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

Telephone: 01200 422560
E-mail: bursar@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk

Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another

to be the best we can be.

13th November 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we welcome Jenson in Y3. As always, the children have helped Jenson to settle in to his new class and the SSMJ family.

The Sunday Gospel



This Sunday's Gospel reminds us to use our talents well.

When Jesus told this parable, the 'talent' he was speaking about was a sum of money – a weight of silver or gold.
In our time, the word 'talent' describes the special qualities or abilities which we all have. Using our talents just for our own enjoyment can be like hiding our talents in the ground. We should try to use them to bring happiness to others!

Talk to your child about their special talents and how they can use them to help spread God's love and contribute to the world.

Advent Prayer Club

Mrs Whyman will be running our Advent prayer club every Thursday morning 8:15 - 8:45 am during December. It will start on Thursday 3rd December until Thursday 17th December. More details about Advent will follow.

Armistice Day and Remembrance

On Wednesday, the GIFT team led the whole school in prayer and reflection followed by a 2 minute silence to remember all those who have died, been injured or affected by conflict past and present. Thank you to Mr Downes (Chair of the Local Governing Board) and Mrs Greenwood (Foundation Governor) for attending this with us.

Following the reflection, our Head Boy Frank and our Head Girl Rose, accompanied Mrs Greenwood and I to say a prayer and lay the school wreath at the Unknown Soldier.







Today, the year 4 children led a special Remembrance Assembly for the children, parents, carers and relatives.







Staffing News

As you may be aware, Mr Duckworth is presently absent from school. He has tendered his resignation and will be leaving SSMJ at the end of term. We wish him well.
We welcome Mrs Slack who will be teaching Year 6.

Year 6 parents have received a separate letter.

Mrs Russell is now Acting Deputy Headteacher.

Clitheroe Castle Walk – Art Project

On Tuesday afternoon, Gregory class went to Clitheroe castle with local artist Gosha Gibek. They were learning different sketching techniques.



