

# Newsletter



Guide Us O God To Be The Best We Can Be;  
In Every Thought, In Every Word And Every Deed

20<sup>th</sup> September 2024



## *Welcome back!*

What a fabulous start to the new academic year! It is so lovely to see everybody back, looking so smart and so grown up! An extra warm welcome to all our first-time children and families, we are looking forward to working with you and your children. There has been lots of amazing learning going on - thank you to the children and staff team for all their hard work and getting off to such a good start to the year.

## *Upcoming Events:*

We encourage our parents to continue to check the online school calendar for upcoming events.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Family Adult Learning Network Morning (great coffee and biscuits provided!!)
- 25<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 SATs Meeting (5:30pm)
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – Eagles class trip to Kirkham Grammar High School (Author morning)
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – McMillan Coffee Afternoon (1:30 – 3:30pm)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Parents Online Safety Session (4:00 – 4:45pm)
- 4<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival Assembly (all welcome)
- 10<sup>th</sup> October – World Mental Health Day (everyone to wear yellow!)
- 16<sup>th</sup> October – Black History Workshop and Concert for KS2 (from 6:15pm)
- 17<sup>th</sup> October – Owls class trip to Blackburn Art & History Museum

## *Sporting News:*

Last week, the KS2 children took part in Jujitsu workshops, which were brilliant fun! Some of our UKS2 boys represented the school at town team trials on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Mrs Foy commented on the fact that they were all great ambassadors for our school – well done, boys! This is an exciting time for sports at SMSA, lots of fixtures to come – watch this space!

## Catholic Life of the School:

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year. This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer.

We give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage that we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth our common home.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, we had our first Mass of the year. It was led by some of the Eagles children, who all read beautifully. Thank you to those involved. This was a lovely way to welcome all of our SMSA family together and celebrate the start of the new school year.

## Praised be

Living God,  
have mercy on us,  
for the times we forget  
that we belong to each other.

You call us to be still,  
to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,  
to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,  
and to be nourished by our Mother Earth.

Renew us in your healing love.  
Inspire us to water the earth,  
and nurture one another,  
so all may flourish.

Together, as one family,  
may we always sing your praise.  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## Attendance:

Our attendance since returning to school has been excellent! Well done and thank you to all of our families for understanding the importance of attending school every single day. We are above our 97% target for this week and overall!

## St Mary and St Andrew's Catholic Primary School, Barton Newsham

Current academic year up to Thursday 19 September 2024

- Current insights
- Data visualisations
- Previous academic year
- Year-to-date comparison
- Absence bandings

Number of pupils	Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
129	98.2%	1.8%	0.6%
<b>Persistently absent</b>		<b>Severely absent</b>	
Number of persistently absent pupils	Percentage of persistently absent pupils	Number of severely absent pupils	Percentage of severely absent pupils
6	4.7%	0	0.0%

Last 5 days (13 September 2024 to 19 September 2024)

Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
98.8%	1.2%	0.1%

## Uniform:

Thank you for ensuring the children look so smart in their uniforms! As the colder months approach, please remember to send your child to school with a navy blue coat for warmth. Additionally, any child with chin-length hair or longer should have it tied back for health and safety. We appreciate your support in helping our school community shine!

## Parking:

We would like to remind all families that parking on the bridge, or blocking the church entrance, is not permitted at any time. Please be mindful of this to ensure safety for everyone when travelling to and from school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe.



## Our P.T.F.A:

We are incredibly grateful for our wonderful PTFA (Parents, Teachers, and Friends Association), whose hard work and dedication make a huge difference to our school. Their fundraising efforts directly benefit the children, helping to improve provisions and create new opportunities for learning and growth. If you're interested in joining this fantastic team, please contact the school office—we'd love to welcome more parents and carers to get involved in supporting our school community!

## School Levy Fund:

As a Catholic school, we have 'voluntary aided' status. This gives us the freedom to provide the Catholic education which you have chosen for your child, but this comes at a price. To access the funding provided by the Department for Education the Diocese have to find 10% of the cost of repairing, maintaining and improving all school buildings themselves – other LA controlled schools do not have to do this. In order to meet these costs the Diocese initiated a Levy Scheme on its schools. However we simply do not have enough money to cover the cost of the Levy, therefore we invite parents to make a contribution towards these costs by making a donation to the Diocesan Levy Scheme, a suggested donation would be £20 per child however we would welcome any amount you see fit. This contribution is requested each year following a review of the situation by the Governors and can be paid online using your SCOPAY account or by a regular standing order. UK tax payers can take advantage of the fund's charitable status and Gift Aid their donations which will increase the contribution by 25%.

