



NEWSLETTER 24th May 2024

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

“Reading gives us some places to go when we have to stay where we are”. - Mason Cooley

	Star of the Week	Reader of the Week	Attendance School Target – 96%
Beesley	Laria and Aiden	Ralphie	91.2%
Benedict	Delilah and Klay	Bobbie	93.2%
Finch	Jessica and Erin M	Sienna	99.1%
Haydock	Eric, Jamal and Olly	Joshua	89.1%
Marsden	Raisa and David	Emily	94.3%
Mary	Aarya and Miley	Jessica	93.7%
Rigby	Freddie and Charlie M	Gordon	96.0%
Southworth	Finley and Owen	Luca	94.0%
Ward	Amelia S and Maisy	Jessica	90.7%
Woodcock	William and Hallie	Jayden	89.7%



Absences during Term Time – As you are aware we are not allowed to authorise absences in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please note the following changes which are being introduced by the DFE and will apply from September 2024.

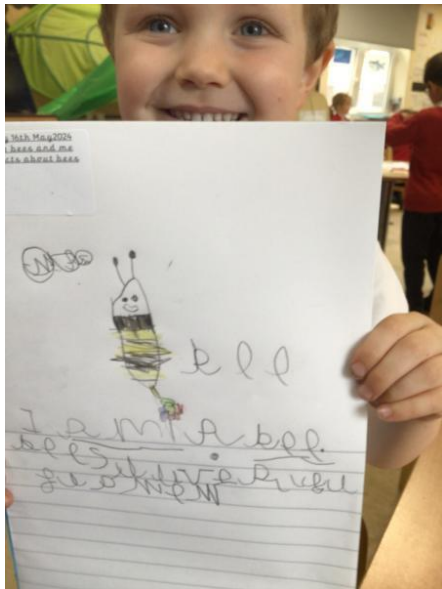
Penalty notices - The threshold for use of Penalty Notices is changing from 10 sessions in a term to 10 sessions in a rolling 10-week period. The cost of the fine will rise from £120 payable within 28 days (£60 if paid within 21 days) per parent per child to £160 (reduced rate £80). If a second holiday is taken that year or within the next academic year, there is no reduced payment option – the fine will be issued at £160. If a third holiday is taken with a 3-year period, the case would go straight to prosecution. Please consider this when thinking of booking family holidays in term time and please always talk to us first.

Congratulations to Finch class! A nearly perfect attendance this week – 99.1% Enjoy your chocolate cake from Mr Ballard ☺

‘After going up to Heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples and all who believed.’

The whole school has celebrated Pentecost this week. Each class took part in activities during RE lessons with some spectacular door displays being created!





Buzzing 'Bees'ley Class - The children in Beesley Class have been learning all about bees. They loved reading the story 'Omar, The Bees and Me'. In drawing club, the children drew the character Maisy and Grandpa's garden. They then went on to learn and write facts about bees and took part in various activities in the continuous provision area, including printing beehives and making 3D bees in Forest School.

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 ... fingers crossed, these items of uniform are frequently taken off and left around school. After half term we will be taking uniform orders for those wanting new uniform to be collected before the end of term.

Family Support - Julia has sent a message to Year 1 and 2 parents and carers inviting families to **PASTA**, delivered by the South Ribble Borough Council. PASTA (Play and Skills at Teatime Activities) is a fun, friendly activity programme where families can cook, play and spend time together. The sessions are held on Tuesday after school and are for children aged five to eight and their families, including older and younger siblings. Numbers are limited so please let Julia know if you would like to attend. Julia can be contacted on:

Mobile-07706008185 Email-family.support@smsb.lancs.sch.uk

Year 4 Multiplication Check - Year 4 children in Mary and Rigby classes have been practising for their Year 4 multiplication check, which will take place the week we return after the holiday. To support them in preparing for the check, please can you encourage them to practise on SOUNDCHECK on TTRockstars as much as possible. This is a similar format to the test and gives 6 seconds per question before the question automatically moves on. The 25 questions are randomly selected from 1x to 12x tables. The children do NOT need to press enter. Thank you for your support in helping your child achieve their full potential.

No Photos/Videos - Please remember we do not allow recording of still or moving images whilst on school grounds, including within school premises. This is to safeguard our children and we politely ask that you are respectful of this.

