



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.*

21st November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we welcomed Harper to EYFS and Noah in Year 2 as part of the SSMJ family.

The Sunday Gospel



This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. In this Sunday's Gospel, the leaders, the soldiers and the people all mock Jesus as God's Chosen One and as King. Jesus forgave those who crucified him.

In life, we all make mistakes, but we also receive mercy as a gift from God, and it is a gift we are called to share with others.

Mercy is a virtue. Ask your child what the word 'mercy' means to them.

Being compassionate, being patient with others even if we are being treated unfairly, forgiving others (even if we feel they don't deserve forgiveness), sometimes giving people more than they deserve, these are just some ways of showing mercy.

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.

Year 4 Football Competition

On Monday this week Year 4 took part in an inter-school competition at Roefield Leisure.

The boys all played brilliantly and should have probably won, but we were beaten by the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

Congratulations to: Tommy, Hugo, Theo, Alessandro, Freddie, Noah, Hugo, Rocco and Paul.



Year 4 Trip - 'Rivers in the Classroom'



Today, Year 4 took part in an 'Exploring the River Landscape' session with Ribble Valley River Trust. Throughout the morning, we were transported back in time to millions of years ago to see how the landscape on Earth was formed and how it changed. After that we discussed how water was used to power machinery during the industrial revolution. Later we used a model of a landscape to show how rivers flow and how we can affect the way they flow by planting trees and making dams. Here are a few pictures, but please check out your class page on our website, where there are more pictures from today.



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.

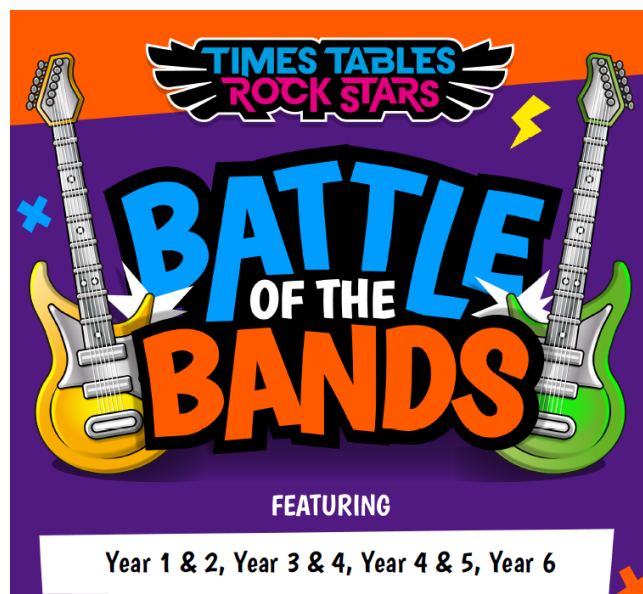
We appreciate parents have just supported our charity fundraising with the Lioness event, but if you are able to support us in reaching the final target so the work can start, we would be very grateful.

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 and we do not have any donations.

Battle of the Bands



This week we have reintroduced our 'Battle of the Bands' competition between classes. Every time a pupil plays a game on any mode in Times Table Rock Stars and gets a question right, they earn a point for their class. The children can earn points both in school and at home.

Each week in Celebration Assembly, the top three most valuable players in each participating class will be awarded a certificate and the overall winning class announced.

The winning class this week was... Class 4/5!



PTA Christmas Fayre

The annual school Christmas Fayre, will be held afterschool on Friday 5th December.

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

We will be holding another non-uniform day on Thursday 27th 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	Juniors
Thursday 27 th 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 and a risk assessment will follow nearer to the date.

Thank you for your support.

Saturday Flu Vaccinations Clinic

Just a reminder the NHS team will be holding a follow up flu vaccination clinic on Saturday 22nd November, between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm at their Burnley base.

Clinic address:

Lancashire Digital Technology Centre

Bancroft Road

Burnley

BB10 2TP

If your child has not yet received their flu vaccine, please call to book an appointment on 0333 358 3397 (Option 2, then option 2).

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

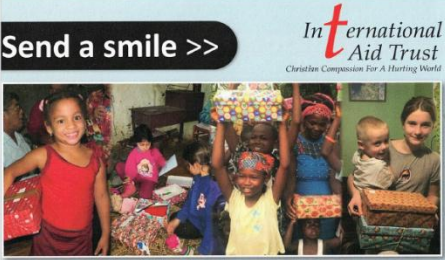
We kindly ask all parents and carers to be respectful when parking near the school in residential areas. Please can we ask parents' not to park on the resident only car park or parking spaces on Bayley Fold, please do not block pathways or park on surrounding pavements, or in unsafe areas. Our neighbours 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.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all the Parents and Children who have supported the Shoe Box appeal so far this year. Just a reminder all shoe boxes will need to be returned to school by **Tuesday 25th November.**

Details of how you can help are on the poster below and a copy of the poster has also been sent home.

Please ensure each box is labelled for either: Boy/Girl and Age of child.



Send a smile >>

SHOEBOX APPEAL
Look inside for a new way to send a smile with our **VIRTUAL SHOEBOX SCHEME >>**

Imagine a year without presents!
For children and adults living in poverty the gift of a shoebox can be a dream come true or an answer to prayer. **We deliver shoeboxes to people of all ages from babies to elderly people**, throughout the year, not just at Christmas. Our dedicated teams overseas share Jesus' love and provide pastoral care, as well as practical gifts.

To arrange drop off or collection of your shoebox...

