



NEWSLETTER

Spring Term (2) 2024

MESSAGE FROM MR THOMPSON

Welcome to the Easter edition of our newsletter.

Once again, we have enjoyed a very busy term, with plenty of enriching activities for pupils in all years. Congratulations to all our pupils who have participated in, or contributed to, the ongoing success of St Mary's. Our newsletter showcases the full range of how the pupils have 'Let Their Light Shine' in this term. We always try our best to ensure that pupils have opportunities to develop their talents, help serve others, try new skills as well as learning how to stay safe – and here are plenty of examples of how we do this on a daily basis.

Easter is the most special time in the Church's calendar, where we take heart in the message of Christ's resurrection and we have marked the season with our end of term Mass. May I wish you all a very restful Easter holiday and thank you again for your ongoing support.

Mr P Thompson
Headteacher



Another sell out night for our Community Easter Bingo!



We had a fantastic afternoon at this years Swimming Gala ran by our Year 11 Sports Studies and GCSE PE Leaders

Library Relaunch

The library relaunch was the highlight of the term in which the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble joined us along with local author Frank English and our library ambassadors to launch our revamped library, with a new 50 book challenge and whole new selection of books. Pupils have loved the redesigned space and the selection of books on offer. We look forward to hosting many more events in there in the next term!





SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING THIS HALF TERM?

BAND NIGHT

Thursday 22nd February saw St Mary's first Band Night! Pupils from Year 7-11 took to the stage to perform a range of pieces, from guitar solos with looping pedals, to vocal trios and full rock bands! It is so important that we give our pupils a range of opportunities to perform in different settings, and for some of these pupils it was their first time playing in front of an audience. Every pupil showcased such a high standard due to their hard work in rehearsals. We are currently planning our next band night for the beginning of June - keep an eye on social media for when tickets will be released!



On Wednesday 17th April we are hosting a piano recital in our Drama Theatre. Once again, this is an opportunity for our pupils to showcase their efforts in instrumental lessons and personal practice, and perform on our lovely grand piano! Tickets are £2 and are available on ScoPay. Doors open at 5:45pm for a 6pm start. The recital is due to last approximately 1 hour. We hope to see you there!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Last week all forms took part in a "Decorate Your Door" competition to celebrate World Book Day. Some of the decorations were exceptional and the judges really struggled to decide on the winners.

Eventually, however, it was decided each year group's winners were:

- 🏆7A - The Gruffalo
- 🏆8I - Hansel & Gretel
- 🏆9S - Garden of Eden
- 🏆10A - Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory
- 🏆11I - Alice in Wonderland

"Non form" winner:

- 🏆Nurture with the BFG

A strong showing from Benedict and John houses!

9S were also awarded the World Book Day trophy as overall winners for their excellent Garden of Eden design. Congratulations and well done to all the winners!

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AWARD!

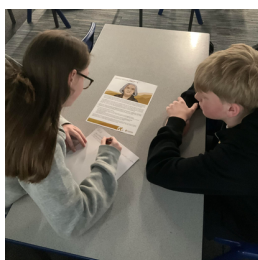
We are delighted to achieve this National Attendance Award and would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school!

● Moments matter, attendance counts ●





SO...WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING THIS HALF TERM?



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

Within Geography on international women's day, pupils investigated inspirational women who have contributed towards raising awareness of Geographical issues over the years including Anita Ganeri and Greta Thunberg.

DRAMA SCHOOL VISIT

Pupils from Year 10 GCSE Music and Drama were treated to an incredible matinee performance of Les Misérables Schools Edition at Westholme School, Blackburn. The performance was truly inspiring for our pupils, especially as the cast featured former pupil Ruby Thompson who will be playing the role of Fantine this week for selected evenings!

Thank you so much Westholme School for your invite, and best of luck with the performances this week!



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

As part of our schools drive to become more environmentally sustainable, this term has seen our school receive an energy audit and last week our Eco Council met with the Climate Action Project team from SOS to discuss decarbonisation at school and at home.

TECHNOLOGY HELPING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Olivia M in Year 9 completed the 'Assisted Living' rotation, focusing on Arthritis in Technology and produced a handle to help those who struggle with their grip. Here is what the family had to say...

'Mum has had Osteo and Rheumatoid arthritis for a number of years, and has struggled for some time now with her grip, finding new ways to open jars, clean her teeth and put her medication tablets in her mouth. When Olivia gave her Grandma the toothbrush handle, she was thrilled and amazed that someone, never mind her own Granddaughter had thought to make something to assist her with such a simple daily activity. Mum says cleaning her teeth is so much easier now. It's great to think our learning project made such a difference to someone's everyday life.'

Well done Olivia - we are so proud of you, along with your family!





NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

This half-term has included the annual “British science week”. This year has been extra special as it is the 30th anniversary! The theme this year is “time” and BSW have been encouraging schools and communities to celebrate the importance of time and how the world has changed since BSW started in 1994!