We hope to continue to maintain and improve the school environment for the children and staff, but for our aims to be realised, we must once again rely on your generous help. Please log on to your SCOPAY account to make a payment, if you are a tax payer please first complete the Gift Aid Declaration by clicking on Your Info at the top of the page then on Gift Aid, complete the form ticking the box to Gift Aid your donations. Paper copies will be sent home for your signature.

We welcome a regular commitment from our families in the form of a [standing order](#) which can be set up monthly, quarterly or annually for an amount of your choosing, please complete the Standing Order Mandate below, not forgetting to complete the Gift Aid Form if you are a tax payer to increase your donation by 25%.

# Parent Lite App

Through the GDPR legislation parents have enhanced rights regarding the information held on their child. In order to meet these additional rights we have teamed up with SIMS who manage our pupil data to provide parents with the Parent Lite App. SIMS Parent Lite app delivers school data collection solutions that comply with the new GDPR data requirements, by providing a simple way to collect, manage and handle information by obtaining accurate data securely from parents, we are encouraging all parents to download the app to be able to update the data we hold. Available on iOS, Android and a browser, the SIMS Parent Lite app provides a convenient and accessible solution for parents to electronically review and request changes to the data held on them and their children. New Parents have been sent an invitation to use SIMS Parent Lite, please see the attached guide to create your account. Existing parents should log in and check the data we hold, making amendments as necessary. If you have any problems with accessing SIMS Parent Lite please contact the school office and we will endeavour to help.

## Discover Family Learning over Coffee

Book your place with school today!

During this fun and informal engagement session delivered in school, you will enjoy a taste of Family Learning and an introduction to the many FREE courses that Lancashire Adult Learning can offer you!

**Monday 23rd September**  
9am - 11.30am

Free to attend

WWW.LAL.AC.UK

### Fully Funded School Support Course

[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)

Levels 1, 2 & 3

CACHE Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent  
 CACHE Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours  
 CACHE Certificate in the Principles of SEN

Six Week Course  
 Mon - Fri  
 9:30 - 11:30am  
 12:30 - 2:30pm  
 4 - 4:30pm  
 (last optional session for reflection and support if needed)

Level 1:

- CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
- CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
- CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
- Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace

Level 2:

- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
- CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours

Level 3:

- Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must Be Aged 19+
- Either Claim Benefits (Universal Credit, JSA, ESA, PIP, Income Support, Housing Benefits or any type of Tax Credit including Child Tax Credit)
- OR, be in employment, able to attend the sessions and earning less than £23,500 per year
- You Can't be a student or an International Student
- You Can't be an Asylum Seeker
- You Must have lived in the UK for a Minimum of 3 Years (Except if you are from the Ukraine)

Go to: [www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online) for more info!

## Seeking bright eyed and bushy tailed new recruits

Squirrels. The newest branch of the Scouts family tree. Where 4-6 year olds can join in too.

This is an age when minds are fizzing, when energy and curiosity levels are sky high, when little lives are full of wow and wonder.

Set them climbing the tree. Who knows how far they'll reach?

07944 857813  
 Bfulwoodsquirrels@gmail.com  
 #SkillsForLife

Scouts  
 8th Fulwood (Our Lady and St. Edward's)

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## GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Come and join us at our

# OPEN EVENING

Thursday 19th September 2024  
 6.00pm - 8.30pm

Presentation by the Headteacher - Mr S Singh at 6pm, 7pm & 8pm

OPEN MORNINGS  
 Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th & Thursday 26th September from 9am to 10.30am

GCA | Bowgreave, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1YE | Tel: 01995 603226 | email: info@garstang.fcal.org.uk | www.garstangcommunityacademy.com

# START A NEW CHAPTER

## OPEN DAY

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER  
 For Ages 3-18 Years Old

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Discover what sets Kirkham Grammar School apart!  
 Scan the QR code to book your tour today!