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.

17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

Farewell, Good Luck and Thank you.

Our Year 6 children have been amazing throughout their time at SSMJ, and they leave us fully ready for the next stage of their educational journey. They have created so many memories and learnt skills and knowledge whilst developing into the wonderful boys and girls they are. We wish them luck and every success for the future. We have supported them in ensuring they show courage and respect, promote unity, have the highest aspirations and show love in everything they do.

Thank you for following the example of Jesus and for being the best you can be. We hope they look back on their time with us with a smile, remembering all they have learned as part of the family and community of SSMJ.

As I said this morning, in the word of St Oscar Romero 'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' As our Year 6 move on, I would like to thank the parents and families for the support shown to school throughout the time your children have been with us, including navigating a Global Pandemic!

For some, this is the 'end of an era' and for others who still have siblings at school, we look forward to our continued partnerships.

As you are aware we say farewell to Mrs Younis and Mrs Stephenson. We thank them once more for all they have done for the family of SSMJ and wish them well in the future.

We are also looking forward to our new children in EYFS starting with us. They have enjoyed their visits so far.

Thank you to all the children for making them so welcome.

The Sunday Gospel

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is growing all around us. We live in a world where we see both good and bad and we can choose to be like the wheat or the weeds. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. Ask your child what the word 'growing' means to them (other than increasing in height). Tell your child how they've grown as a person (and in goodness) during this school year.

Year 6 Leavers' Mass

Thank you to Father for celebrating a lovely Mass for our Y6 pupils on Monday. Thank you to the children who read, to the whole school for their wonderful signing and the parents, relatives and members of the parish who were there to support them.

Critters Interactive

Last Friday afternoon the children of EYFS, Y1 and Y2 had some special visitors to the classroom. Critters Interactive brought snakes and a wide range of creepy crawlies for the children to look at and to carefully touch. The children learned about the habitats and the regions of the world the creatures originated in. Lots of fun was had by all. The children were very brave the adults less so!

Coach James

Congratulations to Coach James as we celebrate his promotion. Thank you for all your hard work over the last 2 years, the children and staff will really miss you!

Pools to Schools

A separate letter has been sent out about this and we will send reminders ahead of the 3rd September.

Music Lessons

If your child is interested in peripatetic music lessons from September, please see the link below for more details.

Registration - Cultural Services: Lancashire Music Service

Year 6 Leavers' Lunch

On Wednesday, the Year 6 children had a special lunch provided by the kitchen staff. The children enjoyed a delicious meal together with their friends and teachers and even had a dance to some of their favourite tunes! Thank you to Amanda and Laura for preparing the food and providing the table decorations.

Young Writers and Young Artists

On Thursday, Mr Foley from Holden Clough Garden Centre and Mrs Jones from the Rotary Club, visited school to present prizes to the children who entered the Young Writer and Young Artist competitions, earlier in the year.

A special congratulations goes to Pyper and Roman in Year 6 who won 1st and 2nd Prize in the Young Writer competition and to Hollie who achieved 2nd prize in the Young artist competition. Many other children also received fantastic prizes in recognition of their wonderful entries, and every child got to take home a plant, kindly donated by Holden Clough Garden Centre.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part, well done!

Book bags and Rucksacks – September

Further to previous communication, we are keen to reduce both the number and size of bags that children bring into school. From September, children should:

- Bring their PE kit to school in a named PE bag and leave it in school. This can remain in school for a half term and then be taken home for washing.
- Use a green school book bag (available from uniform suppliers) to carry reading books, letters and homework.

We have systems in place to support this:

- Lunch bags should be placed on the lunch trolleys.
- Reusable water bottles should be taken directly to classrooms.

If a child needs to bring a rucksack, this must be as small as possible. Corridor space is limited, and large bags frequently fall from pegs, creating a potential trip hazard.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep our school environment safe and well organised.

Pre-ordering School Meals

A gentle reminder to all parents and carers that school lunches should be pre-booked through ParentPay. Please ensure your child's meal choices are selected in advance so that our catering team can accurately prepare lunches each day, and your child receives a meal of their choice, this also prevents food wastage. Thank you for your co-operation.

National Survey – The Big Future

Dame Rachel de Souza from The Children's Commissioner's office is asking for children to take part in a national survey 'The Big Future'.
http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture.

