



# NEWSLETTER 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

“I do believe something magical can happen when you read a book.” – JK Rowling

	<b>Star of the Week</b>	<b>Reader of the Week</b>	<b>Attendance School Target – 96%</b>
<b>Beesley</b>	Della-Rae and Jessica	Sebastian	84.0%
<b>Benedict</b>	Logan and Ruadhan	Delilah	89.2%
<b>Finch</b>	Ellis and Lacey	Erin M	93.5%
<b>Haydock</b>	Kieran and Casper	Jamal-Ali	93.2%
<b>Marsden</b>	Tyler and Lucas	Kai-Reece	<b>97.5%</b>
<b>Mary</b>	Jack P and Sophie	Anu	92.5%
<b>Rigby</b>	Jerahmeel and Jacob	Charlotte	94.2%
<b>Southworth</b>	Luca and Nikola	Ethan	94.6%
<b>Ward</b>	Elias and Piotr	Elizabeth	94.4%
<b>Woodcock</b>	Harry and Hannah-Leigh	James F	92.3%



**Punctuality!** – At St Mary's & St Benedict's we believe the poor punctuality or leaving before the end of the school day is not acceptable, only in exceptional and unavoidable circumstances, and we would like to thank parents and carers who support this. Our school day starts when we open the doors at 8:45am to allow the children to settle into class and catch up with their friends before learning begins. We appreciate sometimes it's difficult to get your child to school on time, for many different reasons, but please reach out to us if you are struggling, we want the best for your child and are always here to help. Children often feel embarrassed walking into class late and can reluctant to then attend school at all. Lessons are also disrupted when children arrive late or leave early. Please remember school finishes at 3:15pm.

Missing just 10 minutes of school a day is the same as missing 2 weeks over the year! School data shows a link between poor attendance and under-achievement. In the first 3 weeks of the summer term over 55 hours of learning has been lost! Please let's try and improve this.



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

**Year 6 SATs** – Next week, our Year 6 children will be taking their SATs. If this is your child, please encourage them to eat well and get plenty of rest and relaxation over the weekend, and most importantly, remind them to stay calm, not to worry and do their best. They have all been working very hard and we are very proud of them!

Please ensure that your child is here punctually, so that they are ready to sit their tests in a calm manner and can give their best effort. The children are invited to arrive at school early so that they can have breakfast together.

**PTA Non-Uniform Day** - This will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Children can wear their choice of clothes in return for a £1 donation, to be paid on ParentPay. Please support our PTA. They are doing a tremendous job in raising money to provide children with things the school budget does not allow.

**Family Support** – Our Family Support Worker, Julia Johnson, is in school every day to support children and families. She delivers Relax Kids sessions to the children and next week Year 6 will have their turn. The aim of the Relax Kids system is to create calm and confident children. It teaches the children mindfulness and relaxation techniques to support their mental and emotional health. The range of tools and techniques help to calm their body and mind and build confidence and self-esteem to help make children feel happier and healthier.

**Pentecost Sunday** – Pentecost Sunday is celebrated 50 days after Easter and this year it falls on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Beesley class have been learning about Pentecost and how the event celebrates the coming of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. The children made streamers to 'Share the Good News of Jesus with everyone' The children used streamers to create a dance.



**LFRS Road Sense** – Unfortunately, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service were called out on an emergency so had to cancel their talk to Year 6. Hopefully they will be able to visit soon.

**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.

**'Swing into Spring' Themed Lunch** – There is to be 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.

**Elmer Day** - As part of their topic 'All Creatures Great and Small', children in Barlow and Beesley classes are looking at the stories of Elmer. As the official Elmer Day is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May they are having their own Elmer Day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. On this day we ask that children come to school dressed in any colour they choose for a voluntary contribution of £1 (please pay via ParentPay). Throughout the day the children will be taking part in 'Elmer' themed activities celebrating the importance of friendship, kindness and inclusivity.



**St Mary's & St Benedict's RC Primary Pre-school** – At SMSB we have a vibrant and happy Pre-school catering for children aged 3 and 4. We offer a wide range of activities within our continuous provision, which we continually develop and adapt to our children's interests and needs. We can take up to 16 children and are now starting to take names for the September intake. Please contact us as soon as possible if you would like a place as they are filling up quickly.

**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.

**Names in Uniform** - Please make sure your child's uniform is clearly labelled. This particularly applies to jumpers and cardigans, as the weather is getting warmer these items of uniform are frequently taken off and left around school.

**SMSB Hockey Team** – Ten of our Year 5/6 hockey players took part in an inter-school tournament at Preston Hockey club this week. They played brilliantly and came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 10 schools. Well done team and congratulations for winning the award for the best celebration after a goal!

**Fantastic Book Fair Update** - Thank you to everyone who came to our Book Fair. It was a really good turnout and a magnificent £914 was raised meaning we are getting books to the value of £457, which is fantastic! We will be purchasing a selection of fiction and non-fiction books suitable for all ages.

## 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 enjoyed learning about dinosaurs this week, in particular carnivores and herbivores. They have also been looking at number patterns
- In drawing club, Beesley class have been looking at Mr Ben and they have been creating maps of their own zoo. They are enjoying their Tots on Tyres sessions!
- Benedict class have been learning fascinating facts about frogs! They have been on a hunt in Forest School for frog spawn
- This week, Finch class have been building their own micro habitats. They have been learning how to sew using running stitch to make puppets. They have been writing super exciting stories!
- Haydock class have been learning to tell the time in maths and have also been learning to sew and making puppets
- Marsden class are continuing to enjoy Forest School this week and they have been learning about Roman numerals in maths lessons.
- Mary class enjoyed their last Forest School session and in particular enjoyed making their own smores in the fire pit!
- Rigby class have been busy creating their own personalised Egyptian scrolls
- In science, Southworth class have been testing voltages through experiments. In English lessons they have created their own amazon stories
- Ward class have been reading a book called 'Bamba Beach' set in Goa, India. They have been planning their own stories based in Goa.
- This week, Woodcock class have been reading a new book 'London Eye Mystery' and have been working hard for their SATs

### Dates for Your Diary

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
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Class Photos – Reception and Year 6
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
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	School Closed – INSET Day Holiday Sports Camp
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	School Closed Holiday Sports Camp
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to School Multiplication Tests begin – Year 4
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception Parent and Carers' Meeting 5
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Mass – Feast of the Sacred Heart 9:30am in Church

### 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.

**Playground Equipment** - Please remember the playground equipment in the KS1 and KS2 playgrounds should not be used before or after school. This is for the safety of your children as school staff are not there to supervise.

**Fun Fact of the Week** – An ostrich's eye is bigger than its whole brain!

**Riddle of the Week** – What 5 letter word typed in capitals can be read the same upside down?  
(answers to [office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk](mailto:office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk))

Well done to Jessica from Ward class for correctly answering last week's riddle – The letter M!