



# NEWSLETTER 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

St Mary's & St Benedict's Catholic Primary School  
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WE PRAY WE LEARN WE SERVE

“Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world” – Nelson Mandela

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Attendance School Target – 96%
<b>Beesley</b>	Lena and Eli	Riley	<b>96.3%</b>
<b>Benedict</b>	Jack and Gracie-Mai	Maria	89.5%
<b>Finch</b>	Matthew and Maddie	Aleks	<b>96.1%</b>
<b>Haydock</b>	Emily and Bridget	Clara	94.5%
<b>Marsden</b>	Lexi-Mae and Georgie	Olivia-Grace	89.0%
<b>Mary</b>	Jack and Miley	Evie	94.3%
<b>Rigby</b>	Scarlett and Gordon	Athena	85.0%
<b>Southworth</b>	Ellis and Eunice	Maisie-Lou	93.3%
<b>Ward</b>	Scarlett and Chloë	Elektra	92.0%
<b>Woodcock</b>	Isabelle and Michelle	Emily	92.3%



**Reducing Illness Days** – When your child is ill it can sometimes be difficult to make the choice of whether or not to send them to school. NHS guidelines tell us that it is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes. This week, unfortunately, our attendance has dipped mainly due to a virus, which has been wiping out clusters of children! Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues and to wash their hands regularly. If your child is saying they do not feel well and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off please send them to school. If they are truly ill we will ring you. Use common sense when deciding whether or not your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities of the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or school staff?
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?



Well done to Beesley class for having the highest attendance this week!



**May the Month of Mary** – The Catholic Church throughout the world dedicate the month of May to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is also the patron Saint of our school and church. Throughout May we ask that you join us in praying the Rosary each day.

**May Procession** – On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May the church will be holding their annual May Procession in honour of Our Lady. It will be held in church at 9:30am, as part of the children’s monthly Mass and we hope that many of our children will come to celebrate and bring a flower to take up to the offertory. Please come along and join us, everyone is welcome.

**Sports Camp** – Chris and Marcus, our Sports coaches, will be running a Sports Camp for two days during the half-term holiday on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The cost is £11 a day. Please book and pay for on ParentPay if you wish your child to attend. We will also be running the camp the first week of the summer holidays. Please look out for further details.

**Elmer Day** - Over the next few weeks as part of our topic 'All Creatures Great and Small' the children in Barlow and Beesley Class will be looking at the stories of Elmer. As the official Elmer Day is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May we are having our own Elmer Day celebration on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024. During this day we ask that children come to school dressed in any colour they choose for a voluntary contribution of £1 (please pay via parent pay). Throughout the day the children will be taking part in a range of different 'Elmer' themed activities and is a chance to celebrate the importance of friendship, kindness and inclusivity, themes that run through all 30 of the 'Elmer' picture books created by David McKee.



**Earth Day Competition** - We had a tremendous response to our Earth Day competition with many of the children making fabulous creations of pictures of the world and 3D models designed to be used for a purpose, all created with waste or recycled materials. Thank you and well done to everyone who took part! It was tough to pick the winners, but we are pleased to announce that they are Mylo from Southworth class, Alexander from Rigby class, Eli and Layla from Beesley class. Congratulations!



**Family Support** – Our Family Support Worker, Julia Johnson, is in school every day to support children and families. You can also usually find her outside at the start and the end of the day or she can be contacted on: Mobile-07706008185 Email-[family.support@smsb.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:family.support@smsb.lancs.sch.uk)

**'Swing into Spring' Themed Lunch** – Lancashire School Catering Service are offering a themed lunch on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May and the menu is called 'Swing into Spring'. It will consist of a Pork & Carrot or Quorn Meatball Sub, Tortilla Chips & Salad Sticks or Rainbow Vegetable Quesadilla Mildly Spice Rice & BBQ Sauce. The dessert will be an Ice Cream Tub.

If your child would like to join in the fun and they don't currently have school meals, please order and pay for the meal on ParentPay. If your child is in Beesley, Benedict, Finch or Haydock class there will be no charge and there is also no charge for children in the junior classes who are entitled to free school meals.

