

Newsletter



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

October 2024



This Month's News:

This has been a very busy month for us at SMSA! We would like to thank the children, staff and wider community for their hard work and commitment to our school during our inspection. We look forward to sharing the report with you when we are able to. The children have done lots of amazing learning and some classes have even been on some trips, which looked like lots of fun! Our Eagles class went to Kirkham Grammar School for a talk from Onajli Rauf, author of 'Boy at the Back of the Class'. Our Wrens class had a very exciting visit from Kimber the guide dog! The Jays class went on their trip to the Roman Museum where they were able to dress up in Roman armour and look at the remains of the Roman castle. The Owls have been to Blackburn Museum of Art & History where they experienced the Ancient Egypt Workshop and a self-portrait workshop. Our KS2 children have also taken part in the wonderful Black History workshops and our Gospel choir event was a hit as well. Thank you to all of those involved.

Events Coming Up:

We kindly ask that all families keep up-to-date with SMSA events on the school website calendar. Due to the ongoing buildings work, there will be no Friday assemblies until further notice. Children will celebrate their achievements in class.

28.10.24 – Staff INSET Day, children to return to school on 29.10.24

31.10.24 – Pumpkin Power School Discos (6pm and 7pm)

01.11.24 – Great Fire of London Event Day - Wrens & Robins.

04.11.24 – Eagles WW2 Class Trip at the Museum of Lancashire

06.11.24 – Parents Evening (2pm – 6pm) - appointments are available to book via Scopay. Eagles appointments available from 1pm.

11.11.24 – Anti-bullying week

Catholic Life of the School:

We have been doing lots of fundraising and charity work so far this academic year. Thank you for your generosity at our Harvest Collection, we have collected a great amount of food and toiletries. These will be taken to church, blessed and taken to the local foodbank.

Thank you, as always, to those families who took part in and donated to our MacMillan coffee afternoon. This was a great success and we raised nearly £350 in cash on the day, plus online donations!



Attendance:

Our attendance since returning to school continues to be 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 overall since the start of this academic year.

Current academic year up to Wednesday 16 October 2024

Number of pupils	Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
129	97.7%	2.3%	0.4%
Persistently absent		Severely absent	
Number of persistently absent pupils	Percentage of persistently absent pupils	Number of severely absent pupils	Percentage of severely absent pupils
10	7.8%	0	0.0%

Last 5 days (10 October 2024 to 16 October 2024)

Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
96.6%	3.4%	0.5%

Sporting News:

Congratulations to the year 3/4 team who participated in the inclusion mini skills competition in September and came 4th. Well done to the year 3/4 team who participated in the u9 mini skills at the beginning of this month coming 6th in a group of 12. The year 5/6 boys' football team did really well in the 6-a-side tournament at Play Football, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the knockout phases. The year 5/6 hockey team have seen some fantastic results over the past couple of weeks winning 3 out of 5 matches.

Huge congratulations to Jonah Lucas who has been chosen to represent the Preston City Schools u11 boys' team! We are extremely proud. Well done to all of the boys who were selected to take part in these trials - Jacob Dawson, Rudi Palmer, Alexander Thorpe and Dexter Whalley. They did the school proud in the way they behaved and conducted themselves on the football pitch.

Fantastic feedback from the Tri-kids team for all the school - they were blown away with the children's ability, attitude and behaviour throughout the morning and would like to book a resilience session later this year for KS2 and a whole school event in the summer term.

Wrens Fundraising:

As part of our work on senses, Wrens had a visit from Guide Dog Ambassador, Kimber. We learnt how guide dogs are working dogs and help people with visual impairments live independent lives. It costs a staggering £60,000 to train and keep a guide dog until it retires. Wrens wanted to help with some fundraising so they hosted a cake sale for the school on Friday 18th October. Well done, Wrens!



School Sickness:

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell.

There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about health protection and managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone us on the first day to let us know that your child won't be in and to give the reason. If your child is well enough to go to school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, please do let their teacher know. For more information, please see this NHS link: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Reading at home with your child

We love you to read with your child every day – no matter which year they are in, listening to your children read is so good for them. You can help them decode new words, develop fluency and accuracy and truly develop as life-long readers. Don't forget to sign their reading record when you have read together.



Health & Safety:

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Please see the attached guide which offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.



Milk:

From the start of next half term, all children (including KS2) will be able to order milk for break time. If you would like to register to order milk for your child, please follow the link: <https://customers.coolmilk.com/v2/register/>

Let's Go Sing Logins:

If your child would like to practise the Let's Go Sing songs at home, please follow this link: <https://www.whoopsadaisymusic.co.uk>

Kids-Zone Password: lets2025

Meeting Tim Peake!

Ted (Robins) and Emily (Owls) have been lucky enough to meet British Astronaut, Tim Peake!

We hope this was an 'out of this world' experience for you both!

