



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.*

27th November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

The Sunday Gospel



Advent

This Sunday is the start of the season of Advent, a word which means 'important arrival'. Advent is the time to start making preparations to celebrate Christ's birth. God's momentous arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

The Gospel this Sunday reminds us that Advent, is the time to think about the way we live our lives and begin to make any necessary changes.

Advent is the time when we make an extra effort to be more loving towards God and our neighbours and is an opportunity to be spiritually refreshed and helps us get ready for Christmas.

Here are links to some digital Advent calendars.

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/>

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

Advent Mass

Whole School Advent Mass will take place in church on Thursday at 10am. We invite parents and relatives to join us for this Mass.

Advent Club with Mrs Whyman

Advent club will start on Thursday 4th December before school at 8:15am. This club is open to all children and will run every Thursday before school throughout December. We will be using Mark 10 Mission resources to support the children's learning which include videos, prayers, hymns and activity sheets. Please meet at the school office.

GET CAUGHT PRAYING IS BACK!

We are asking for photographs of the children getting caught praying in different environments. This could be at home, in the garden, in the car, on the football pitch or anywhere!

Please send entries to class teachers via ClassDojo or to Mrs Whyman via email, owhyman@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk

All entries will be put on a display in school and this year, there will be a prize for the most unusual place to get caught praying from each class.

Get caught praying will run throughout November and winners will be announced the first week of December. Thank you for the photographs so far. Our children have been 'Caught Praying' in some very interesting places.

Developing our Multi-Purpose Room

Our amazing PTA have been working hard to secure items for our multi-purpose room, organising fun events for the children. Presently, we need at least another £1000 to be able to undertake the work to transform the room so that children can use the room for cooking, DT and creativity.

We appreciate parents have just supported our charity fundraising with the Lioness event, but if you are able to support us in reaching the final target so the work can start, we would be very grateful.

A link to the Just Giving page is here:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ssmj?utm_term=4963W9RrD&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL

At present our target is £1000. Please can you also share this page with family and friends as ask for their support too. We are hoping to open the room in January!!

Congratulations to Nora and Darcey

On Tuesday, Nora in Y5 and Darcey in Y4 represented their grass roots football team by being Mascots and the Manchester City vs Bayer Leverkusen game. What a wonderful experience. Well done girls, we are very proud of you!



Christmas Parties

KS1 Christmas party will be held on Monday 15th December and KS2 Christmas party will be on Thursday 18th December. Children can come to school in party clothes and fun games will be played. Food and drink will be provided and allergies will be catered for.

Nativities

This year we have an EYFS/Y1/Y2 Nativity called 'Born in a Barn.' Tickets are not required.

KS2 Nativity 'Bethlehem Ballroom', tickets will be available early next week, however, due to space in the hall and fire regulations, we can only have a maximum of 2 family members at either performance. Each family will be initially allocated 2 tickets for one of the performances. If you are able to attend the 4pm performance, we would appreciate you requesting tickets for this event as the 6pm event is usually busier.

Closer to the time, if spare tickets are available, we will let you know and these will be issued on a first come first serve basis.

Shoe Box Appeal

On Thursday Mr Bleazard and Mrs Jones from Clitheroe Rotary came into school to collect all our wonderful shoeboxes. Thank you to all the parents and children who have supported the Shoe Box Appeal this year, thanks to your generous donations and kindness, children overseas who might otherwise go without this Christmas will receive a gift of festive joy this season. Your support has helped us share love, excitement and smiles to children who need it the most. Our picture shows Jake and Alex from the Action Missionary Disciples Group helping to hand over our shoeboxes to Mr Bleazard and Mrs Jones.



Follow up Flu Vaccination Clinic

The NHS will be holding a follow up flu vaccination clinic on 11 December at Shadsworth Children's Centre (Shadsworth Road, BB1 2HR) between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm, for any children who missed their Flu vaccinations in school a couple of weeks ago. If you would like your child to attend, you can either book an appointment by calling 03333 583 397 (option 2, option 2)



PTA Christmas Fayre

The annual school Christmas Fayre, will be held afterschool on Friday 5th December, we will be able to accept both cash and card payments.

It was wonderful to see the children in their own clothes yesterday and thank you very much for all the Secret Santa gifts sent in to support the PTA and school as we plan the Christmas Fayre.

