

# Newsletter



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

## November 2024



### This Month's News:

November has been a very busy month for us! Our Wrens and Robins had an amazing workshop all about the Great Fire of London, the Eagles had a fantastic morning at the Museum of Lancashire learning about World War 2 and all classes had a wonderful visit from the Life Education team about their bodies and minds. We also recognised Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank to you all of the families who were able to join us for Parents' Evening. This was a really positive opportunity for us to celebrate all the wonderful things the children have been achieving so far this year.

### Events Coming Up:

December is a very busy month for us at SMSA! We encourage families to continue to check the online school calendar for upcoming events: <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=2,1,3,4&pid=10&viewid=2>

- 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Whole school wearing blue for our belated St Andrew's Day Celebrations
- 4<sup>th</sup> December: Advent Service at Our Lady's Catholic High School (Salvation Army Donation)
- 5<sup>th</sup> December: TriKidz Resilience event for KS2
- 6<sup>th</sup> December: Non-uniform day (EYFS and KS1 to bring gifts/chocolate, KS2 to bring bottles for Tombola)
- 9<sup>th</sup> December: Eagles First Aids Workshop
- 11<sup>th</sup> December: Nativity Performance in Church (2pm and 6pm)
- 13<sup>th</sup> December: Choir visiting Brainkind to sing and delivering Christmas cards
- 13<sup>th</sup> December: Mini Christmas Fair (3-5pm)
- 16<sup>th</sup> December: Reports sent home to families
- 16<sup>th</sup> December: Rocksteady Concert (2:30pm)
- 18<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas dinner day (wear your Christmas jumpers!) & Reindeer Run Sports Event
- 19<sup>th</sup> December: Whole School Mass in Church (2pm)
- 20<sup>th</sup> December: Finishing for Christmas break (school closing at 1:15pm)

### Attendance:

Our attendance continues 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 28 November 2024

Current insights	Number of pupils	Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %
Data visualisations	131	97.3%	2.7%	0.6%
Previous academic year				
Year-to-date comparison				
Absence bandings				
Unauthorised absence				
Check leaver data				
	Persistently absent		Severely absent	
	Number of persistently absent pupils	Percentage of persistently absent pupils	Number of severely absent pupils	Percentage of severely absent pupils
	11	8.4%	0	0.0%
	Last 5 days (22 November 2024 to 28 November 2024)			
	Overall attendance %	Overall absence %	Unauthorised absence %	
	95.6%	4.4%	0.2%	

## Catholic Life of the School:

Thank you to those who were involved in organising the Remembrance Day service in Bilsborrow on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. The year 6 children took part in this service and represented our school extremely well. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November it was the Holy Feast of Christ the King; it was also National Youth Sunday where we celebrated the faith in action of young people all around the country. Thank you to the families who attended mass with us and thank you to the children who took part in this wonderful service. A reminder to families to wear blue on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December for a belated St Andrew's Day celebration in school. Mrs Roach will be coming around to the classes to tell the story of St Andrew.

## Student Council:

Congratulations to our KS2 children who were voted into the student council by their peers. This year, our council members are Vincent & Oliver (Year 6), Fatima & Lexie (Year 5), Unaisah & Nathan (Year 4) and Kaitlyn & Emily (Year 3). Well done, team! On 4<sup>th</sup> December, some of the Eagles will be attending the Advent Service at St Anthony's Church. As part of this service, we will be donating **new, unwrapped** toys, games and sweets to the Salvation Army. Please ensure your donations are in school by 9am on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We are also collecting Christmas cards for Brainkind Care Centre. We encourage families to design their Christmas cards and post them through the Christmas letterbox in school (available from 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec). We will be visiting Brainkind, with the choir, on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Children can leave the name section blank or write 'Dear Resident' on their card. Envelopes are optional!

## A message of thanks:

Last month, our Wrens class were working together with the school community to raise money for Guide Dogs UK. We have since received this wonderful message of thanks from the Guide Dogs UK team:

"Dear Mrs Bisby, staff, children and parents

WOW - What stars you all are!

Thank you so much from everyone at Guide Dogs UK for this AMAZING sum of money and all the effort you must all have made to raise so much for this great charity. I can promise you that it will be well spent and you will have helped to CHANGE A LIFE.

Guide Dogs need all the help they can get because they help people in so many ways. We are so grateful to your wonderful school community for such a generous and meaningful gesture.