Children can access the link above, to give their experiences, views and aspirations about what it is like to be a child in today's world. The survey will ask children about the changes they want to see in their communities, their biggest concerns, and their hopes for the future. More than anything, they would like to know what children think a good childhood should look like now and in the future.

Further details can also be found on this website: The Big Future | Children's Commissioner for England

'Our Little Chefs Kitchen'

TESCO
Community Grants

The Tesco Blue Token Scheme is now running until the end of July, please remember to pick up your blue tokens while shopping in Tesco's Clitheroe. Thank you for your support.

Clubs and Afterschool Activities

All clubs and activities will be finalised when children return in September.

Celebration and Leavers' Assembly

There was no celebration assembly this week due to our annual Y6 Leavers' Assembly where we celebrated our wonderful Year 6 children.

Happy birthday to Alfie in Year 2 who will celebrate a birthday this week.

We would also like to wish Callie and Hugo in EYFS, Coby in Year 1, Leo and Renato in Year 2, Isla and Ezra in Year 3, Paul, Riley and Darcey in Year 4, Frank, Charlie W and Euan in Year 5, Phoebe and Henry in Year 6, who will all celebrate a birthday over the summer holidays.

A Final Thank you From Me

I would like to thank everyone who has been part of our journey during 25-26. To all who have been part of our school and parish family and have supported school in ensuring we all 'follow the example of Jesus so we can be the best we can be'.

Thank you to our parents and families, to the staff, to Father Paul, the parishioners who supported the Sacramental Program, the Friends of SSMJ, student helpers, volunteers, those from other companies we have worked with and our Board of dedicated voluntary governors, but most importantly to the children. We continue to be blessed with a wonderful community and family here at SSMJ and this is due to the dedication and commitment of all who are involved with our school.

On behalf of the staff and governors, thank you for the kind words, cards and gifts received.

Have a lovely, restful and safe summer.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to our continuing partnership in the new school year.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 3rd September	School re-opens
Thursday 3rd September	Pool to Schools swimming lessons commence
Friday 4th September	Welcome back assembly & pupil leadership announcements
Monday 7th September	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
Monday 14th September	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
	5.00 pm SARCHS Prospective Parents' Evening
Wednesday 16th September	Meet the teacher evening
Thursday 17th September	6.00 – 8.30 pm ~ Bowland High School Prospective Parents' Evening
Monday 21st September	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
Tuesday 22nd September	Let's Go Sing visiting the school Choir and Mrs Russell
Thursday 24th September	9.30 – 10.30 am ~ EYFS Open Day
	6.00 – 7.00 pm ~ SARCHS welcome Mass
Monday 28th September	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
Wednesday 30th September	SEND Coffee Morning
Thursday 1st October	National Poetry Day
	5.00 – 7.00 pm ~ SARCHS Open Evening
Friday 2nd October	Harvest Celebration Assembly
Monday 5th October	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
Tuesday 6th October	2.00 – 3.00 pm ~ EYFS Open Evening
Friday 9th October	Mental Health Day – Pupils asked to wear yellow
Monday 12th October	School photographs
	1.00 pm – 3.00 pm ~ MySkillz Project at The Grand
	5.00 pm ~ MySkillz Showcase at The Grand
Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd October	School Closes for half term holiday
Monday 2nd November	School re-opens

Take Care & God Bless.
Mrs Zoe Mabbott – Headteacher

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

Autumn Term 2026

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

(Number of openings: 71)

Spring Term 2027

Re-open on:	Tuesday 5th January 2027
INSET DAY	Friday 29th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2027 (inclusive)
INSET DAY	Monday 22nd February 2027
Re-open on:	Tuesday 23rd February 2027
Easter Break	Friday 26th March to Friday 9th April 2027 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 51)

Summer Term 2027

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

(Number of openings: 67)

(Total number of openings: 189)

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.

Leaping Lizards Play Centre

Please use the link below to view the events which are taking place at Leaping Lizards Play Centre:

Events – Leaping Lizards Play Centre

Clitheroe Churches Holiday Fun is back!

This Summer, in the week beginning 17th August, come and take part in games, crafts and activities at the churches in Clitheroe each morning (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday), followed by a free lunch. These fun mornings are really suitable for children aged 0-11 with their parents or carers and are completely free of charge, but booking is essential.

