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.

16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we welcomed Harriet in Year 4 to the SSMJ family. As always, the children and staff have made her feel very welcome.

We also welcome Annie-Sue a new baby sister for Alfie and Archie as part of the wider SSMJ family.

The Sunday Gospel



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' enemies are plotting his downfall and try to trick him with a devious question about paying taxes.

This Gospel story also asks us: 'What is due to God in our own lives?' Surely 'our gratitude' would be a good answer to this question. Being grateful to God brings great joy.

Ask your child what gratitude means to them.

October – Month of the Holy Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary falls on 7th October. Please come and join us every Thursday at 8.15am until the half term holiday, to offer our prayers and special intentions up to Mary our Mother and to ask her to intercede for us. Parents, children and parishioners wishing to join us will be welcomed into school through the office.

Sacramental Program

Father Paul has sent a letter which has gone out via email to any current Year 3 or older children who wish to be part of the Sacramental Program this year. The initial meeting will be after the 9.30 am Mass this Sunday (18th October).

Parents' Evening

Appointments have been sent out. If you have not received an appointment time, please check your child's bags. If you are still unsure, please contact the school office who will inform you of the day and time of your appointment. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

My Skillz at The Grand

Congratulations to Lottie, Orla, Leo and Riley in Year 5, for their performance on Monday evening at The Grand Theatre. The children have been working alongside pupils from other local schools for the past 6 weeks. They have enjoyed singing, dancing and drama. We thoroughly enjoyed watching your show 'Shrek'. All the staff are all extremely proud of you, it was amazing to watch you all shine, well done! 👏⭐🎵🎭

Thank you to Mr Currid, Mrs Whyman and Mrs Russell who came along to watch the children's performance and to Mrs Ritchie and Miss Brindle who have been taking the children each week.



African Drumming

As part of our celebration of Black History Month, we were very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in African Drumming worships. The children had a great time making sounds with their bodies, voices and with drums as well as listening to stories about the people and animals of Africa. Everyone was able to actively participate which was lovely to see. Well Done children.

Thank you to all the parents that contributed on Parent Pay for this opportunity. Sadly, we were quite short on funds which could impact on our ability to offer these kinds of opportunities in the future. We kindly ask, if you can, but have forgotten, that you make the £5.00 contribution as soon as possible.
Thank you.









School Patrol – Mrs Peel

This week, we say a very fond farewell to Mrs Peel, our wonderful lollipop lady, as she retires. We would like to thank her for her many years of keeping our children safe on their journeys to and from school. She will be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff. We wish Mrs Peel a very happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement, filled with lots of lovely new adventures!



Our PTA Needs Your Help!

Our PTA makes so many wonderful things possible for our children, but we need your help to keep it going!

Our current team are stepping down, which means three roles need filling: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Without people to take on these roles, our PTA will sadly have to cease to exist. No experience needed – just enthusiasm and a willingness to help!
This is your chance to get involved, share ideas, meet other parents and make a real difference to our school community!

If you are interested in taking on one of these roles please pass your name and number to school

Before & After School Club

Exciting active led sessions available for all ages at Progressive! We encourage creativity, discovery, wellness and physical well-being, nurturing your child's educational journey. Please find the link below to book your sessions. Or contact alicet.progressive@gmail.com to find out more information.

We are always organising new and exciting activities such as celebrating World Food Day or hosting a Glow in the Dark Disco. Here at progressive, we are always looking forward to welcoming new children.

Enrolmy | Progressive South Lancashire - Booking Calendar for Progressive Sports Breakfast & Afterschool club at St Michael & St Johns

Children Starting School in September 2027

We will be hosting another open morning on Thursday 5th November at 9.30am.

If this date is not suitable for you, please telephone the school office because visits are welcome at any time.

Wellbeing Warriors selection

The two year 6 children selected to be Wellbeing Warriors are Jiya and Frank and they have already made an impressive start to their role by leading an assembly for Mental Health Day. Mrs Canavan is already enjoying working with you. Well done!



Mental Health Day



Friday last week saw us celebrating Mental Health Day The staff and children wore various items of yellow to stand together for young people's mental health alongside the YoungMinds #Hello Yellow campaign.