**KS2 SATs** - Year 6 will be taking their SATs over four days from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

**Ascension Day** – Ascension Day comes 40 days after Easter and commemorates the ascension of Jesus into heaven. The whole school will be joining the parish in church Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 9:30am in celebration and we hope that you will join us.

**Egyptian Workshop** – Children in Years 4 and 5 had a visit from 'Delve into History' this week where they took part in a workshop learning about Ancient Egypt through the use of artefacts. They learnt about the importance of mummification, the Ancient Egyptian hierarchy system and the jobs that people did within this, the clothes that people wore and how clothes showed status. They had an amazing time!

**Bicycle Safety** – Whilst this is something we as a school can't enforce, we hope that parents and carers work with us in keeping our children as safe as we can by ensuring helmets are worn when riding their bicycles. If your child rides a bicycle to school, please can you remind them to dismount before they enter school grounds. This is for their safety, and for the safety of others.



## Class Weekly News

There have been lots going on at St Mary's & St Benedict's this week. Always check the website for more news and photos.

- Barlow class have been brilliant practising their pencil control this week and learning to write their name. They have been learning lots of interesting animal facts.
- Beesley class have been tyranno-rific time this week looking at dinosaurs! They have been learning tricky words in phonics and labelling items around the classroom.
- Geography has been a subject Benedict class have enjoyed this week. They have been using a compass to learn different directions around the school grounds and following clues to find a sweet treat!
- Finch class have had their 'story writing hats' on this week writing stories based on familiar settings. In geography they looked at aerial views of London and loved designing and drawing their own birds-eye view of the classroom.
- Haydock class have been making 'Bug Hotels' in science to look at different micro-habitats.
- This week Marsden class have written their own playscript for a film and performed it to each other. They have also been learning about money in maths.
- Rigby class got their hands dirty creating their own version of papyrus paper for their art lesson next week. They have also become detectives using artefacts to learn about Ancient Egyptians.
- Southworth class have been exploring the Amazon Rainforest and researching the plants and creatures that live there!
- In geography, Ward class have been learning how to navigate and locate places using the grid and looking at the map of Bamber Bridge using the same technique.
- Woodcock class have been researching Victorian times and are looking forward to working on a project on what they have learnt.

**Parents and Carers of Children in Southworth Class** - As the children in Southworth class weren't in Celebration Assembly today, children who achieved 'Star of the Week' will be awarded their certificates next week.

### Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day procession 9:30am in Church
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day – School Closed
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	LFRS Road Sense – Year 6
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Ascension Day – Whole School Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Tots on Tyres – Reception Scoot Safe – Years 3 and 4
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	SATs Begin – Year 6
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Southworth Class Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	PTA Non-uniform Day
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Woodcock Parish Mass 9:30am in Church
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Tots on Tyres – Reception Bike Fix Break-up at 3:15pm for half-term.

### **KS2 PE Days**

**Marsden: Monday and Friday**  
**Mary: Monday and Friday**  
**Rigby: Monday and Friday**  
**Southworth: Tuesday and Friday**  
**Ward: Tuesday and Thursday**  
**Woodcock: Tuesday and Wednesday**

**Community Larder** – Please continue to support our local food bank by bringing into school an item of food each week. The Community Larder is situated at the back of St Aidan's Church Hall, on Station Road and provides food and support to individuals and families from Bamber Bridge, Clayton-le-Woods, Lostock Hall and Walton-le-Dale. It is open Monday – Friday 9:30am – 11:30am and is dependent upon food donations from local Christian communities and schools. Thank you for your continued donations.

**Fun Fact of the Week** - Dolphins can recognise and admire themselves in a mirror!

**Riddle of the Week** – I occur once in a minute, twice in a moment but never in a hundred years. What am I? (answers to [office@smsb.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@smsb.lancs.sch.uk))

Well done to Scarlett (again!) from Rigby Class for correctly answering last week's riddle – Secret!