



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG
Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Mabbott BEd (Hons) NPQH

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*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another
to be the best we can be.*

19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

As we come to the end of a busy Autumn term, we look back with pride at all the children have achieved this term including; leading parts of our Masses, leading worship, four Nativities, Choir events, Sporting events, representing their school, a pantomime and a visiting Rock band, to name just a few things!!

This week we had our two junior Nativities which were excellent. The children were amazing. Thank you for supporting them and to the staff who have guided and prepared the children. Our stunning GIFT Team performed beautifully, with some sensational solo singing and Makaton performance of O' Holy Night and our school and Church choirs joined together to perform Carols, songs and the Christmas story for parents and parishioners.

Thank you for your donations which will be counted and information regarding our charity donations will be provided in the New Year.

We have enjoyed our parties this week with a visit from Santa for our Reception Class, Year one and Year two on Monday and our junior party on Thursday. Santa brought a gift for every child, so we hope the children enjoy their individual gifts from Santa.

On 1st December we became part of the Romero Catholic Academy Trust. I wrote to you separately about this. As documents change in the new year, you will see our new school name - St Michael and St John's RC Primary School, a Voluntary Academy. We have been engaging with the Trust for some time and look forward to all that belonging to a wider catholic family of schools will bring.

We have 10 new children join us this term. Our children and staff have welcomed and embraced them as part of the SSMJ family and they have all settled in very well.

Thank you to our wonderful PTA who continue to work hard in a voluntary capacity to raise money for the school by arranging numerous events. We look forward to the unveiling of our new Multi -purpose room in the new year (funded by the PTA).

Thank you to our Governors and Father Paul who give their time voluntarily to support our school in ensuring the children grow in faith and have the very best opportunities and outcomes.

We are grateful for the continued support from all of our families. I would like to thank our hardworking and dedicated staff team for ensuring the children have had all these experiences and enrichment opportunities alongside an excellent education.

Thank you for the cards and gifts sent in for the staff and I.

We wish you a peaceful, joyful, hopeful and love filled Christmas and best wishes for 2026.

Church Mass Times for Christmas

The Christmas mass times for St Michael and St John's (SSMJ) RC Church in Clitheroe for **Christmas 2025** are:

Christmas Eve (Wednesday, December 24, 2025)

4:00 pm: Mass at St Michael and St John's, Clitheroe

6:30 pm: Mass at St Mary's, Sabden

Christmas Day (Thursday, December 25, 2025)

8:00 am: Mass at St Hubert's, Dunsop Bridge

10:00 am: Mass at St Michael and St John's, Clitheroe

The Sunday Gospel

Advent



In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist had heard about Jesus Christ's miracles and all the other wonderful things that he was doing. Christ was offering people forgiveness and healing, both physical and spiritual. Jesus Christ came to draw everyone into his love - to joyfully share in God's own life. How can we live and love more like Christ as we journey through Advent? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair, honest, generous and ready to go out of our way to help anyone who is in need

Early Closure ~ Friday 19th December

Just a polite reminder of our early closure today at 1.30 pm.

KS2 Nativity - Bethlehem Ballroom

Some photographs of our wonderful children. Well done!





PTA - Christmas Raffle

Thank you to our wonderful PTA.

The Christmas Raffle was drawn by Nahri and Euan and our winners are:

1st Prize - £100 - Miss Holland

2nd Prize - £50 - Miss Mithoo

3rd Prize - £25 - Zane's Grandma Sue (Mrs Goyal) - This cash prize was kindly donated back to school. Thank you.

4th Prize - Christmas Wreath - Mrs Garner

5th Prize - Classic Panettone - Mrs Riley

Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day



Thank you to our wonderful cook Amanda for providing the children with their Christmas lunch in a box on Wednesday. The children enjoyed being served by the staff and pulling their crackers!

On behalf of our school, Thomas presented Amanda and Cath with a little thank you.

The children and staff looked very festive in their Christmas jumpers too!



Santa Dash - Wednesday 17th December

Our annual Santa dash took place on Wednesday, however due to the rain we had to complete indoors this year. The children all looked fantastic in their Christmas jumpers and hats and had a wonderful time!



Christmas Carol Concert

On Thursday the parish senior choir and the school choir joined forces to present a Carol service for the school community. The service included readings and carols. Thank you to Kevin Downes and Mrs Russell for organising and to the two wonderful choirs.



KS2 Christmas Party

Children had a wonderful time at the KS2 Christmas party, enjoying lots of games and fun activities.



