



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 January 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

The Sunday Gospel



In this Sunday's Gospel, we return to the beginning of Jesus' mission. The humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. John the Baptist is one of the best known saints. Our schools and parishes are founded in the name of Jesus and they continue to share Jesus' message, giving witness to God's love for all people.

Ask your child what the word 'witness' means to them. witnesses for Jesus (e.g. Mary his mother, St Joseph, St Teresa of Calcutta.)

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

This year the Sacrament of Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 6th June at 1.30pm. The children will be invited into school earlier for photographs. A full letter will be sent out next week.

Important Notice - Car Parking

Our School Advisor visited the school on Thursday and was extremely concerned to see several cars abandoned in the middle of the carpark creating a 'grid locked situation' while parents/carers were dropping off their children. We would like to remind all families about the importance of safe and considerate car parking at all times. These issues create a serious safety risk for our children, families and staff and also prevents the traffic from flowing freely and safely in and out of the carpark. We ask all parents and carers to park only in the designated spaces available.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to keep our school community safe.

George is Walking 50 miles in January for Dementia UK

This January, George in Year 4 is walking 50 Miles to help raise funds for Dementia UK, the specialist dementia nursing charity, and he would be grateful for your support.

Your donation, big or small, would make a huge difference.

If you wish to support George please donate at the link below:

[Dementia UK - Juliet Long](#)

Good luck George we are very proud of you and we wish you all the very best!



Christmas Fayre and Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Christmas Fayre. Our wonderful PTA raised a huge £983 from the event!

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for your efforts in organising the event.

Curriculum and Homework



Each class page on our website has been updated ready for this new term. We encourage you to regularly check your child's class page and Class Dojo page to stay informed of what is happening in your child's class. On the class page will be the curriculum overview showing what your child will be learning in each subject this term.

At home, please can you ensure that you are listening to your child read often and that they are changing their books as required in school. Please can you also ensure that your child is regularly completing their homework as this helps to reinforce and consolidate learning undertaken in school.

Behaviour and Conduct

As it is a brand new year and a new school term, we have discussed our school expectations for behaviour and conduct with the children as we want our children to 'be the best they can be'. We have reminded the children about how we need to conduct ourselves in and around school including the high expectations we have for everyone in our school community, with respect at the core. For our children to learn, grow and thrive, we need exemplary behaviour. At home, please can you also remind the children about the importance of this and support us to help lead the children by example.



Toy Donations for Wet Playtime Activates



We are kindly asking for donations of toys to support our wet playtime activates. We are specifically looking for cars, farm animals, action figures, Barbie dolls, and transformers that are in good condition and age appropriate for our children. Please note that at this time we cannot accept soft toys or board games, as we already have lots of these toys available for our children to play with! Thank you very much for your continued support.

Attendance Matters

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS 	
MINUTES LATE	IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES A DAY	3.4 DAYS 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES A DAY	6.9 DAYS 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES A DAY	10.3 DAYS 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES A DAY	13.8 DAYS 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES A DAY	20.7 DAYS 89.2% ATTENDANCE

We are having a close focus on attendance at SSMJ. Ensuring children attend school is very important for promoting wellbeing and enabling children to reach academic milestones as well as for preparing children for adulthood.

Please ensure you minimise absences and make appointments outside of school time as far as possible. We may ask for evidence for absences.

We are tracking the attendance data very carefully to support children to have the very best learning opportunities. Please work with us to improve our attendance.



PE Days

Year Group	PE Days
EYFS	Tuesday & Friday
Year 1 & 2	Monday & Tuesday
Year 3 & 4	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4 & 5	Tuesday & Friday
Year 6	Monday & Tuesday

The Ribble Valley Arts and Excellence Awards

We have been approached by the local council to make you aware of a grant which you can apply for, for any children with talents in Dance, Drama and Music. Please see below further information from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The Ribble Valley Borough Council, Arts Excellence Awards are designed to assist young talented performer's progress in their chosen activity of dance, drama or music. The main aim of the scheme is to help with the cost of tuition, travel and equipment in their chosen discipline. To be eligible the young people need to: be over the age of 9, be in full time education, must have achieved a qualification / accreditation in the art form they practice that is recognised by a governing body, must live in Ribble Valley.

For More Information. Follow this link to look at the grant criteria, check your eligibility and see how to apply [Arts Excellence Award - Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)

The deadline for applications is 2nd February 2026

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.

Clubs and Afterschool Activities



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Multi Sports	5 & 6	Progressive Sports	Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Multiplication Club	4	Miss Parkinson	Monday 3.30 - 4.15 pm
Choir	KS2	Mrs Russell	Tuesday Lunchtime
Burnley Football Club	3 & 4	Burnley Football Club	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Tennis Club	All Years	Tennis Coach	Wednesday 8.00 - 8.45 am
Create Club	All Years	Mrs Troughton	Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Prayer Club	All Years	Mrs Whyman	Thursday 8.15 - 8.45 am
Year 6 Extended Lessons	6	Mr Duckworth	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Multi Sports	1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm



Happy birthday to Zane in Year 1, Archie P in Year 4, Jiya and Mason in Year 5 and Nahri in Year 6, who will celebrate a birthday this week.

Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Thea and Adley
Yr 1 & 2	Mateusz, Ava, Cora and Freya
Yr 3 & 4	Abbas, Ada, Maisie and Noah P
Yr 4 & 5	Noah, Sadie, Orla and Rose
Yr 6	Jake, Willow, Elsie-May and Oliver

Top Table Winners



EYFS	Alex
Yr 1	Blake
Yr 2	Max
Yr 3	Anthony
Yr 4	Riley M
Yr 5	Rose
Yr 6	Theo

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 26 th January	13.15 - 14.15 pm ~ Lets go Sing Visit
Monday 2 nd February	5.00 pm ~ Borwick & SATs Parents' Information Evening
Friday 13 th February	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 19 th January	3.00 pm - 6.00 pm ~ Year 5 & 6 Football competition - Roefield Leisure
Tuesday 20 th January	9.15 am - 10.30 am ~ Glow Dodgeball Competition ~ Oakhill School
Wednesday 21 st January	12.00 noon - 2.30 pm ~ Panathlon Tenpin Bowling Event ~ MFA Tenpin Bowling Alley ~ Burnley
Wednesday 28 th January	9.30 am - 12.30 pm ~ Girls Cricket Event - The Leisure Box, Brierfield
Thursday 29 th January	4.00 pm - 6.00 pm ~ Year 5 & 6 Sports Hall Athletics Event ~ Roefield Leisure
Friday 6 th February	Number Day - Non uniform
Monday 9 th February	5.30 pm - Sacramental Parents' Information Meeting
Tuesday 10 th February	Internet Safety Day.
Thursday 5 th February	10.00 - 11.30 am ~ Gymnastics Taster Event ~ Hyndburn Leisure Centre
Thursday 12 th February	Year 6 ~ Catalyst Activity Morning
Friday 13 th February	Afterschool today, school will close for half term
Monday 23 rd February	INSET Day - School Closed for Pupils

Tuesday 24 th February	School re-opens
Thursday 26 th February	Year 4/5 Liverpool Museum Trip
Monday 2 nd March	Year 1/2 Thornton Hall Farm Trip
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 th March	EYFS Trip to Little Lancs Village
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 3/4 Liverpool Museum Trip
Wednesday 18 th March	1.15 pm ~ Lets Go Sing Performance - Blackburn Ice Arena
Wednesday 25 th March	9.15 am ~ Rock Steady Concert - Parents' Welcome
Friday 27 th March	School reports out to parents'
Tuesday 31 st March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1 st April	Parents' Evening
Thursday 2 nd April	Afterschool today, school will close for Easter
Monday 20 th April	School re-opens
Monday 11 th May	SAT's Week
Sunday 6 th June	1.30 pm ~ First Holy Communion

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)



ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

Re-open on:	Thursday 3 rd September 2026
INSET DAY	Friday 23 rd October 2026
Half Term	Monday 26 th October to Friday 30 th October 2026
Re-open on:	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Christmas Holiday	Early closure on Friday 18 th December 2026

(Number of openings: 71)

Spring Term 2027

Re-open on:	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Half Term	Monday 15 th February to Friday 19 th February 2027 (inclusive)
INSET DAY	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Re-open on:	Tuesday 23 rd February 2027
Easter Break	Friday 26 th March to Friday 9 th April 2027 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 52)

Summer Term 2027

Re-open on:	Monday 12 th April 2027
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 rd May 2027
Half Term	Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2027 (inclusive)
Re-open on:	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holiday	Early closure on Wednesday 21 st July 2027

(Number of openings: 67)

(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.

Targeted Youth Support 12-19 (25 SEND)

SEND	The group aims to work on life skills, improving communication skills, self-confidence & self-esteem in a group work setting.
Safe Spaces	Safe space for young people to hang out with friends and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities.
LG8TQ+	
Youth Council & Participation	Access this group to obtain support, discuss and challenge ideas around gender and identity. Join and have your say. At this group you can join in with debates on issues in the local community and wider society. Creating campaigns for positive change.

Participation	Groups and services provided by our Family Hub Partners
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Important Information

If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, please contact the Police in the first instance using 999.
Next, report your concerns to Children's Service by telephone: 0300 123 6720 or 0300 123 6722 if out of hours.
Please have available the Police crime log number.
To contact your local Family Hub
Please call: 01200 420460 or
Email: Ribblevalleyfamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk

Please use the QR code to register if you haven't been to our groups before



facebook



What's On...