Every year, thousands of schools, companies and communities come together to make World Mental Health Day that little bit brighter by wearing something yellow and donating to YoungMinds.

Please find the donation page below if anybody wishes to donate. https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraisers/clairecanavan/hello-yellow



At SSMJ we regularly talk about looking after our mental health as well as talking to the children about how they are feeling and giving the children the vocabulary, they need to name their emotions. We used the opportunity that Mental Health Day provides to reiterate the importance of looking after our mental health and looking out for each other. The children had a fun day participating in some lovely activities and comparing lots of different yellow outfits.

Late Collection of Pupils

We would like to kindly remind parents and carers that pupils should be collected promptly at the end of the school day. We have noticed that a number of pupils are being collected a few minutes late. If a pupil is not collected on time, they will be taken to our after-school club and parents will be charged the applicable after-school club fee.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that children are collected promptly at the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





Friends of SSMJ - Clitheroe Bonfire News

🎉 **Amazing News!** 🎉

We're delighted to share that **Friends of SSMJ** will receive proceeds from this year's **Clitheroe Bonfire!**

We're so grateful for their generous support, which will help us develop outdoor playtime and lunchtime provision for the children.

Please come along and support this fantastic community event — it promises to be a great evening for everyone!

Tickets on sale at Banana News or
https://www.tickettailor.com/events/clitheroecommunitybonfirefireworksdisplay/2399424

Important Information – Arbor Registration.

ANDROID

i phone

Please can all parents and carers download the Arbor app if you have not already done so.

You will need to log in using the details provided in the email sent out on Tuesday. If you have not received this email, please check your junk/spam folder, as login details can sometimes go there when the first email is sent. If you still cannot find your login details, please contact the school office and we can resend them to you.

It is essential that all parents and carers have logged into Arbor before the October half-term holiday.

When we return to school after the holidays, Arbor will be our main method of communication with parents and carers. It will also be used for important things such as booking school meals, paying for trips and other school activities. Please make sure you have downloaded the app and successfully logged in before the half-term break.

Thank you for your support!

Parking on Bayley Fold

Parents please be aware that parking on Bayley Fold is for residents only. We ask you to park considerably and safely around the school area and not to park on Bayley Fold. It has also been reported that children and parents are walking across the grass verges around Bayley Fold. Please be respectful to our neighbours and only walk on footpaths/pavements. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PTA Classlist App

Please visit the link below to download the Classlist app and register your child to make future payments, for any upcoming PTA events.

https://classlist.page.link/m58MKMpyoHjSAjP48

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.

October Plank Challenge



Mrs Canavan has signed up to do the Plank Challenge in October for Cancer Research UK. She will be doing a plank everyday throughout the month. This is her way of giving something back after members of her family have been affected by cancer in the last 6 months.

Please find below a link to her giving page:
https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/claires-giving-page-14096807

We are very proud of you Mrs Canavan!

PTA Spooky Disco

This years' Spooky Disco which will; be held on Tuesday 20th October, please purchase your tickets via Classlist app. Thank you to our wonderful PTA who continue to work hard in a voluntary capacity to raise money for the school by arranging fun events!



Healthy Snack and lunches



A polite reminder to all parents and carers to please ensure that children bring in healthy snacks for breaktime, such as fruit or breakfast bars. We kindly ask that packed lunches contain a healthy and balanced selection of food.

Please remember that crisps, sweets and chocolate bars should not be included in children's snacks or lunchboxes. Thank you for your cooperation.

EYFS Admission ~ September 2027

Does your child start school in September 2027?

If so, the closing date for primary applications for September 2027 is Thursday 15th January 2027.

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

To apply for a primary school place, follow the link below:

Applying for a primary school place - Lancashire County Council

Children and Family Wellbeing Survey

On **12 October**, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service launched a survey to gather feedback from children, young people and families. The survey is an opportunity for young people to share their views, experiences and ideas about support and services for children, young people and families across Lancashire.

They want to hear from as many young people as possible, including those who have never used Children and Family Wellbeing services, Family Hubs or any other support services.