EYFS Cathedral Trip

EYFS visited Blackburn Cathedral on Tuesday. Thank you to Mr Crow and the volunteers who accompanied the trip. Without these people, we wouldn't be able to go on school visits. The children travelled by train, explored the Cathedral and made an angel after telling the Christmas story. It was commented by members of the public how well behaved and well-mannered the children were. We were very proud, well done EYFS.





Parish Christmas Table Decorations

Thank you to the ladies and gentlemen from the parish who kindly joined EYFS to make Christmas table decorations. Great fun was had by all. The children really enjoyed the opportunity to learn alongside the parishioners. They were very proud of their achievements.



School Lunches

Due to supply issues there will be a change to the school lunch menu on Thursday 18th December and Thursday 8th January. Unfortunately there will be no burgers available, but these will be replaced with sausages.

Car Parking - Polite Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be respectful when parking near the school in residential areas. Please can we ask parents' not to park on the resident only car park or parking spaces on Bayley Fold, please do not block pathways or park on surrounding pavements, or in unsafe areas. Our neighbours have raised concerns again and by taking extra care we can keep positive relationships within our community and ensure the safety of our children. Thank you for your support.

The Ribble Valley Arts and Excellence Awards

We have been approached by the local council to make you aware of a grant which you can apply for, for any children with talents in Dance, Drama and Music. Please see below further information from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The Ribble Valley Borough Council, Arts Excellence Awards are designed to assist young talented performer's progress in their chosen activity of dance, drama or music. The main aim of the scheme is to help with the cost of tuition, travel and equipment in their chosen discipline. To be eligible the young people need to: be over the age of 9, be in full time education, must have achieved a qualification / accreditation in the art form they practice that is recognised by a governing body, must live in Ribble Valley.

For More Information. Follow this link to look at the grant criteria, check your eligibility and see how to apply [Arts Excellence Award - Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)

The deadline for applications is 2nd February 2026

EYFS Prospective Parents

If you have been unable to attend any of our Open Days you are more than welcome to come and see our school in action, please telephone the school and we will make an appointment for you. It has been lovely to hear the visitors talk about our 'family feel' and 'calm atmosphere.' Thank you.

Come and See our 'Outstanding' Catholic School in Action

Does your child start school in September 2026?

If so, the closing date for primary applications for September 2026 is Thursday 15th January 2026.

We invite families of children looking for a primary place for September 2026 to come and view the school in action, talk to Mrs Mabbott (Headteacher) and to some of our Pupil Leaders and to ask any questions you have.

We are a catholic school but this does not mean your child has to be Catholic to attend. We welcome children of all faiths and backgrounds and are a fully inclusive school.

Please read our recent Catholic School Inspection Report and most recent Ofsted Report to find out a little more about our school.

<https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-school-inspection-report-july-2024/>
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school/UploadedDocument/351cc94c-156c-465c-988b-aef044b83365/10268317-st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school-clith.pdf>

Primary School Admissions

School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: [Starting primary school \(reception\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2025 is on Thursday 15th January 2026.

Clubs and Afterschool Activities

Here are the updated clubs and activities which will be taking place after the Christmas holidays. All clubs will commence from week beginning 12th January 2026, except Create Club which will commence on Wednesday 7th January.



| Activity | Year Group/s | Teacher | Date/Times |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Multi Sports | 5 & 6 | Progressive Sports | Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm |
| Multiplication Club | 4 | Miss Parkinson | Monday 3.30 - 4.15 pm |
| Choir | All Years | Mrs Russell | Tuesday Lunchtime |
| Burnley Football Club | 3 & 4 | Burnley Football Club | Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm |
| Tennis Club | All Years | Tennis Coach | Wednesday 8.00 - 8.45 am |
| Create Club | All Years | Mrs Troughton | Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm |
| Prayer Club | All Years | Mrs Whyman | Thursday 8.15 - 8.45 am |
| Year 6 Extended Lessons | 6 | Mr Duckworth | Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm |
| Multi Sports | 1 & 2 | Progressive Sports | Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm |



Happy birthday to Harper in Year 2, Nora in Year 4 and Mrs Holmes, who all celebrate a birthday this week.

Happy birthday also to Finley in Year 4 and Riley and Igor in Year 3 who will celebrate their birthdays over the Christmas holiday.

Celebration Assembly

There was no celebration assembly this week.

Top Table Winners

There was no celebration assembly this week.