Ribble Valley



Longridge Family Hub
 Berry Lane
 Longridge
 PR3 3JP



Clitheroe Family Hub
 Wesleyan Row
 Parsons Lane
 BB7 2JY

Children and Family
Wellbeing Service



0-5 years old

Infant Massage	Suitable for babies from 6 weeks to crawling, these sessions support your baby's development and strengthen your attachment.
Baby and You	A fun and stimulating group that encourages positive play and interaction with your baby. Suitable for babies from birth to pre-walking stage
Chat, Play and Read	A group for children under 5, which supports speech, language development, and listening skills in a fun and interactive way.
Development Matters	A wonderful session for children under 5 to learn, play, and make friends. It offers stimulating indoor and outdoor activities
Mini Move and Groove	Develop social skills and make friends in this fun and upbeat group which encourages physical activity and a health lifestyle. For children under 5.
Transitions	Supporting children's development through learning, creative play and exploration as they prepare for early years provision or primary school.

5-11 years old

Inside Out	A group to build confidence, self-esteem, and friendships through creative and physical activities.
Move and Groove	Promotes physical play and a healthy lifestyle whilst building social skills and having fun.
Colourful Footsteps	A safe space for children with physical, learning, behavioural, or emotional difficulties to gain confidence, self-expression and make new friends.
Moving on	For children moving from primary to secondary school, this session uses interactive activities to help them prepare both practically and emotionally.

Parenting and Family Support – Parents and Carers

Bump, Birth and Beyond	A comprehensive course supporting expectant parents in preparing for their baby's arrival. Delivered in collaboration with Midwives and Health Visitors.
Nurture Programme	A 10-week course that helps parents and carers build positive relationships, encourage co-operative behaviour, and boost resilience.
Solihull	Helps parents understand their child's behaviour by focusing on emotional wellbeing, strong relationships, and how children's brains develop.
Triple P	Parenting course to support development and address behaviours. Group parents of 2-11-year olds and Teen's course.
Riding the Rapids	For parents and carers of children with Autism, learning or neurodevelopmental disabilities, or complex physical needs. It supports understanding and managing challenging behaviour.
Positive Relationships, Stronger Families	This 4-week programme supports parents and carers facing ongoing conflict, helping them understand its impact on children and what healthy relationships look like.
Separated Parents	A 4-week course for separated parents, exploring the impact of separation on children, co-parenting positively and meeting children's needs while living apart.
DA Recovery	For women who have experienced domestic abuse. Offers support in recovering abusive behaviours, understanding healthy relationships in a safe and supportive way - call for more details.

Visit www.lancashire.gov.uk and search 'safer sleep for baby' for more information about the 'six steps' to safer sleep.



What's On... Ribble Valley



Scan to Book an Event



January - February 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Infant Massage 9:30am - 11:00am Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF BOOKING REQUIRED	Development Matters 9:30am - 10:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY	Chat Play Read 9:30am - 10:30am Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF		Chat Play Read 10:30am - 11:30am Clitheroe Library Church Street BB7 2QC Last Friday of every month
	Baby Self-Weigh 12:15pm - 1:15pm Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF	Riding the Rapids 10:00am - 12:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY BOOKING REQUIRED	Weigh In Clinic 9:30am - 11:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY		Generations Stay and Play 10:30am - 11:30am Abbeyfield House Union Street Clitheroe BB7 2NH
	Baby and You 1:30pm - 2:30pm Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF		Sing and Rhyme 10:00am - 11:00am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY		
	Baby and You / NCT Feeding Support 10:00am - 11:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY				
	Infant Massage 1:30pm - 3:00pm Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY BOOKING REQUIRED				

Do you have a two-year-old?

To help you balance family life don't forget to apply for a funded childcare place.

Pre-visit to your nearest Family Hub for more information and support!

Additional Sessions

For the bookable groups please refer to the QR code below



Scan on page 11 of 11

Saturday Family Fun

10:00am - 12:00pm

New Era Family Hub
 Paradise Street
 Accrington
 BB51PD



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

JANUARY 2026

ST MARY'S CENTRE

WHAT'S ON FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

RAFFLE PRIZES

ST MARY'S CENTRE

Church Street, Clitheroe

BAR OPEN FROM 6PM

FAMILY BINGO NIGHT



SATURDAY | 31 JANUARY 2026

Doors open 6pm

Eyes down 6.30pm

Adult ticket £5

Family ticket £15
(2 Adults & 2 Children)

Tickets include entry & first Bingo book
Line & Full House prizes

Box office - St Mary's Centre
9am-1pm Mon-Fri

More Info: www.stmaryscentre.co.uk
01200 425522



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)

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 & Musical Theatre

Classes 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Tai Chi - 6.30pm-7.30pm

THURSDAYS

Line Dancing—7.30pm - 8.30pm

FRIDAYS

Line Dancing—10.00am - 12noon

SATURDAYS

Puppy Training—10am-11am

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