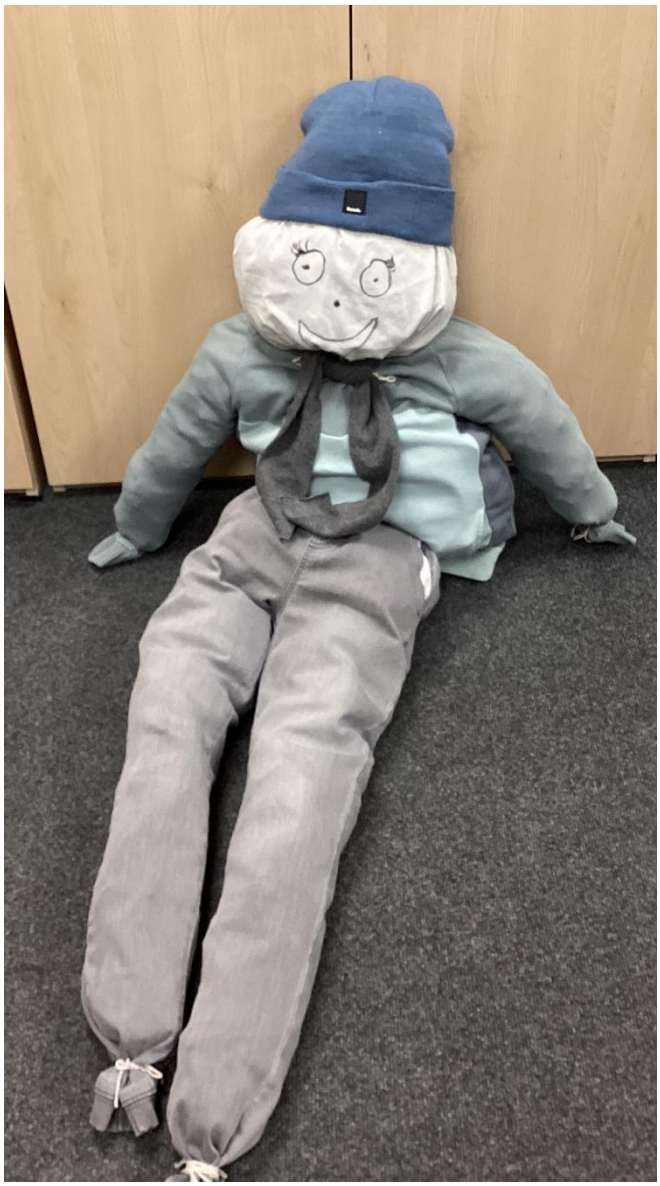




The Guy Fawkes Competition

A huge well done to our KS1 children, Arlo, Hugo, Harper, River, Blake, Alfie, Izabella and also to Miss Mabbott who took part in this year's Clitheroe Castle Guy Fawkes competition. We are incredibly proud of you, for all the time, effort and creativity you put into making our Guy. Thank you to Mrs Soule for delivering him to the Castle Bonfire. Although we didn't come away with a prize this year, the children thoroughly enjoyed being involved and participating.





Odd Socks Day ~ Monday 16th November

Odd Socks Day is part of Anti-Bullying Week!

To celebrate that we are all unique, we ask that you wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November. Andy Day (CBeebies/CBBC) and his band Andy and the Odd Socks are partnering with the Anti-Bullying Alliance to help bring Odd Socks Day to life again this year. Have a listen to the brilliant song they have recorded especially for Anti- Bullying Week, 'Who's Wearing Odd Socks?!'

The day sends an important message that we should all be allowed to be ourselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way.

About the Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA):

The ABA has three main areas of work:

- Supporting learning and sharing best practice through membership.
- Raising awareness of bullying through Anti-Bullying Week and other coordinated, shared campaigns.
- Delivering programme work at a national and local level to help stop bullying and bring lasting change to children's lives.

ABA is based at leading children's charity the National Children's Bureau.



Shoe Box Appeal

St Michael and St John's are once again supporting the Rotary Club to help bring joy to children less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. We launched our Shoe Box Appeal last week in assembly to help support the International Aid Trust Charity.

Our parents were so kind last year in helping their children to put together these boxes and again we are appealing for your support.

Details of how you can help are on the poster below and a copy of the poster will be sent home today.

Please ensure each box is labelled for either: Boy/Girl and Age of child. **The deadline to return the shoeboxes is Thursday 26th November.**





PTA Christmas Fayre

Our annual school Christmas Fayre will be held afterschool on Friday 4th December.

We will be holding two non-uniform days on Thursday 19th November and also on Thursday 26th November, to help raise donations for the Fayre.

We would be most grateful of donations listed below and we thank you as always for your ongoing support:

Non-uniform Date	Infants (KS1)	Juniors (KS2)
Thursday 19th November	Sweets/Chocolate	Bottle items
Thursday 26th November Secret Santa	**Secret Santa** – Please could we ask for a wrapped new/unused Secret Santa gift for when this takes place in school. If you could identify who the gift is suitable for i.e. infant girl or boy **OR** junior girl or boy.	

More details about the logistics of the event will follow nearer to the date.

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.

Staff regularly have clubs to run, events to attend or meetings after school so 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.

School Nurse Drop in Sessions

Our Community School Nurse - Rachel Dent will be holding drop-in sessions for our parents at school on:

Tuesday 17th November 2.30-3.30 pm

Thursday 21st January 2.30-3.30 pm

These sessions are for discussions about general health advice, bed wetting or low-level emotional health. If you have anything you would like to discuss, please feel free to pop in.

PTA

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to take on the necessary roles to keep our PTA going and to continue to provide exciting opportunities for our children and additional funds for school, for items the children otherwise would not have.

We will share the confirmed date and time of the PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) with parents as soon as these details are finalised.

Please come along to the AGM because the PTA need lots of helpers to ensure events are successful and safe.