Booking is now open at www.loveclitheroe.com/holidayfun

Join us for our Open Evening

Thursday 17th September 2026 6pm-8.30pm
Speeches will be held at 6.15pm, 7pm and 7.45pm
Please note: There will be NO vehicular access or parking during Open Evening at the school or in the surrounding lanes.
A free 'Park & Ride' system will operate from Clitheroe Auction Market commencing at 5.45pm.

Open Day

Wednesday 23rd September 2026 9.15am-2pm
Come to see the school in action
Please email/telephone to book a tour between 9.15am and 1.20pm (duration approximately 45 minutes)
Unfortunately we can only accommodate parents/carers who pre-book a tour
01200 441374
enquiries@bowland.atctrust.org.uk

Clitheroe Castle Museum

CBA FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2026

Festival of Archaeology

Bring the kids and discover archaeology at Clitheroe Castle museum this July. Booking for our children's activities is essential.

Junior Dig Pits
Thursday 23 July
10.30am, 12.30pm & 2pm
FREE

Junior Medieval Tile Pottery
Thursday 30 July
11am
£3 per child

Junior Neolithic Pottery
Thursday 30 July
1pm
£3 per child

Find out more and secure your space

A celebration of archaeology

Meet local archaeologists and experts who will be on hand to answer your questions and share their knowledge.

HUB DAY
25 JULY
11am - 3pm

Open Daily, all kids go free

Find details of all our activities and events on Twitter and Facebook or visit our website at https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/clitheroe-castle-museum/ or via the QR code.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S

HOLIDAY CAMP

PROGRESSIVE HOLIDAY CAMPS

ages 4-12 years old

BOOK NOW

ARCHERY | DODGEBALL | NERF | FOOTBALL | CRAZY GOLF | TENNIS | THEMED ACTIVITIES | CRAFTS + MUCH MORE...

ST MICHAELS & ST JOHNS CLITHEORE
20th July - 7th Aug | 7:30am - 6:00pm

www.progressive-uk.co.uk 01254 403046 Operationssl@progressive-uk.co.uk

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE GIFT OF **CONFIDENCE**

SINGING AND DRAMA LESSONS FOR **AGES 4-18**

TUESDAYS FROM 4.30pm*
AT ST JAMES CHURCH, LOWER DARWEN, BB3 0QP

WEDNESDAYS FROM 4.30pm*
CLITHEROE COMMUNITY CHURCH, BB7 2LE

THURSDAYS FROM 4.30pm*
MELLOR BROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BB2 7PR
*depending on age and ability

To book your FREE trial lesson please contact:
07717 711715
bdrv@littlevoices.org.uk
littlevoices.org.uk/blackburn-darwen-ribble-valley

Little Voices
BIG FUTURES

DRAMA & SINGING LESSONS *OF DISTINCTION*

NEED A HOLIDAY PLAN THAT TICKS **ALL** THE BOXES?

Themed around a popular musical or play, Little Voices Theatre Weeks are four fun-filled days of drama and singing for children aged 4+ (no experience needed!)

Your child will:

- Burn off **energy**
- Build **confidence**
- Make new **friends**
- Learn new **skills** – and put on a show to **remember!**

EMAIL TO BOOK
£25
DEPOSIT

FIND OUT **MORE!**

There's drama, singing, costumes, creativity – and a performance for family and friends on the final day.

4th - 7th AUGUST and 25th - 28th AUGUST 2026

AT MELLOR BROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE, BB2 7PR
9am - 3:30pm (Early drop off from 8:30am)

Book now - spaces fill fast
07717 711715
bdrv@littlevoices.org.uk
littlevoices.org.uk/blackburn-darwen-ribble-valley

Little Voices
BIG FUTURES

Clitheroe Castle Museum
HOLIDAY FUN

JULY
DAILY DROP-IN
11am - 4pm

ARCHAEOLOGY

Enter our monthly hunt competition with a search round the museum for the miniature Roman Amphoras. Get creative and design your own medieval inspired terracotta tile. You could even build and decorate your own wooden Roman ship.

AUG
DAILY DROP-IN
11am - 4pm

DINO-ROAR

Join the hunt for dinosaurs hiding in the museum galleries throughout August. Are you brave enough for a selfie with our resident iguanodon?

Get creative building and decorating your own wooden dinosaur model to enjoy.
Enjoy our fun dino facts and themed activities in our creative space.

AUG
EVERY WEDS
11:30am - 12:30pm

CASTLE CRAFTS

Don't miss our weekly Wednesday history inspired craft sessions for your young makers. Create your own Anglo-Saxon brooch, medieval shield and more.
Booking essential, £6 per child.