Many thanks again,

Helen, Kimber and Guide Dogs UK"

## Sporting News:

The Yr5/6 boys' football team are continuing their successful run - remaining unbeaten in all league matches. They have qualified for the next round of the Harold Slater Shield, with an easy win over Our Lady and St Edwards Primary school! They will meet St Augustine's in the next round at UCLan next Thursday. Congratulations to the Yr5/6 mixed netball team who enjoyed their first friendly against Barton St Lawrence - we look forward to the start of their league matches after the Christmas break.

Following the success of our whole school Trikidz session last half term, we are excited to welcome Jahn and the team back into school on December 5<sup>th</sup> for a KS2 resilience morning.

Pumpkin Power was a huge success! The whole school enjoyed an afternoon of pumpkin-themed sports challenges outside on the playground.

Antlers at the ready as Reindeer Run is coming soon!

Well done to all children representing the school this half term and, as ever, we enjoy hearing about everyone's achievements - sporting or otherwise- outside of school on a Friday morning. Please continue to send in awards to celebrate in class, in the absence of Celebration assemblies at the moment.



## Academisation Update:

Our application to join the Mater Ecclesiae has been approved by the Regional Director's Advisory Board, which means now that over the next few months we will begin the official conversion process to become a school within the Mater Ecclesiae Trust.

This is exciting news and the next step for our school's journey.



## Mental Wealth:

Our school website offers a range of helpful links and resources to support the mental health and well-being of our entire school community. We encourage you to explore these whenever needed. If you or any of your family members are facing challenges, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Roach or Mrs Garnett who will be able to guide you to the most appropriate support and resources. We would also like to share with you a recommended website for parent support regarding free parenting courses online and a helpline:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

SMSA Mental Wealth page: <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/page/?title=Mental+Wealth&pid=45>



## Health and Safety:

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your continued patience and understanding as we carry out ongoing building work at the school. We know this may cause some inconvenience, but we appreciate your cooperation as we work to improve the facilities for everyone.

As we head into winter, we urge all families to take extra care and precautions when travelling to and from school, especially with the darker evenings and winter weather conditions. Please be extra cautious on the roads, and please could we encourage everyone to cross the road safely with Mr Kayes, our lollipop man, who does a great job of keeping everyone safe.

Please also remember that for the safety of all our students, dogs are not permitted on the playground at any time.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school community safe.

## Building Work Update:

As you will be aware, the building work has now been paused for a couple of weeks. There has been a possible sighting of a bat which has led to the need for ecologists to observe the building and begin to look at what they must do next as bats are protected animals. This means for us that the builders will not be able to meet their completion deadline of Christmas and we do not have an end date at this point.

When there is an update, we will share this with you, as I fully acknowledge that all family and community activities are limited due to this inconvenience. We will be having a small Christmas fair but it will not be on the scale of how things have been previously. May I give my huge thanks to the PTFA who are organising this, despite the challenges - THANK YOU!

## Volunteers Wanted!

We would love to invite parents, grandparents, and other family members who may be interested in volunteering to help out in Wrens class in the new year! Your support would be greatly appreciated, whether it's assisting with classroom activities, reading with the children or simply lending a hand. If you're available and eager to get involved, we would love to have you join us in making this a fantastic learning experience for the children! Please send us an email on the staff account if you would like to volunteer. We thank you in advance for this.

## EYFS and KS1 Nativity:

Our EYFS and KS1 Nativity, 'Christmas Spells Christmas', will take place in Church on Wednesday 11th December. There will be two performances, the first at 2pm and the second at 6pm. Both performances will last approximately 30mins. Two tickets per performance will be issued to all Wrens and Robins families this week; please check your child's bag for these.

As we are in church this year, we have a more flexibility as regards extra tickets, so please contact the school office if you need some. Entry is by ticket only. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Jump Maniax:

We have £200 worth of vouchers from Jump Maniax that we would like to sell at face value so that school can recoup some money for them. We would be happy to sell in multiples of £10 from £10 up to the full amount. This is a great venue for children's parties so if you are interested, please contact Mrs Roach. First come, first served! <https://jumpmanix.co.uk/>



## Swimming Success:

Joseph and Lexie (Eagles) travelled to Corby to represent Preston Swimming Club in the Grand National Micro-League Final! They both competed in their age groups. Joseph did 50m backstroke, butterfly and two relays. Lexie also took part in two relays! The team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall which is an amazing achievement against all the clubs in the country that qualified! We are so proud of you both!