- email office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk or
- phone **01772 611000**

Office Address:
The Galleries, Craft Mill, Pall Mall, Chorley PR7 3LT
Patron: The Lord Shuttleworth 65 KNO Patron, Business Co of Queensbury
Charity Registration No. 1086597 Company limited by guarantee No 4167908

www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes

Join in the fun >>

FILL A BOX OR TWO

- 1) **Gift wrap the box and lid separately**
 - Use an elastic band to keep the box together.
- 2) **Fill out the label (overleaf)**
 - Choose the age and gender of the person you want to receive your shoebox.
 - Fill out the label overleaf and stick it onto the top of your shoebox.
- 3) **Fill your shoebox with appropriate gifts**
 - Don't wrap individual items.
 - See below for a list of suitable/unsuitable gift ideas.

IDEAS FOR WHAT TO INCLUDE

TOILETRIES ✓ Toothbrush ✓ Toothpaste ✓ Soap ✓ Flannel or sponge
✓ Comb ✓ Hair bobbles ✓ Roll on deodorant ✗ No sprays
✗ No medicines, vitamins or tablets

TOYS ✓ Small toys ✓ Cuddly toys ✓ Balls ✓ Skipping rope ✓ Games
✓ Small jigsaws etc. ✗ No guns or war toys

CLOTHES ✓ Socks ✓ T-shirts ✓ Hats ✓ Scarves ✓ Gloves ✓ Underwear
✓ Babygro (for little ones)

STATIONERY ✓ Pens ✓ Pencils ✓ Crayons ✓ Eraser ✓ Sharpener ✓ Notebooks
✓ Colouring books ✓ Scissors (round-ended safety type for children)

PRACTICAL ✓ Plastic bowl & cup ✓ Cutlery ✓ Safety Pins* ✓ Mini sewing kit*
✓ String* ✓ Wind-up torch* ✓ Plasters* ✗ No matches *For teens & adults

Did you know... It costs us £2 to collect, store, transport and distribute each shoebox? In a time of increasing costs, your contributions are very welcome. Please do not put money inside or attached to boxes. Donations can be made through our website or by cheque.

Leaflet sponsored by Highpoint Media (www.highpointmedia.co.uk)

Send a smile >>

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Our team in **Ukraine** delivered shoeboxes to a family living in poverty, sadly their Dad had recently passed away and all three children were struggling with health conditions. Their Mum wrote a thank you letter:
"If you knew how much you brought us joy! Thank you very much!"

In **Kagbalie**, a desperately poor village in **Sierra Leone**, the community were amazed by the shoeboxes our team delivered. Children opening boxes asked: *"Is that all for me?"*
Adults asked: *"Why would they send us a gift? they don't know us".*

When you send a shoebox or virtual shoebox you are sending much more than useful and fun items; it's personal - a gift just for the person receiving it - a message of hope and love, that reflects the love of Jesus; letting children and adults in desperate circumstances know that someone cares and they are not forgotten.


To request a speaker for your school, church or group, please email office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk.

Who will your shoebox or virtual gift make happy?

Boy Girl Age

Adult Male Adult Female

Cut out this label and stick onto your shoebox



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS

Following previous years success, please join Friends of SSMJ for a festive evening of wreath making!

Two dates are available:

🎄 Thursday 27th November

🎄 Friday 28th November.

Arrival at 6:15PM for a 6:30PM start.

All wreaths will be created from scratch using fresh festive foliage and there will be a variety of decorations to choose from. No experience is necessary, you will receive full tuition from an experienced florist on the night.

Tickets are just £35pp, inclusive of your own wreath to take home, decorative materials, mince pies, prosecco, mulled wine and tea and coffee.

Event to be held at St Michael and St John's RC Primary School, Lowergate, Clitheroe, BB7 1AG

Tickets to be purchased through Classlist:

https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1362740775?s=903500776&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED_LINK

Friends of SSMJ

Christmas Wreath Making

27th & 28th November
6.15pm arrival for 6.30pm start

St Michael & St John's School,
Lowergate, BB7 1AG

£35pp

Includes wreath & all materials, tutorial,
mince pies, mulled wine or prosecco
plus tea & coffee

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.



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.



We have no birthdays to celebrate this week.

Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Ralph, Hugo and Harper
Yr 1 & 2	Aleks, Freya, Charlie, Rupert and Noah
Yr 3 & 4	Arthur, Archie, Ezra and Isla
Yr 4 & 5	Jiya, Paul, Darcey and Nora
Yr 6	Edgar, Isabella, Pyper and Eleanor

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Noah
Yr 1	Matty
Yr 2	Renato
Yr 3	Isla
Yr 4	Hugo
Yr 5	Harry
Yr 6	Dexter

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Friday 21 st November	Year 4 - 'Rivers in the Classroom' River Ribble Trust
Tuesday 25 th November	Shoe Box Appeal ~ Please return any shoe boxes by today
Thursday 27 th November	Non-Uniform Day - Secret Santa
	6.15 pm ~ PTA Christmas Wreath Making at School
Friday 28 th November	6.15 pm ~ PTA Christmas Wreath Making at School
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
Tuesday 9 th December	9.30 am ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
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	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
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

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.



Friends of SSMJ

Christmas Wreath Making

27th & 28th November

6:15pm arrival for 6:30pm start

St Michael & St John's School,
Lowergate, BB7 1AG

£35pp



Includes wreath & all materials, tutorial,
mince pies, mulled wine or prosecco
plus tea & coffee

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



Clitheroe Castle Museum



Advent Adventures

The Great Christmas Door Hunt



Saturday 29 November 12.30pm – 3.30pm

A perfect way to start the countdown to Christmas with a festive quest in the museum galleries, crafts and seasonal treats to take home.

Booking essential. Children £6, Adults £4 (includes discounted museum admission)

Visit our website or follow the QR code to find out more and book your place.



MORE INFO



Fibble Valley
Borough Council
www.fvbc.gov.uk

In partnership with

Lancashire
County
Council



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