AUG
23RD
11am - 3:30pm

A DAY OF KNIGHT'S

Drop in and watch some thrilling demonstrations of sword fighting by the Silver School of Arms. Enjoy getting up close with some of the weapons and meet the experts during this FREE family friendly event.

Open Daily, all kids go free

Find details of all our activities and events on Twitter and Facebook or visit our website at https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/museums/clitheroe-castle-museum/ or via the QR code.

PB & ME
Personal Best. Mental Endurance.

SUMMER PERFORMANCE SERIES

MOVE BETTER. RUN FASTER. BUILD CONFIDENCE.

Working all aspects of fitness and engaging participants through games that challenge and enable the skills to be placed in competitive environments.

MONDAY 20TH JULY TO FRIDAY 24TH JULY	9:00AM TO 12:00PM	HIGHMOOR PLAYING FIELDS, CLITHEROE	£10 PER DAY £45 FULL WEEK

PERFORMANCE TRAINING FOCUS

- ENDURANCE RUNNING
- SPRINT TECHNIQUE
- AGILITY & FOOTWORK
- REACTION TRAINING
- SPEED ENDURANCE
- ATHLETIC MOVEMENT SKILLS
- COMPETITIVE GAMES & CHALLENGES

PERFECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6–13 WHO WANT TO:

- ✓ Improve fitness and endurance
- ✓ Build confidence and self-belief
- ✓ Learn new skills and techniques
- ✓ Challenge themselves every day
- ✓ Develop a positive attitude towards physical activity
- ✓ Compete positively and grow together

PARENT FEEDBACK

> "He's loved everything he's done."

> "Good variety of games and measurable activities."

> "Confidence, resilience, self-esteem and a positive attitude."

REAL RESULTS. REAL IMPACT.
Building confidence, resilience and a love for activity.

DELIVERED BY JASON JONES

- Head of PE & Sport
- Head Coach – Ribble Valley Juniors
- Athletics & Endurance Coach
- 25+ Years Teaching & Coaching Experience

LIMITED TO 30 PLACES!

BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

SCAN TO REGISTER

OR CALL / TEXT
07359 940773

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLITHEROE WOLVES FOOTBALL CLUB
AT HIGHMOOR

PB & ME | TRAINING THE BODY, STRENGTHENING THE MIND. | GROWTH IS MY OATH. | #GROWTHISMYOATH

NEW SCHOOL STARTER SESSIONS

ST MICHAELS & ST JOHNS SCHOOL
SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 9AM - 11AM

WWW.BOOKWHEN.COM/LEAPINGLIZARDSPLAY

- MEET OTHER NEW RECEPTION CHILDREN AND PARENTS
- FUN PLAY IN A SAFE, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
- A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- HELPING YOUR CHILD FEEL CONFIDENT AND READY TO START SCHOOL

LEAPING LIZARDS PLAY CENTRE
UNIT 4 HAWTHORNE BUSIINESS PARK, OFF LINCOLN WAY
CLITHEROE BB7 1QD

WE CAN'T WAIT TO MEET YOU!

VISIT WWW.LEAPINGLIZARDSPLAYCENTRE.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION

SHOW
STOPPERS
SUMMER CAMP
MONDAY 27TH JULY - FRIDAY 31ST JULY
9AM - 12PM AGES 4-13 YEARS
CLITHEROE RUGBY CLUB
MUSIC FROM...
WICKED MATILDA OLIVER!
PERFORMANCE FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS ON
FRIDAY 31ST JULY AT 5PM
GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE DETAILS!
ANNA: 07931621579
EMAIL: ROSELAMBERT90@GMAIL.COM

CTC
CLITHEROE TENNIS CLUB
SUMMER TENNIS CAMP
DATES
July 23, 24, 31;
August 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 28.
TIMES
9am - 3pm (Full Day) | 9am - 12pm
or 12pm - 3pm (Half Day).
COSTS
£25 per full day | £15 per half day.
CONTACT
Call Coach Nick on
07985605565 to book.

Children and Family
Wellbeing
Service

Get advice and support

- Someone to talk to
- Problems at home/school
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- 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
twitter.com/LancashireYPS
You can contact us 365 days a year
2pm to 10pm

Age 0-19
(up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities)

talk zone
Text 07786 51 11 11
Talk online lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone
Call 0800 51 11 11

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire County Council