Staff in the science department made use of the BSW resources packs and planned activities to do with their classes surrounding time. Mr Butler spent a lesson talking about the history of the universe with his y8s and building a timeline of events, this included an opportunity for the pupils to reflect on their own journey so far; creating a personal timeline that allowed them to discuss with each other pivotal moments throughout their life so far and how that has helped them become the person they are today.

With his Year 7s, he challenged them to build a course out of what they could find around the room to make a marble roll down a slope and take a specific time. The pupils showed excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills! Unfortunately, none of them managed to get the time but some of them came close using a variety of different methods – including rolling up paper towels to create a slope and using a glue stick lid to create friction and slow down the ball!

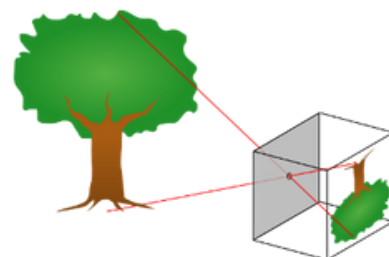
Year 8 have just wrapped up the “Light” topic – as part of BSW some members of the department created pinhole cameras with their classes. Pinhole cameras are very simple and allow light to be focused onto a piece of tracing paper to create an image! With the right chemicals these images could develop into actual photos!

To make a pinhole camera you need to do the following:

1. Find a small cardboard box.
2. Cut a square out of the back and the box and place a piece of tracing paper over it.
3. In the front of the box create a pin-sized hole.
4. Point the box at the object you want to look at – if there is enough light you will see the image produced (upside-down) on the paper.

You can adapt this method to produce real images by placing photosensitive paper behind the pinhole instead of cutting the back of the box out! Though you will need to create a shutter to cover the pinhole so light stops getting onto the paper! You’ll need to sit there for about 5 minutes so an image can develop – it does take time!

Year 7 and 8 were also invited to take part in this year’s poster competition which has some excellent science related prizes – the deadline for this is the 28th of March. Good luck to any of the pupils who will have been entered.





SPOTLIGHT ON PE EXTRACURRICULAR

Sports Tour

97 pupils and 10 colleagues are really excited and 'counting down' the days until the Sports Tour to Lisbon at Easter. The group fly out on Friday 29th March and return in the early hours of Wednesday 3rd April. For daily updates in relation to the tour, please follow the PE Instagram (@lsmpedept) and Facebook (@ St Mary's PE Department) pages.



Table Tennis

Four Under 13 pupils competed in a Table Tennis competition at Balshaws on Monday 18th March. All pupils gave it their all considering this was their first ever competitive Table Tennis competition. The pupils put in some strong performances and managed to secure 4th place overall.



Boys Football

Boys football has continued throughout the year, with a new league format in place this academic year. Year 7-10 teams finished either first or second in the league and play off games are now underway, to determine the overall league standings across Leyland and Penwortham. South Ribble Cup games are also taking place this term. It is hoped that at least one of the teams will make it through to the finals.

Commiserations to the Year 10's, who lost in extra-time 3-4 in the Quarter Finals of the Lancashire Cup away to Fishermore (Colne). The defending Champions have been blighted in injuries all season however, have another opportunity next year to be crowned Lancashire Cup champions.

Rugby League

Year 7-9 pupils have been undertaking rugby league in their PE lessons, a fantastic attitude was shown across KS3. KS4 and KS3 rugby practice will take place in the Summer term, with competitions at Leyland Warriors scheduled for June time.



CHAPLAINCY



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Our Head Boy and Head Girl were invited to a special gathering in South Ribble for Holocaust Memorial Day. It was a moment of reflection and prayer as we remembered the victims of the Holocaust and the importance of tolerance and understanding of different beliefs and cultures across our local communities and throughout the world. Pictured is our Head Boy and Head Girl together with the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble'

WELLBEING COLOURING

Special thanks to our Chapel prefect for arranging our mindfulness sessions throughout the season of Lent. Pupils were invited to pray silently and reflect while colouring, considering the meaning of the psalm and what the Lord may be saying to their heart through that verse. Based on Psalm 138, we were reminded that we are all loved by God and that He knows everything in our hearts and ultimately, He loves us. We closed with a prayer for the people of Gaza.



DEMENTIA CAFÉ

Our Year 7 'Dementia Friends' hosted our February memory cafe. Our pupils shared stories and poems with our patrons along with hospitality. Special thanks also to the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble for joining our café and awarding our school with a 'Dementia Friendly Community' certificate. Well done everyone for 'letting your light shine!'

CAKE SALE

During the Season of Lent, students have been actively fundraising for the children of Gaza and the Holy Land. Special thanks to all the families and students who generously baked and donated exquisite cakes for this cause. Your contributions have made a significant difference in supporting the children of Gaza and the Holy Land.





Meet the Staff



NAME: Mrs Walsh

SUBJECT/ROLE: Teacher of English and acting Pastoral Lead of Year 10

HOBBIES: Reading, walking my dog, drawing (when I get chance!)

