun activities whilst raising funds for our children. The figure raised so far is just over £700; thank you for all of your generosity. In the Autumn term, we hope to welcome many more families onto this important committee, to be able to offer more activities and run more stalls (which the children love) it needs more people on board – details will come in September of how you can join in and help. The more the merrier!

## Moving up day

Your children will be meeting and spending time with their new teacher on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, everyone has now been informed of their new year group and we look forward to the exciting changes ahead.

## Summertime clubs

Activesport holiday club and Fizzy Tree will be hosting clubs during the summer holidays, please get in touch directly with them to book your child's place.

## School dinners

LCC School dinners will be increasing in price in September from £2.50 to £2.70. This is a cost we have tried to avoid passing onto our families during the recent cost of living crisis, please do talk to us if this presents any difficulties for you. All infant children remain in receipt of a free school meal.

## Sacrament of Confirmation

Sacrament of Confirmation is on Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> at OLSE church, a group of our Y6 children will be receiving this sacrament from Bishop Swarbrick and we ask you to hold them in your prayers at this special time.



## A Prayer to Begin Summer

For more light in the day, we thank you,

For gentle mornings, we thank you,

For nighttime conversations, we thank you,

For friends and family, we thank you,

For gardens and all manner of creatures, we thank you.

Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.

Help us love this earth.

Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives this day.

Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest, and create.

Amen.