

# Newsletter October 6<sup>th</sup> 2023



UKS2 learning the ukulele with Miss Galea



contribution, you can also sign up to make gift aid available for us too.

<https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/diocese/>

*I am also delighted to share the news that after many attempts to win a funding bid for the remodeling of the school entrance, we have been successful! In the new year, we will be starting works in what is known as the staff carpark, where a secure, modern entrance into school will be developed. We will keep you up to date with information as it comes to us.*

Autumn is well and truly here!

Hope you are keeping dry in these Autumnal days; I hear some sunshine is on it's way – fingers crossed!

Already it has been an incredibly busy first month at school but one full of lots of good times, learning and fun.

This time of year, we reach out to you to contribute to the School/Diocesan Levy. This is a vital fund used for the upkeep of the school building and we appreciate your donations. Our school needs to raise £2500 to send to the diocese each year and we desperately rely on your voluntary contribution of £25 per family. This can be done on Scopay or for those who feel able, there is a standing order form on the website if you would like to make a regular

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.



## **PTFA**

Behind the scenes of so many of our community events is the beating heart of the PTFA – a small group of really committed and hard-working families who support us, and your children, to have the very best school.

During the last academic year, PTFA funds have subsidised every single school trip – increasing the amount of events we can take the children too. Already in this new term, they have funded £2500.00 towards new reading books for the infant department – these are your contributions being put to the very best use. However, we need more people to join this brilliant team of volunteers, can you help? Meetings are once or twice a term at the most, sometimes during the school day but occasionally can be in the Ginger Bistro! The PTFA really are a great team of people whom we would be lost without. If you feel you can join us, please send a message to the school office and we will connect you with the team.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our fundraiser, despite terrible traffic conditions that afternoon. We managed to raise just over £300 - thank you so much!



## Can you help us to help you?

We are very keen to increase our parental engagement and would love your views on how to do this. We were hoping that the Lancashire Adult Learning events would be a great source of support for you, our families, but they have not proved attractive to many. What would you like to see from our school – how can we best support you to support our children. For those of you old enough to understand this...answers on a postcard, please! For those of you way too young – please tell us if there's anything you would like to work with school on, and we can make plans!

## Events coming up:

Already, the school calendar is being filled up with great events you and your children can engage with. <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/events/> We strongly urge you to keep checking the events calendar as dates for the Autumn term are slowly appearing on there.

However some key dates for you to be aware of:

**Black History month celebration** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm. Jays', Eagles' and our choir children will be performing in church with the One Voice Community Choir after enjoying a workshop with them during the day. Some of our past pupils from OLCHS will be joining us too! Tickets are £5 per adult, children go free.

Bikeability for Y6 on the first day back after half term and don't forget, this year, we have tried to extend all of our half term holidays to give all our families the opportunity to have longer holidays together that are not in term time.

Parents Evening will be in school on November 22<sup>nd</sup> starting in the afternoon; appointments will be available via our platform of Teachers2parents and details will be released nearer the time.



Our newest children have settled in so well, it is as if they have always been here!

## 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.

We do, however, ask our children to read wider than just school books and encourage all our children to bring a library book home. Today we have learned of this fabulous library app, where you can borrow all sorts of books – new and old – to read on your electronic devices, which some children may find more engaging. I hope you find this helpful.

<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby>

This week, it has been national poetry day. Take a moment to read this beautiful poem from Joseph Coelho:



**Have a restful  
weekend everyone.**

# Take A Deep Breath

Close your eyes,  
imagine the sea.

Take a deep breath...  
and let it out.

Close your eyes,  
imagine the waves splashing your feet.

Take a deep breath...  
and let it out.

Close your eyes,  
imagine your toes in the sand.

Take a deep breath...  
and let it out.

Close your eyes,  
imagine the sun on your face.

Take a deep breath...  
and let it out.