INTERESTING FACT: I came to St Mary's as a pupil many years ago.

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Let your light shine by making the most of the opportunities offered to you; school will soon pass you by.

NAME: Mrs Sherratt

SUBJECT/ROLE: Cover Supervisor - Linked to PE

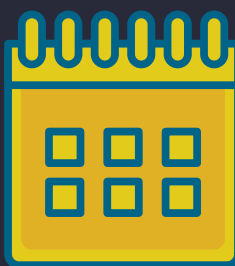
HOBBIES: Playing football, jigsaws, spending time with my children.

INTERESTING FACT: I used to play for Everton Ladies.

ADVICE FOR PUPILS AT ST MARY'S: Believe in yourself and treat yourself with kindness. Work hard and be open to new opportunities and possibilities. Let your love and light shine through.



IMPORTANT DATES



Monday 15/04/24 - School reopens after the Easter break

Wednesday 17/04/24 - Piano Recital, 6pm

Monday 06/05/2024 - School closed, Bank Holiday

Wednesday 22/05/24 - Y8 HPV Vaccinations

Wednesday 22/05/24 - Y7 Parents' Evening, 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Friday 24/05/24 - School breaks up for May half term break, 3.00pm

Monday 03/06/24 - School reopens after the half term break

Year 7-9 Exams:

Monday 17th June - Friday 28th June 2024

Year 10 Exams:

Monday 22nd April - Friday 3rd May 2024

Year 11 GCSEs:

Friday 3rd May - Wednesday 19th June 2024



With so many exciting enrichment opportunities being visited outside the classroom, we must remind all parents that all medical information needs to be updated on a regular basis. As a school we have introduced Edulink One for parents to easily update this whenever they wish. Edulink also allows parents to report absences easily and securely.

During this academic year, there have been a few occasions where pupils have been unable to attend an educational visit due to outdated medical information on file and/or pupils not bringing prescribed medication for the visits (Epi pens, Inhalers etc..)

All parents/carers have received an email with instructions on creating your account and accessing the platform. If you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact edusadmin@lsmchs.com





PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

National Careers Week

NCW



Career's Corner



National Careers Week Assemblies:

We had a variety of speakers and activities all linked to careers to inspire our pupils for their future. For our Year 10 pupils, The Army presented to them during an assembly about their own personal career journey's along with all the roles available within the organisation. We were very fortunate to have two of our parents in to present in assembly to our Year 8 & 9 pupils, about Avanti trains and careers with a Geography focus. Our year 10 pupils were visited by Cardinal Newman College in preparation for their Year 10 Sampling Day where they will be visiting the local colleges for a day at the end of June.



Year 7 Careers Scavenger Hunt

Our Year 7 pupils had an assembly to encourage them to think about what careers are available to them in the future and the future jobs and careers that will be emerging in the Lancashire area. They then embarked on a 'Scavenger Hunt' around the school, where they were given a variety of questions with a few clues to aid them on their way! They used the career journey information that staff had displayed on their doors to find out about previous jobs and careers along with their journey after they finished school. This generated some excellent discussions about jobs and careers that staff had in their past and also jobs that pupils hadn't heard of! It was also very interesting to see what staff wanted to be when they were younger to see how ideas change over time!



Army Enrichment Visit

A selection of our Year 9 & Year 10 pupils went for an Army Experience Day at Fulwood Barracks this term.

Pupils had a presentation at the start of the day to find out about the range of careers in the Army and heard from Army personnel about their career journey's. They then participated in activities in Tag Archery and completed an assault course, where the aim was to work together as a team.

They were also treated to lunch which was certainly needed after all the activities! A fantastic day with lots of positive feedback from The Army personnel about our pupils excellent behaviour.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DIARY

BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS TO LET OUR LIGHT SHINE

Year 9 & 11 Careers Enrichment Morning



As part of our careers week we invited local employers, training providers and colleges in to school for our Year 9 & Year 11 pupils for their end of Key Stage Enrichment Morning. Pupils found out about what colleges in the area had to offer along with career opportunities in organisations such as the Civil Service and South Ribble Borough Council. For those pupils in Year 11 who were interested in apprenticeships, they had a bespoke session on how to apply for these and support to help them to sign up to the government apprenticeship website. All groups also had a session on finance to provide them with more information of the financial implications that they need to be aware of in the future.

Year 10 Work Experience



Last week our Year 10 pupils completed their 5 day work experience.

From pupils flying in planes, to contributing towards Chorley FC's social media profile. We have received a wide variety of praise from various employers about our pupils whilst they have been on placement. They have truly represented our school well and have really involved themselves in the experience.

One pupil even produced a blog that is now live on the representative companies website that you can visit from the link below.

We look forward to hearing all about their week when they participate in an evaluation session within their Personal Development lessons following the Easter break.

Work Experience BLOG
[CLICK HERE!](#)