Diary Dates

| Date | Event |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 19 th December | 1.30 pm ~ School Closes for Christmas (Early Closure) |
| Monday 5 th January | School Re-opens |
| Tuesday 6 th January | 10.00 am ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ Parents' Welcome |
| Monday 26 th January | 13.15 - 14.15 pm ~ Lets go Sing Visit |
| Monday 2 nd February | 5.00 pm ~ Borwick & SATs Parents' Information Evening |
| Friday 13 th February | School Closes for Half Term |
| Monday 23 rd February | INSET Day - School Closed for Pupils |
| Thursday 26 th February | Year 4/5 Liverpool Museum Trip |
| Monday 2 nd March | Year 1/2 Thornton Hall Farm Trip |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day |
| Tuesday 10 th March | EYFS Trip to Little Lancs Village |
| Wednesday 11 th March | Year 3/4 Liverpool Museum Trip |
| Wednesday 18 th March | 1.15 pm ~ Lets Go Sing Performance - Blackburn Ice Arena |
| Thursday 2 nd April | School Closes for Easter |

Take Care & God Bless.

Mrs Zoe Mabbott - Headteacher



ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

Re-open on: Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Half Term Monday 27th October to Friday 31th October 2025 (inclusive)
Christmas Holiday Early closure on Friday 19th December 2025

(Number of openings: 73)

Spring Term 2025

Re-open on: Monday 5th January, 2026
Half Term Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
(inclusive)
INSET DAY Monday 23rd February 2026
Easter Break Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April 2026 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 58)

Summer Term 2026

Re-open on: Monday 20th April 2026
Bank Holiday Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026 (inclusive)
Summer Holiday Early closure on Friday 17th July 2026

(Number of openings: 59)



ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open on: | Thursday 3 rd September 2026 |
| INSET DAY | Friday 23 rd October 2026 |
| Half Term | Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2026 |
| Re-open on: | Monday 2 nd November 2026 |
| Christmas Holiday | Early closure on Friday 18 th December 2026 |

(Number of openings: 71)

Spring Term 2027

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open on: | Tuesday 5 th January 2027 |
| Half Term | Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive) |
| INSET DAY | Monday 22 nd February 2027 |
| Re-open on: | Tuesday 23 rd February 2027 |
| Easter Break | Friday 26 th March to Friday 9 th April 2027 (inclusive) |

(Number of openings: 52)

Summer Term 2027

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Re-open on: | Monday 12 th April 2027 |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 3 rd May 2027 |
| Half Term | Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive) |
| Re-open on: | Monday 7 th June 2027 |
| Summer Holiday | Early closure on Wednesday 21 st July 2027 |

(Number of openings: 67)

(Total number of openings: 190)

Notices from other Companies and Providers

Notices

We are often asked to share information about events with you, which we do to support our community, and so you can consider whether these are of interest to you. Please note, school is not recommending or validating these events, we are simply passing on the information.



Mr & Mrs Riley, parents' of Ezra and Izzy, who have recently joined St Michael's & St John's will be acquiring Leaping Lizards Play Centre in Clitheroe, they officially take over at the end of January and have lots of plans in place to make it a fun, inclusive, and a welcoming space for families.

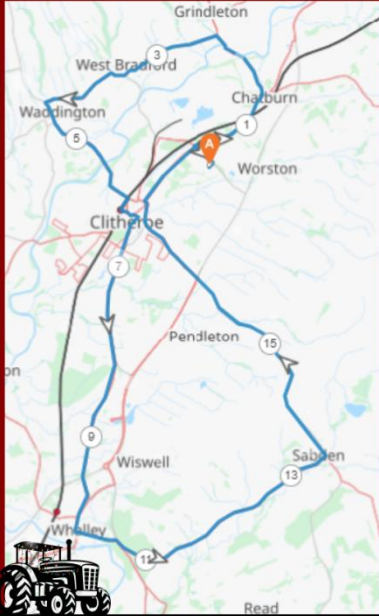
Here's a little look at what we're planning:

- Open 7 days a week, including after school
- A wide range of baby groups, toddler classes, and messy play sessions
- SEN-friendly events and quieter sessions
- Themed parties such as Harry Potter, K-Pop, and more
- Seasonal events including:
 - Afternoon tea with the Grinch
 - Lunch with the Easter Bunny
 - Pumpkin carving
 - Breakfast with Santa
- Evening activities like family quiz nights, family bingo, film nights
- Adult-only events including art classes, murder mystery nights, and more

Mr & Mrs Riley are incredibly excited to help grow Leaping Lizards into a place that offers something for everyone.

They open at the end of January, and we would absolutely love your support.