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

Important Arbor Information

Please remember to book all meals is advance as this helps our cook plan and prepare our school meals. Meal orders can will no longer be taken by the school office.

Attendance Matters



0 days off, 100% =Perfection

2 days off, 99%=Good

5 days off, 97% =OK

10 days off, 95% =Concern

20 days, 90% =Significant concern

Please ensure your child is in school daily

Always be on time



5 mins late each day = 3 days over the year

10 mins late each day =6.5 days over the year

15 mins late each day= 10 days over the year

30 mins late each day= 19 days over the year

MISSED LEARNING

Clubs and Afterschool Activities



New Clubs and activities are now running. Bookings are now available on the new Arbor App.

Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Art Club	EYFS/KS1	Mrs Whyman	Monday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Axe Throwing	Years 5 & 6	Progressive Sports	Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 pm
Burnley Football Club	Years 3 & 4	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	One lunchtime per week
Advent Prayer Club	All Years	Mrs Whyman	December 3rd, 10th & 17th 8.15 am – 8.45 am
Dance Club	Years 3-6	Mr Currid	Friday Lunchtime

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

Art Club, BFC, Dance and Tennis Club are booked through Arbor.

Choir is not a bookable club.

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Tommy
Yr 1	Izabella
Yr 2	Matty
Yr 3	Kutenda
Yr 4	Maksym
Yr 5	Noah
Yr 6	William

Celebration Assembly

There was no Celebration Assembly today, due to the Remembrance Assembly taking place.



We have no birthdays to celebrate this week.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 16th November	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Sock Day
	4.00 – 5.30 pm ~ Year 5 & 6 Football
Tuesday 17th November	Gregory Class – Art Project
	2.30 – 3.30 pm ~ School Nurse Drop-in Session
Thursday 19th November	Non-Uniform Day ~ KS1 Chocolate donations & KS2 Bottle donations

Thursday 26th November	Non-Uniform Day ~ Secret Santa
Tuesday 1st December	Meeting for Parents of Year 6 – Meet the Teacher and Borwick Hall Residential
Thursday 3rd December	8.15 – 8.45 am ~ Advent Prayer Club
	KS2 Nativity tickets available (2 tickets per family)
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
Wednesday 9th December	Pantomime @ The Grand
Thursday 10th December	8.15 – 8.45 am ~ Advent Prayer Club
	Human Rights Day
Monday 14th December	Reports out today
Monday 14th December Tuesday 15th December	4.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
	6.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day KS2 (years 3-6) Christmas Party – Party Clothes can be worn
Thursday 17th December	KS1 Christmas Party (AM) – Party Clothes can be worn Parish and School Christmas Carol Concert
	8.15 – 8.45 am ~ Advent Prayer Club
Friday 18th December	1.30 pm ~ Early School Closure for Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 5th January	School re-opens to Children
Wednesday 6th January	Epiphany Mass
Thursday 21st January	2.30 – 3.30 pm ~ School Nurse Drop-in Session

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.

ADVENTURE CITY

SEND SESSIONS

Hyndburn Leisure





A quieter, more relaxed environment for children with additional needs and their families.

- Reduced noise and a calmer setting
- A more relaxed and inclusive experience
- A safe and welcoming space for all abilities

EVERY THURSDAY

3.30PM – 5.30PM

STARTING NOVEMBER 2026

Mental Elf

festive fun run

We're back in Leyland!

Saturday 28th November
Worden Park
9:30am-2.30pm

Be a part of the county's best festive fun run experience

and support vital mental health services across Lancashire!

Tickets from £7.00*

* Plus ticket booking fee

mind Lancashire

SPAR

marsdenrawsthorn SOLICITORS

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Join your family & friends for some festive fun.

2k, 5k or challenge your sElf distances!

- Surprise festive boosts every km
- Bespoke sustainable elf medal
- Goody bags for everyone who finishes



Find out more

Be the best dressed Elf and get ready to Ho Ho Go!



Make a little Christmas memory.

Choose your Sunday. Gather your family.
Enjoy a festive breakfast with a very special visitor.