A risk assessment is attached. Please read this and ensure you adhere to it so we can keep our school community safe.

On Friday at home time, the children will be dismissed as usual via the playground. The staff will then make their way inside, after which, the Dining Room doors will be opened for children, parents and families.

Thank you for your support.

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.

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.

Festive Christmas Lunch

We be holding our annual Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th December, this year children will receive a festive Christmas picnic box containing a choice of sandwich, along with a sausage roll, slice of pizza, nacho's and a festive dessert. Please book your lunch by Monday 1st December on Parent Pay if you would like your child to participate.

CHRISTMAS
Party

Come and get into the Christmas spirit and join us for some fun at our festive party!

On Wednesday 17th December

Lancashire
County Council

lancashire.gov.uk

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



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Football Club	3 & 4	Progressive Sports	Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Burnley Football Club	5 & 6	Burnley Football Club	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Gymnastics	3 & 4	Yuliia	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.20 pm
Multi Sports	EYFS, 1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Progressive Sports activities will need to be booked via their website and Burnley Football Club and Gymnastics can be booked via Parent Pay.



Happy birthday to William in Year 1, Maisie in Year 3, Abbas in Year 4 and Edgar in Year 6 who all celebrate a birthday this week.

Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Ainsley and Charlotte
Yr 1 & 2	Max, Kutenda, Lily and Coby
Yr 3 & 4	Luna, Riley, India and Darcey
Yr 4 & 5	Joseph, Euan, Lottie and Frank
Yr 6	Alexander, Roman, Eleanor and Kaylar

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Hugo
Yr 1	Charlie
Yr 2	Freya
Yr 3	Theo
Yr 4	Lottie
Yr 5	William
Yr 6	Henry

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 3 rd December	Let's Go Sing Visit @ SSMJ - School Choir
Thursday 4 th December	10.00 am ~ Whole School Advent Mass ~ Parents' welcome
Friday 5 th December	No Celebration Assembly
	3.30 pm - 5.30 pm ~ Christmas Fayre
Monday 8 th December	2.30 pm ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity 'Born in a Barn'
Tuesday 9 th December	9.30 am ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity 'Bethlehem Ballroom@
Wednesday 10 th December	PM ~ School Pantomime Trip
Thursday 11 th December	4.00 pm ~ Year 1 & 2 curling at SARCHS
Monday 15 th December	1.30 pm ~ KS1 Christmas Party
	4.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Tuesday 16 th December	AM ~ EYFS Trip to the Cathedral
	6.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 18 th December	1.30 pm ~ KS2 Christmas Party
Friday 19 th December	1.30 pm ~ School Closes for Christmas (Early Closure)
Monday 5 th January	School Re-opens

Tuesday 6th January

10.00 am ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ Parents' Welcome

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)

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.

Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic High School

Carol Service

Monday 8th December 7:00pm



Monday 8th December at 7:00 pm

Carol Service and Seasonal Refreshments

Cash or Card payment on arrival £3.00 — adults and £2.00 — concessions,

all proceeds to CAFOD

THIS CHRISTMAS

HEAD TO CLITHEROE

TO TAKE PART IN THE BIG...

£6
per child



29.11.25 | 07.12.25

10-4pm

11-3pm

Meet at the Castle Gates to pick up your trail map. You will hunt your way around the castle grounds in search of naughty little elves who have taken letters from a famous Christmas word.

Put all the letters together to form the secret word which will enable you to pick up a chocolate treat at the end.



Glitterball_kids_events



Elf Hunt

CHRISTMAS IN CLITHEROE

29

NOVEMBER
10-4PM

FESTIVE STALLS
ELF HUNT
SANTA'S GROTTO
FACE PAINTING



**CAROLS AT
THE CASTLE**

4 - 5.15PM @THE BANDSTAND



CHRISTMAS JUMPER
COMPETITION @ THE
CASTLE GATES

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON & CRIB DEDICATION

FRI 28TH NOV 6PM @ THE CASTLE GATES

HOSTED BY RIBBLE FM & INCLUDES LOCAL SCHOOL CHOIRS



VISITCLITHEROE.CO.UK

RAISING MONEY FOR



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**

DUDEPERFECT



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