Hearing from young people who have not accessed services is just as important as hearing from those who have. Their views will help them to understand whether young people know what support is available, how easy it is to access information and advice, and where they would go if they needed help in the future.

The feedback will help them:

- understand what is working well
- identify where improvements could be made
- understand awareness of available support
- identify any barriers that may prevent young people from accessing services
- shape future services and support for children, young people and families

Survey link: www.lancashire.gov.uk/family-survey/

Please complete and submit this questionnaire by 23 October 2026.

The feedback will help them to build a better understanding of the experiences, needs and views of young people across Lancashire, ensuring their voices help shape future services and support.

Thank you for your support in helping them to reach as many young people as possible.

Clubs and Afterschool Activities



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Board Games Club	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Whyman	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Archery	Years 1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Burnley Football Club	Years 5 & 6	Burnley Football Club	Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Tennis Club	All Years	Tennis Coach	Wednesday 8.00 – 8.45 am
Choir	KS2	Mrs Russell	Wednesday & Thursday Lunchtime

Progressive Sports are booked through progressive sports: Enrolmy | Progressive Sports South Lancashire

Board Games Club, BFC and Tennis Club are booked through Parent Pay.

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Isla
Yr 1	Arlo
Yr 2	Coby
Yr 3	Noah W
Yr 4	Nancy
Yr 5	Alessandro
Yr 6	Harry C

Celebration Assembly



EYFS & Yr 1	Thea, Gabriel, Tommy and Noah
Yr 1 & 2	Isabelle, Jessica, Connie, Izzy, Cora & Charlotte
Yr 3 & 4	Rory, Wiktoria, Malakai, Kutenda & Noah
Yr 4 & 5	Ethan, Noah, Liberty, Harriet, Riley, Orla, Leo, Lottie & Freddie
Yr 6	Frank, Sid, Marcus & Hubert



Happy birthday to Tommy in EYFS, Malakai in Year 4 and Freddie in Year 5 who all celebrate a birthday this week.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 21st October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd October	Parents' Evening
Thursday 22nd October	School Closes for half term holiday
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day
Monday 2nd November	School re-opens
Tuesday 3rd November	Let's Go Sing visiting the school Choir and Mrs Russell

Thursday 5th November	9.30 am – Open Morning
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Day
Friday 13th November	9.30 am ~ Flu vaccinations
Monday 16th November	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Sock Day
Thursday 19th November	Non-Uniform Day
Thursday 26th November	Non-Uniform Day
Friday 4th December	3.30 – 5.30 pm ~ Christmas Fair
Monday 7th December	2.30 pm ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 8th December	9.30 am ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	Advent Mass
	Pantomime @ The Grand
Thursday 10th December	Human Rights Day
Monday 14th December	Reports out today
	4.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Tuesday 15th December	6.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 17th December	Parish and School Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 18th December	1.30 pm ~ Early School Closure for Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 6th January	Epiphany Mass

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)

ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2027/2028

Autumn Term 2027

Re-open on:	Thursday 2nd September 2027
Half Term	Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October 2027 (inclusive)
Re-open on:	Monday 1st November 2027
INSET DAYS	Friday 26th November and Monday 29th November 2027
Christmas Holiday	Early closure on Friday 17th December 2027

(Number of openings: 70)

Spring Term 2028

Re-open on:	Tuesday 4th January 2028
Half Term	Monday 14th February to Friday 18th February 2028 (inclusive)
Re-open on:	Tuesday 22nd February 2028
Easter Break	Monday 3rd April to Tuesday 18th April 2028 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 58)

Summer Term 2028

Re-open on:	Wednesday 19th April 2028
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May 2028
Half Term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June 2028 (inclusive)
Re-open on:	Monday 5th June 2028
Summer Holiday	Early closure on Friday 21st 2028

(Number of openings: 62)

(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.

Bowley Scout Camp – Holiday Club

East Lancashire Scouts will be running a holiday club over the October half term holiday, to book a place please follow the link below:

Bowley Holiday Club - October 2026 Registration - Page 1 of 6

They are also running a Wonderland Christmas Experience; further detail can be found on the link below:

Christmas Experience - Bowley International Scout Centre

Clitheroe Castle Museum

OPEN DAILY

DAILY
OCT 2026
11am - 4pm

AUTUMN CRAFTS

Create your own castle cat in celebration of wool month or enjoy decorating a Halloween tealight holder in our craft area. No need to book, drop in any time. From £2 whilst stocks last.