Book your family's table: 01200 411353

info@whitebullgisburn.org

Please include your preferred date and party size, including under-2s.
Tell us about any allergies or dietary requirements when booking.

THE WHITE BULL | MAIN STREET, GISBURN | BB7 4HE

East Lancashire Hospice Events and Appeals

December

Festive Breakfast With The Grinch



5th December, 2026

Light Up A Life



13th December, 2026

November

Christmas Fayre



22nd November, 2026

Christmas Markets at the Britannia



27th November, 2026

East Lancashire Hospice

Prize and Hamper Appeal



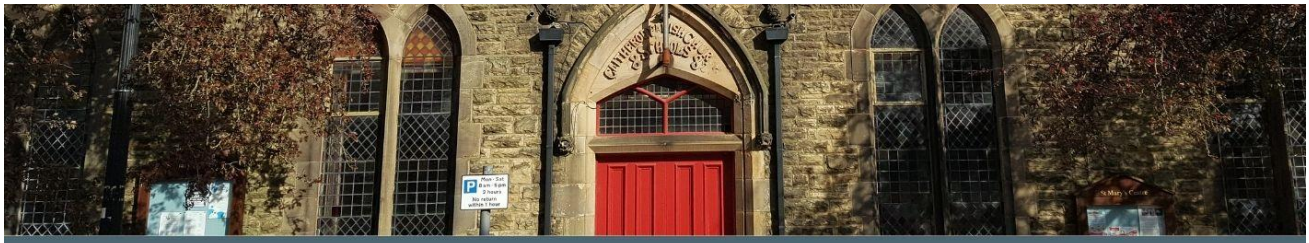
East Lancashire Hospice

We're about the **quality of life.**

01254 965830

www.eastlancshospice.org.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



ST MARY'S CENTRE NOVEMBER 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

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

DECEMBER
Church Coffee Morning 4th December 10.30 - 12.30pm

HALL HIRE

Main Hall
Daytime: £20 per hour
Evening: £40 per hour

Sports hall
Daytime: £18 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

PERFORMANCE VENUE HIRE





MAIN HALL
- Stage
- Stage Lighting
- Fully equipped audio system with "Loop"
- Below stage changing facilities
- 3m projector screen
- Free Wi-Fi
- Fully licensed bar

DAYTIME: £20 PER HOUR EVENING: £40 PER HO

LOWER HALL
- Sports hall with hard wood floor
- Badminton markings
- Perfect for Judo, indoor football and other sports, children's classes and exercise classes
- Free Wi-Fi

DAYTIME: £18 PER HOUR EVENING: £23 PER HOUR





St Mary's Centre
Tel: 01200 425522
info@stmaryscentre.co.uk
www.stmaryscentre.co.uk
Church St, Clitheroe BB7 2DG


CLITHEROE TENNIS CLUB
INDOOR
MINI TENNIS
SERVE RALLY SCORE!
LEARN PLAY HAVE FUN!
PLAY FRIENDS SMILE!
MINI TENNIS
MINI TENNIS
11th Sept – 18th Dec
(Excl. 30 Oct)
FUN! ACTIVE! ALL AGES WELCOME!
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

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

WESTHOLME
PREP | SENIORS | SIXTH FORM

matrix soccer academy



FOOTBALL CAMP

15 - 18 FEBRUARY 2027

WHY CHOOSE US?

Football Camp for boys and girls aged 7-15. £35 per day session.

Led by UEFA-qualified coach Charlie Jackson – founder of Matrix Soccer Academy, currently working at Manchester City Junior Academy.

Beginners to intermediate sessions:
Monday 15 February - 09:00 - 15:00
Tuesday 16 February - 09:00 - 15:00

Advanced to elite sessions:
Wednesday 17 February- 09:00 - 15:00
Thursday 18 February - 09:00 - 15:00

SIGN UP HERE

Westholme School, Wilmar Lodge, Pleasington, BB2 6QU