

St Mary's RC Primary School, Sabden

After a lovely summer break all our pupils and staff have returned refreshed and ready for the year ahead. As always we have many things planned. In the next few weeks we will be electing our school council who will then begin working on deciding which charity we will be supporting this term and what fundraising activities we will carry out. The Pupil Chaplains will be working hard as we begin to create our outdoor Prayer Garden giving pupils a meaningful space outside where they can turn to God and all of us are looking at how we can add more elements to the way in which we worship.

We welcome Mrs Bullen-Watson and Miss Taylor our two new teachers who are already taking great care of our KS1 and Year 5/6 classes respectively.

In October Class 1 will be visiting the Wild Boar Park as part of their topic work and our School Choir will be reforming starting preparation for next March's Sing Together concert.

We are also happy to announce that this term we are launching our new Mission Statement of "With Jesus beside us, we love, learn and grow together." We are looking forward to making this at the heart of all we do and visible to all.

Claire Halstead

Thorneyholme RC Primary School, Dunsop Bridge

Both children and staff have come back refreshed and energized after a long break and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. We have also started the year with our new school uniform! New extra-curricular clubs have already begun allowing children to get involved in diverse interests and develop skills for life. The school parliament has 6 new electoral MPs and they are looking forward to representing their fellow pupils. The school has already begun celebrating its 150th anniversary (1866 - 2016) and in July two open days proved a huge success and were well attended. Past pupils of all ages reunited; sharing their memories of school life and comparing it with the school of today. We will be holding a final open day, during this term, for those who were unable to attend or who wish to come again. The date will be published in the parish newsletter. A partner school located in a small village near Burkina Faso, Africa, has just recently been established and we look forward to creating a close relationship with them. This year will be kick started with the Paralympics. A great way to not only promote a healthy, active lifestyle but also key values such as determination, respect and excellence. We are certain that the children throughout this year will win many 'gold' medals and be successful in all that they do.

Judith Metcalfe

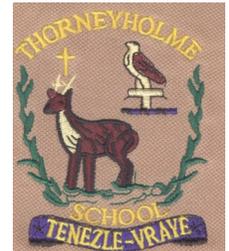
Please contact us or look on our school websites should you have any comments or questions.

www.stmaryssabden.co.uk 01282 771009

www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk 01200 422560

www.thorneyholme.lancs.sch.uk 01200 448276

Parish of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Primary Schools Newsletter Autumn 2016



Welcome

They say that as you get older time passes more quickly. In that case, I must be getting very "long in the tooth" as it doesn't seem two minutes since I was writing on our very first Faith Friends newsletter this time last year! Reflecting on the year that's passed, I think our Parish Schools have grown in both faith and friendship, and we are looking forward to celebrating together at our joint, beginning of year Mass on 22nd September.

Each of our schools is beginning the school year with work around the family: our homes, our schools, our Parish, our faith—the family of God. That isn't by accident! We want our children to feel the love and support that comes from being a member of this family. At a time when education, and society as a whole, continues to face significant change, it is important to have the support of each other and of you, our Parishes. In his letter to the Philippians, St Paul tells us that we should not "*be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*" Thank you for your prayers for our schools and our children.

Stay with us Lord on our journey.

Judith Metcalfe, Headteacher,



Religious Education Autumn Overview

St Mary's RC Primary School

This term Class 1 are studying families. They will be thinking about Baptism, including their own. They will explore how all families are different and remembering how precious we all are in God's eyes.

Class 2 are also celebrating families, their own and the Family of God. They will be exploring what 'Love one another' means.

Class 3 are thinking about themselves, their talents and their qualities. Then they will look at their place in their community and explore the sacrament of marriage.

St Michael & St John's RC Primary School

This term the whole school will be learning about The Family and the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage and the Priesthood. Reception will be learning about how God knows and loves each one of us. They will be finding out about how Baptism is a welcome to God's family. Year 1 is learning about how we each belong to our own family at home as well as God's family and how he cares for us. They will also find out about the Sacrament of Baptism and carry out a role play Baptism as well as visit church. Year 2 will be learning about how God is at the beginning of everything. They will be learning about the signs and symbols of Baptism. In Year 3 the children will be learning about God's dream for every family and the

promises that are made during the Baptism ceremony. Year 4 will be studying the family of God in Scripture. They will find out about the Sacrament of Confirmation and that God calls each of us to witness. Year 5 is finding out about ourselves and that we are created in the image and likeness of God. They will be finding out about life choices and the commitment of marriage. Year 6 will be learning about loving: God who never stops loving. They will also be learning about the vocation of priesthood and religious life.

Thorneyholme RC Primary School

The children in the EYFS/KS1 are learning about Beginnings and how God is present in every beginning. They will also be learning about signs and symbols in Baptism and closer to our Lord's birthday; advent and how we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

In KS2, the children will explore in Scripture that Jesus had a natural family with real people with names and a history. Children will learn that through Baptism and Confirmation people are given the gift of the Holy Spirit and are called to respond in their lives. During advent, they will reflect on how God's gift of Jesus is a fit of love to all people of all time.

Suggested Family Fun Activities from St Mary's

September 27th is the Feast day of St Vincent De Paul, have a look through your cupboards. Do you have unwanted items that you could donate to someone in need? Perhaps you could fill a bag with unwanted clothes and take them to a charity shop or donate food to a food bank?

Autumn is a beautiful time of year. Celebrate the joy of God's wonderful world by taking a nature walk. Really concentrating on all the beauty around you and giving thanks to God as you wonder at the marvels of His creation.

A Prayer from Thorneyholme

Dear God,

This year, help us to learn in our lessons and to focus on listening to others. We want to care for poor people and to spread your word. Please help us to love our friends like we love you.

Amen

Sharing Our Learning SSMJ

On Tuesday lunch times we have Bible Buddies led by some children in Year 5. There is a KS1 and KS2 group. The pupil leaders plan and deliver the sessions. They tell a short Bible story and have activities to be completed during the session. Each session ends with a prayer or reflection.



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School, Clitheroe

We have welcomed back our children and families and 21 new reception children all of whom have settled back so well after the holidays. This wonderful first week back at school has reminded us what a special community we are and how blessed we are to have such polite and hard-working children in school. We also welcome Mrs Craddock who will be teaching Year 2. The autumn term will be filled with fun and new experiences. This year, we will be part of a Maths hub developing maths mastery and are working towards becoming a Forest School too. Our 'farmers' in Year 4 have begun looking after their 'seeds' in reception and we are in the process of appointing our new School Councillors, Eco Warriors, Playleaders, Sport Council, Anti Bullying Ambassadors and Prefects who will work alongside our Pupil Chaplains to ensure Pupil Voice is at the heart of our school. Our Pupil Chaplains will be busy developing a Nurture Garden and a Prayer and Worship area outside. We start the term celebrating two more awards. In July we achieved the Sainsbury's Gold Sports Award and we have also achieved a bronze award for 'Learning Outside the Classroom'. We look forward to our 3 schools Mass at SSMJ on Thursday 22nd September. Please join us if you can.