DAILY
OCT 2026
11am - 4pm

CASTLE CATS HUNT

Search the museum for the mischievous cats hiding in the galleries with their balls of wool. Find them all and you might be our lucky monthly prize winner.

FRI 30
OCT 2026
From 4:30pm

SPOOKY QUEST

Dare to explore the museum after dark and join our spooky Halloween quest. Meet some witches, try the yucky dip, enjoy fun games and treats. £6 per child, adults free. Booking essential.

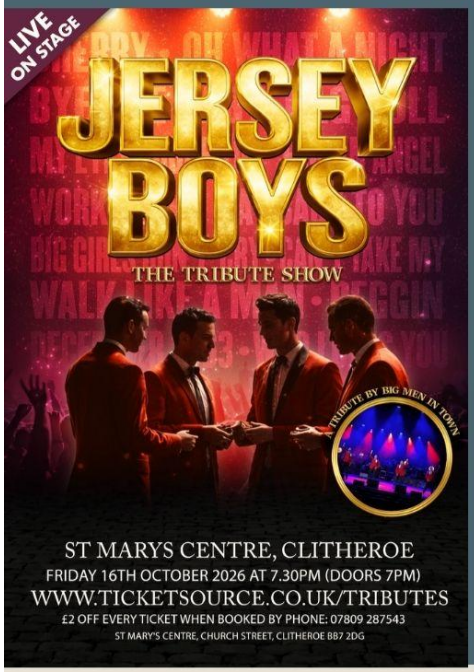
Open Daily, all kids go free

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.



ST MARY'S CENTRE OCTOBER 2026

What's on in the month ahead?



The month ahead

MONDAYS
St Mary's Playgroup
(Term time only)
9.15am-11.15am
Tai Chi—10.30am-11.30am
Ladies Badminton—1.00pm - 2.30pm
Beavers 6-7pm
(Term time & pre-booked only)
Cubs/Scouts 7-8pm
(Term time & pre-booked only)

TUESDAYS
Aerobics - 11.00am - 12.00noon
Jujitsu - 7.00pm-8.30pm

WEDNESDAYS
Tai Chi - 6.30pm-7.30pm

THURSDAYS
Line Dancing—7.30pm - 8.30pm

FRIDAYS
Line Dancing—10.00am - 12noon

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Ken's Quiz - Saturday 10th October 7pm onwards
Jersey Boys Tribute Act - Friday 16th October 7pm onwards
Seedy Frills - Saturday 24th October 7pm onwards

NOVEMBER

Table Top sale - Saturday 21st November 10am -2pm

HALL HIRE

Main Hall	Sports hall
Daytime: £20 per hour	Daytime: £18 per hour
Evening: £40 per hour	Evening: £23 per hour



CONTACT US

Address: Church St, Clitheroe BB7 2DG

Online: stmaryscentre.co.uk
Facebook: St Mary's Centre
Phone: 01200 425522
email: info@stmaryscentre.co.uk


Book now!
St Mary's Centre
£15 per table
TABLE TOP SALE
Reserve a table today for only £15
SATURDAY 21st NOV
10.00AM - 2.00PM
St Mary's Centre
Church Street
Clitheroe
To reserve a table
Email: info@stmaryscentre.co.uk
Phone: 01200 425522
or message us on Facebook
Clothing
Books
Home décor
Kitchenware
Toys
Crafts

CLITHEROE TENNIS CLUB

INDOOR MINI TENNIS



FUN! ACTIVE! ALL AGES WELCOME!