CLITHEROE CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN 2025



- 6:30 Clitheroe Auction Mart
- 6:45 Chatburn
- 6:55 Grindleton
- 7:05 West Bradford
- 7:15 Waddington
- 7:20 Clitheroe Train Station
- 7:25 Clitheroe Town Centre
- 7:40 Barrow
- 7:50 Whalley
- 8:15 Sabden
- 8:20 Pendle Hill
- 8:30 Pendle Road
- 8:40 Chatburn Road
- 9:00 Finish

7:10 Quiet Zone!
W Bradford Road

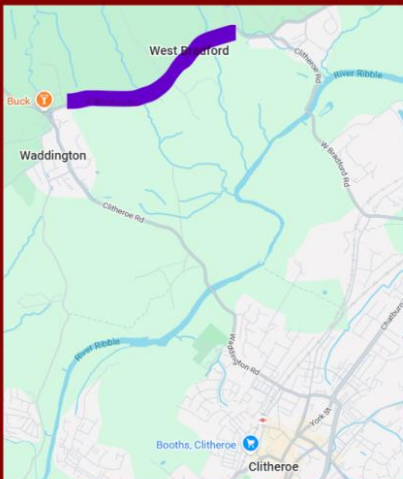
Fundraising for:



Sunday | 21st DECEMBER | from 6:30pm

CLITHEROE YFC CHRISTMAS TRACTOR RUN 2025

QUIET ZONE!



W Bradford Road

BB7 3JE

No horns or music!

FUNDRAISING FOR:



Sunday | 21st DECEMBER | from 6:30pm



Clitheroe Castle
Museum

Festive Fun



Snowman Hunt

Can you spot the tiny snowmen hiding in the museum galleries? Find them all and you could win a fabulous bag of goodies. Free with museum admission.



Crafty Christmas

Slow down and get creative in our dedicated craft area. Decorate a ceramic Christmas stocking throughout December, £3 each whilst stocks last.

Betwixtmas

Once the big day is done, why not pay us a visit between Christmas and New Year to enjoy woodland animal themed craft activities. There is dressing up, colouring and games to enjoy too.



| Dates | Opening Times | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 24 – 26 December | | Closed |
| 27 – 30 December | | Open |
| 31 December – 2 January | | Closed |

Don't forget **KIDS GO FREE**

Get updates on all our news and events on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit our website at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/clitheroe-castle-museum> for more information.

BURNLEY
FC IN THE COMMUNITY

TINSEL

at the TURF

MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER

JOIN US FOR...

STADIUM TOUR, FUN & GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS,
A VISIT TO SANTA'S GROTTO WITH A CHRISTMAS

CHOOSE TO BOOK...

SESSION 1 9AM - 12PM

SESSION 2 1PM - 4PM



£25
AGES 5 - 12



SCAN TO BOOK OR EMAIL US AT COMMUNITY@BURNLEYFC.COM



NEW YEAR



CAMPS

★ **FRIDAY 2ND JANUARY**

AT THE LEISURE BOX, BB9 5NH



**STANDARD DAY
9:00AM - 3:30PM
EXTENDED DAY
8:00AM - 5:00PM**

**THE
LEISURE
BOX**

DUDE PERFECT



BOOK NOW



East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'
Delivered by ELCAS
tinurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT**



**Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second
name followed by your date of birth.
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.**

Wednesday 1st October 25

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 8th October 25

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 15th October 25

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 22nd October 25

1pm – 3pm

Children and Family
**Wellbeing
Service**

Get advice and support

Someone to talk to
Problems at
home/school
Jobs and training
Apprenticeships
Staying safe
online
Sex and health
Relationships

Mental Health
Self Harm
Bullying
Drugs and
alcohol
Things to do
Housing, rights
and money
What age can I?



[facebook.com/LancashireYZ](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ)

twitter.com/LancashireYPS

You can contact us 365 days a year

2pm to 10pm

**talk
zone**

Text 07786 51 11 11

Talk online lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone

Call 0800 51 11 11

Age 0-19

(up to 25 for young
people with learning
difficulties or disabilities)

lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County
Council



0800 51 11 11

YEAR 7 TASTER AND ASSESSMENT DAY

Tuesday 13 January 2026

Join us for a special day designed to help Year 6 pupils experience life at Oakhill and take their next step on their Oakhill journey with confidence.

Morning: Pupils will sit short English and Maths papers
Assessment based on the KS2 curriculum.

Afternoon: Children will enjoy a true taste of Senior
Taster Sessions School life with engaging lessons, new challenges and plenty of fun.



A Supportive Transition

We know that choosing the right Senior School is a big decision. If you would like to talk about your child's next steps or ask any questions, we warmly welcome a conversation at any stage.

How to Book

To reserve a place, please contact: Kay Aspinall, Admissions Registrar
Email: aspinall.k@oakhillschool.co.uk Phone: 01254 823546

[Or click here to visit our events page](#)

