

# Newsletter November 10th 2023



## Dear Families

I hope you are keeping warm and dry in these terrible winds and rains that we are all affected by. Climate change is very real and frightening for us all, this time of year is always a good opportunity for us to reflect on what we can do towards caring for our common home.

We are really proud to share some of the enrichment opportunities the children have been offered so far this term! There are plenty more experiences being planned for as the

term moves forward, but so far, a real focus on mental health, physical health and keeping safe has been a strength of the children's experiences. More

details of all these experiences are available on our website.

In addition to this, we have subscribed to a fantastic resource we hope will support you in managing online challenges with your child. Attached, please find the **Online safety newsletter** which we will be distributing each month. To further offer support we will be hosting an evening event in February where you can access face-to-face support in school via an online safety workshop we will be hosting. Keep 8<sup>th</sup> Feb free in your diary!

Any day now our new website will be going live – I encourage you to visit the new page

and enjoy learning more about being a pupil in our school...



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## History Workshop

What a fabulous day through to the evening we had in October! After only two hours of learning new materials, your children and a group of singers from OLCBS joined together with One Voice Community Choir and raised the roof at school! Everyone sang their hearts out and learned a little bit more about tolerance, respect, diversity and inclusion – some of the golden threads of our curriculum which we are proud to focus on.

Thank you to everyone who was able to support this wonderful event, the feedback from children and families has been magnificent and we look forward to doing it again with even more children next year! [https://youtu.be/gRkEA\\_Fe5nY](https://youtu.be/gRkEA_Fe5nY) enjoy the highlights!

## Odd Socks on Monday 13th November

It's time to come to school in your odd socks! The children know that this special day, held every year in November to remind us that it's ok to be different, that it's ok to be kind to each other and to not accept unkind behaviour from others. Known nationally as anti-bullying week, we are looking at ways of improving our friendships and our kindness to one another and will be spending much time thinking about ways to do this. You may wish to discuss some of the topics with your children at home, here are some helpful links with you and more can be found on our website: <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying/anti-bullying-week-2023-make-noise-about-bullying> .

Already this month all the children have had an assembly from the NSPCC with some classes having highly focused workshops to build on the idea of developing personal safety. Ask your child about 'Speak out, stay safe' education – they have learned a lot!



## Parking and road crossing

Please may I ask you to be really cautious on Station Lane. Traffic is very stressful for everyone the moment following the impact of recent flooding and temporary traffic lights, hopefully these difficulties will resolve soon. In the meantime, we ask that you park carefully on the church, using the bays where possible and avoiding parking on the main road if you can.

In addition to this, please can I urge you to cross the road with Mr Kayes our lollipop man who is doing a great job keeping everyone safe morning and night. If children and families are crossing directly in front of the staff carpark opening, it is very difficult for oncoming cars to see you – the large hedge blocks the view of people crossing which is why we implore you and your children to cross the road where Mr Kayes can help to keep everyone safe.

## Life Education Team

Next week, we welcome back the Life Education Team.

For any parents who wish to hear the messages that will be shared with your children, you are welcome to school for a short session with the delivery team on Thursday at the start of 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.

To hopefully raise more interest in reading, we are welcoming local author Rachel Walmsley to our school to read some of her books to the EYFS and KS1 children. You have the opportunity to purchase some of her works and there is an order form enclosed with this newsletter/email.

## Diocesan levy

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

### 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 Christmas season term are slowly appearing on there. Don't miss out on all the celebrations.

However, here are some key dates for you to be aware of:

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November KS1 visit from a local author, Rachel Walmsley.

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.

Whole school mass December 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm

Infant Nativity 13<sup>th</sup> December 2pm and 6pm

Christmas Fair 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm

website if you would like to make a regular

contribution, you can also sign up to make gi aid available for us too. <https://www.st-mary-st-andrews.lancs.sch.uk/diocese/>



Can you help us to help you – we are still keen for your feedback.

We are very keen to increase our parental engagement and would love your views on how to do this. Following our request for help last month, we haven't had feedback from families yet but are hopeful you can share your thoughts and ideas with us soon. There will be a parental questionnaire as always, at parents' night this month. Any suggestions on how we can work together as a community would be really welcome.



# Remembrance Day

*All-powerful and ever-living God,  
when Abraham left his native land  
and departed from his people  
You kept him safe  
through all his journeys.  
Protect all soldiers.*

*Be their constant companion and their  
strength in battle,  
their refuge in every adversity.  
Guide them, O Lord,  
that they may return home in safety.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)  
Prayer from catholicdoors.com

This year, Bilsborough remembrance service is on Saturday at 11am at the cenotaph. We warmly encourage all of your attendance to mark this special event.

We will be hosting a remembrance service for the children at school on Monday instead of our usual Monday assembly.

We ask that you hold all the fallen soldiers in your hearts and prayers this weekend and always as we pray for peace in our world during these especially troubled times.