11th Sept – 18th Dec
(Excl. 30 Oct)

Reception – Year 2:
3:45pm – 4:30pm **£84**

Year 3 & 4:
4:30pm – 5:15pm **£84**

CLITHEROE TENNIS CLUB

WEST BRADFORD VILLAGE HALL

CONTACT COACH NICK: **07985605565**

LEAPING LIZARDS Play Centre

HALF TERM EVENTS AT LEAPING LIZARDS

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Halloween Silent Disco

6pm - 8pm | £8 per child



MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER

Pumpkin Trinket Tray Decorating

2pm - 4pm | £11.50 per child



TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER

Torr's Exotic Petting Zoo

with creepy critters and baby owls

2pm - 4pm | £12 per child



WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER

Halloween Potion and Slime Making

11.30am - 1.30pm and 2pm - 4pm

£11.50 per child



THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER

Wicked theme party

with Glinda & Elphaba

11.30am - 1.30pm, 2pm - 4pm | £20 per child



SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER

Halloween Party

9am - 11am
SEND party

11.30am - 1.30pm and 2pm - 4pm
Halloween Parties.

Facepainting, Games and Spooky Fun.

£10.50 per child



TUESDAY – FRIDAY (HALF TERM)

Spooky Film Nights

6pm - 8pm | £5 per child

Hocus Pocus, Frankenweenie,
The Nightmare Before Christmas & Transylvania.



BOOK YOUR SPOT NOW!

www.bookwhen.com/leapinglizardsplay

PB & ME

Personal Best. Mental Endurance.

MOVE | DEVELOP | CONNECT

COMMUNITY | OPPORTUNITY | BELONGING

SAME OPPORTUNITIES BRIGHTER FUTURES

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 7 – 14

ALL ABILITIES
ALL BACKGROUNDS
ALL WELCOME

MOVE • DEVELOP • CONNECT

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT. POSITIVE PEOPLE. REAL OPPORTUNITIES.



"HARD WORK BUILDS PROGRESS. BUILDS CONFIDENCE. ENJOY THE JOURNEY."

IGNITE is delivered by PB&ME, in partnership with Clitheroe Wolves FC, using physical and skill related fitness training alongside proven training methods that support every participant to develop from their own starting point.

Sessions focus on building fitness, skills, confidence and resilience, with mentoring opportunities to support personal and social development.

This programme is a progression of our trial projects and ideas, creating more structured opportunities for young people.

FRIDAYS
5PM – 6PM

HIGHMOOR PLAYING FIELDS

AGES 7 – 14
ALL ABILITIES
ALL WELCOME

£5 PER SESSION
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE

DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITY
BELONGING
POSITIVE PEOPLE

HOW IGNITE HELPS

IMPROVE FITNESS AND SKILLS

Build fitness, movement skills and core abilities in a supportive environment.

DEVELOP AT YOUR OWN PACE

Progress at your own level with guidance and support.

MENTORING AND SUPPORT

Positive role models, regular conversations and opportunities to build confidence and wider life skills.

REAL OPPORTUNITIES

Be part of a team, make new friends and contribute positively to your community.

MENTORING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLITHEROE FOOTBALL CLUB

Mentoring opportunities will be developed through a working partnership with Clitheroe Football Club, with a view to inspiring our community and supporting young people to contribute positively and add social value to their lives and to our wider community.

FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

If you are a community organisation, please get in touch so we can work together and help guide young people towards services that can make a real difference.

OUR JOURNEY

A progression and development of our trial projects and ideas, creating more structured opportunities for the future.

BOUNCE BACK – Building resilience

PHYSICAL FRIDAYS – Getting active together

PERFORMANCE & PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT – Growing skills and confidence

IGNITE – Mentoring, opportunity and brighter futures

SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE OR GET IN TOUCH

07359940773

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PEOPLE | POTENTIAL | PROGRESS | COMMUNITY


CLITHEROE
TENNIS CLUB
AUTUMN
HALF TERM
TENNIS CAMP
PLAY TENNIS
MAKE FRIENDS
GAMES & MATCHES
SKILLS & DRILLS
HAVE FUN!
DATES
Monday 26th October
Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 28th October
Friday 30th October
TIMES
Full Day:
9am – 3pm
Half Day:
9am – 12noon
or 12noon – 3pm
£ COST
Full Day:
£25
Half Day:
£15
A PACKED LUNCH, SNACKS AND DRINKS WILL NEED TO BE SENT WITH YOUR CHILD.
TO BOOK ON PLEASE MESSAGE NICK ON
07985605565