



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

Telephone: 01200 422560
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*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another
to be the best we can be.*

7th November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

This week we welcomed two new starters Izabella (EYFS) and Ezra (Year 3) to the SSMJ family. As always, the children have made him feel very welcome.

The Sunday Gospel



In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a protest that things had gone seriously wrong with how they were relating to God; something needed to change.

Jesus was a very enthusiastic person. He was passionate for people to worship God in a true and proper way. He saw that many had become so interested in money that they were losing respect for God and for God's ways.

Ask your child what the word 'enthusiasm' means to them. Which person or group of people do they know who is enthusiastic and full of energy for doing the right thing? What is your child enthusiastic about?

Parent Governor Elections

Following the conclusion of the process, we welcome Mrs Kate Walmsley as a Parent Governor. Thank you to all parents who expressed an interest in being a Parent Governor and to all who cast a vote.

Remembrance



We would like to welcome all Parents' and relatives to our special Remembrance Assembly which will be held at school on **Tuesday 11th November at 9.00 am**. The assembly will be led by Year 4 pupils.

At 10.50 am pupils and staff will have a short prayer service for pupils only, which will be led by the GIFT team before the expected town cannons which will commence the 2 minute silence at 11.00 am. After the prayer service Mr Duckworth and the Head Boy and Girl will lay a wreath at the Castle memorial and say a prayer.

Year 6 pupils are currently selling poppies around school, at break time and lunch time, if you would like your child to purchase one we would suggest a £1.00 donation.

Children in Scouts, Beavers, Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows or Guides may wear their uniforms rather than school uniform on Tuesday.

By taking part, we show kindness, respect and gratitude to those who help keep us safe. Together, we remember.

Parental Questionnaires

Thank you to the parents who completed the Parent Questionnaires. The results were very positive.

Some of the lovely comments included:

'His learning is second to none and my children are already showing a lot of progress.'

'I can see the amount of time and effort staff pour into the children and it is showing in my child.'

'The children are so polite and well behaved in and out of the school. It's lovely to see. The children speak very highly about the school and how much they love the school and the staff.'

'The older children look after the younger children.'

'The communication between school and parents is fantastic! I am made aware of everything, kept up to date/receive reminders about events etc.'

'The family feel, and acknowledging other achievements that aren't academic such as kindness.'

Year 5 & 6 Football Event

Yesterday the Year 5s and 6s represented the school in a competition organised by Burnley FC in the Community. They played really well, winning 5 games, drawing 1 and only losing 2. They were fantastic representatives of our school and we are very proud of them. Thank you to Miss Mabbott and Ms Brindle for taking the children.



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.

Spooky Disco

The PTA Spooky Disco which was held on Friday 24th October raised a massive £906! Our best year so far! Thank you so much to everyone who came and supported the event. The monies raised will go towards the new Multi-purpose room. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising the event.

Student Teachers

This term, EYFS will be supporting two students on work experience placement. Miss Keira Harper will be working with the children each week on a Thursday and Friday afternoon until Christmas. Miss Jasmine Bentley will be starting on Monday and will be in school every day to work with the children. We know the EYFS children will look after our visitors and make them feel at home during their time with us!

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

Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Alliance are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2025 will take place from Monday 10th - Friday 14th November, with the theme: Power for Good.

Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. **During the week we will celebrate Odd Socks Day on Wednesday 12th, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.**

The children will have a special assembly lead by the Wellbeing Warriors about what the theme means for children in school.

You can donate directly to the charity via their JustGiving page. Or send them a cheque made payable to 'Anti-Bullying Alliance' and send to the National Children's Bureau, 23 Mentmore Terrace, London, E8 3PN. Please make sure you include your name and email address as we like to acknowledge all funds raised wherever possible.

To donate £1, text ABA to 70201

To donate £3, text ABA to 70331

To donate £5, text ABA to 70970

To donate £10, text ABA to 70191

Shoe Box Appeal



We launched our Shoebox Appeal in assembly today to help support the International Aid Trust Charity.

Children were shown examples of shoe boxes and ideas for items which would be greatly appreciated.

Leaflets will be sent home with pupils today and shoeboxes will need to be completed and returned back to school by Tuesday 25th November.

Thank you for your continued support.

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, 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.

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.

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 Charlotte in EYFS who celebrated a birthday this week.

Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Noah and Izzy
Yr 1 & 2	Harper, Blake, Ava and Cora
Yr 3 & 4	Wiktorija, Noah, Ada and Ezra
Yr 4 & 5	Marcus, Theo, George and Charlie W
Yr 6	Edie, Jacob, Tristan and Theo

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Isabelle
Yr 1	Blake
Yr 2	Kutenda
Yr 3	Liberty
Yr 4	Nora
Yr 5	Rosie
Yr 6	Eleanor

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day - All Parents' and relatives invited to our whole school Assembly at 9.00 am
	All sponsorship money to be returned to school.
Wednesday 12 th November	Anti-Bullying Day - Children can wear odd socks alongside their usual school uniform.
	PM ~ Year 3 & 4 Sports Hall Athletic Event at Oak hill School
Thursday 13 th November	Athletic Event - Whole school sponsored activity
Monday 17 th November	3.00 pm ~ Year 3 & 4 Football Competition at Roefield
Thursday 20 th November	Non-uniform Day ~ KS2 Bottles and KS1 Chocolate
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
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

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



Jump Into Fun

Get Active – Have Fun – Meet New Friends
Refreshments Provided



**Suitable
For 7-11
Years Olds**

ACTIVE

Tuesday 11th Noumeber

For Six Weeks.....

3:45PM to 5:15PM

Clitheroe Family Hub , Wesleyan Row BB72JY

Please note.. Parents/carers are not expected to stay



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.co.uk

In partnership with
Lancashire
County
Council 

NOVEMBER 2025

ST MARY'S CENTRE

WHAT'S ON FOR THE MONTH AHEAD



TABLE TOP SALE

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 22nd NOV
10.00AM - 3.00PM

St Mary's Centre
Church Street,
Clitheroe.BB7 2DG

Clothing Kitchenware
Books & Toys
Home décor Furniture

Tea, coffee and cakes!

CASH ONLY

FREE ENTRY

Tables £15
BOOK NOW!

info@stmaryscentre.co.uk

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

A Team Dance 5pm - 6.30pm

(Term time & pre-booked only)

Encore Musical Theatre Classes 5pm
-6.45pm

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

Encore Drama Classes 5pm - 7pm

Tai Chi - 6.30pm-7.30pm

THURSDAYS

Line Dancing—7.30pm - 8.30pm

A Team Dance 4.30 - 6.45pm

FRIDAYS

Line Dancing—10.00am - 12noon

SATURDAYS

Puppy Training—10am-11am

Encore Musical Theatre Classes
10.30am - 12pm

Most classes are drop in for more information please
visit our website

Available to hire for regular meetings or one-off
events. Prices from - £12/hour

ADDRESS: CHURCH ST,
CLITHEROE BB7 2DG

PHONE: 01200 425522
EMAIL: INFO@STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK

ONLINE: STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK
FACEBOOK: ST MARY'S CENTRE



Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

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

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



0800 51 11 11