New Arrivals in Beesley Class - It was a very exciting Monday morning in Beesley Class! After many weeks of caring for and observing the various changes, some of their froglets have now grown into frogs! The frogs will be released into the pond in Forest School.

Sports Camp - If you would like your child to attend the Sports Camp on Monday 3rd and/or Tuesday 4th June, please book and pay via ParentPay. The sessions run from 9:00am until 3:00 pm and cost £11.00 a day.

Water Safety Advice - Swimming in open water can be great for exercise and a fantastic way to enjoy the great outdoors but can be very dangerous. During the school holidays, in particular in hot weather, sadly, increasing numbers of children are drowning. Starting in May, through the summer, the risk of accidental drowning increases significantly. On average, there are 50 of these tragedies each year in the UK. Please copy the link below to read information from Lancashire Fire and Rescue's top tips on how to stay safe around open water.

<https://www.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/safety/home-safety/water-safety>

First Holy Communion - The first group in the sacramental programme will take their First Holy Communion on Sunday 9th June, with a further two groups on Sunday's 16th and 23rd of June. Please keep the children and families in your prayers.

Healthy Choices - Please support the work of the NHS in promoting healthy lifestyle choices for our children. Please only send plain water in their water bottle and we encourage children to eat a school dinner or to bring a healthy packed lunch.

EYFS Parents and Carers Induction Evening - We look forward to welcoming the new reception class parents and carers to our school at the induction evening on Thursday 6th June at 5:00pm. Please note that due to the nature of this meeting we ask that only adults attend. We understand that childcare can be difficult in the evenings and therefore understand if only one parent can attend. Children will have their opportunity to come into school for their induction sessions. If you are unable to attend, please let the school office know.

Thursday 20th June 1:00-2:00pm or 2:00-3:00pm - Teddy Bear's Picnic
 Thursday 27th June 1:00-2:00pm or 2:00-3:00pm
 Thursday 4th July 9:30-11:00am or 1:00-3:00pm

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.

- Leading up to 'Elmer Day', Barlow class have been learning different colours and have made coloured masks.
- Beesley class have been learning about Elmer making pictures of Elmer using milk bottles. They have also used oil pastels to make pictures of rainbows.
- Benedict class have loved exploring past and present seaside holidays and comparing the differences.
- Finch class have been busy learning times tables and fractions! In science, they have been exploring sources of food and where it comes from.
- Children in Haydock class have finished their puppets this week. In geography, they have been looking at maps and symbols.
- Marsden class have been creating information posters on ancient Egyptians and have been showing them to Mary class. They enjoyed making Egyptian scrolls in art.
- Mary class also really enjoyed making their Egyptian scrolls in art. They have been learning the Pentecost story and decorated their classroom door.
- Rigby class have been exploring the importance of the river Nile and of mummification!
- As they come to the end of their Rainforest topic, Southworth class have enjoyed their deforestation debate. In science, they have been creating circuits.
- A lively debate was had by children in Ward class regarding the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in Goa.
- Children in Woodcock class have been detectives this week, taking notes and making theories about the disappearance of Salim in the London Eye Mystery book.

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 3 rd June	School Closed – INSET Day Holiday Sports Camp
Tuesday 4 th June	School Closed – INSET Day Holiday Sports Camp
Wednesday 5 th June	Return to School Multiplication Tests Begin – Year 4
Thursday 6 th June	New Reception Parent and Carers' Meeting 5:00pm
Friday 7 th June	Whole School Mass – Feast of the Sacred Heart 9:30am in Church
Sunday 9 th June	First Holy Communion 9:30am in Church
Monday 10 th June	Phonics Screening Begin - Year 1 SATS Begin – Year 2
Wednesday 12 th June	Parish Mass – Beesley Class 9:30am in Church
Sunday 16 th June	First Holy Communion 9:30am in Church
Sunday 23 rd June	First Holy Communion 9:30am in Church
Friday 5 th July	Sport's Day

Please remember we return to school Wednesday 5th June

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 – Monkeys can go bald in old age, just like humans!

Riddle of the Week – Forward I am heavy, backward I am not?

(answers to office@smsb.lanCS.sch.uk)

Well done to Oakley from Mary Class for correctly answering last week's riddle – The Future!