

St Mary's RC Primary School, Sabden

We start this year just having received an accreditation called the Step Outside Award. Our KS1 teacher enrolled on the program last summer. Step Outside supports schools in ensuring they are giving the younger pupils the best outdoor provision possible. After attending trainings, meeting with consultants and putting ideas into practice Mrs Bullen-Watson has achieved the accreditation and we are very proud of her. As part of her commitment to getting the children learning outside she has arranged for our Reception children to work with a Forest Schools teacher once a week this half term.

We are also looking forward to another special visitor in February. The children, guided by the Pupil Chaplains, have designed and then made a Prayer Garden and we are privileged to be having Bishop John Arnold coming to school, saying Mass and then blessing the Prayer Garden. By having a quiet and reflective area outside we are

supporting our children to have more opportunities to speak to God.

Happy New Year and heartfelt blessings from all at St Mary's.

Claire Halstead

Thorneyholme RC Primary School, Dunsop Bridge

There's a celebratory feeling in school at the start of 2017 as the children reflect on all they have achieved in the previous year whilst setting new and exciting goals for this coming year. Fun learning opportunities have already been planned for this term including a visit to Stonyhurst observatory, forest learning days and themed events including World Interfaith Harmony week, STEM week and World Book Day.

After hearing that the phone box in Dunsop Bridge is one of several being considered for withdrawal by British Telecommunications PLC, Thorneyholme's School Parliament are doing all they can to help save the phone box at the 'Centre of the

Kingdom'. Children have written letters to their local MP Nigel Evans, the Queen and Sir Ranulph Fiennes who officially unveiled the phone box together with the pupils of the school in 1992. They were delighted to get a response from Sir Ranulph Fiennes' PA who informed them that he is currently in Antarctica and then following this South America, fundraising for charity together with a signed copy of his autobiography!

I should like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and blessed 2017.

Judith Metcalfe

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

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Parish of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Primary Schools Newsletter Spring 2017



Welcome

Happy New Year.

The start of a New Year gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning.

In our schools and communities we reflect upon the experiences, challenges and opportunities of the past year and look ahead to what 2017 might bring.

Often our children will make resolutions such as 'to keep my bedroom tidy' or 'to eat fewer sweets' which are perfectly appropriate and valuable goals to have! However, a new year is also a perfect time to decide to strengthen our Catholic faith by resolving to focus more on God instead of oneself.

We may resolve to practice gratitude, to be present to others, to give more, not just financially, but in sharing our gifts and giving of our time and talents, to live more simply, to nurture our friendships or to make a difference in our parish community.

In his letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul writes: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil 4:13).

If God is the centre of our New Year's resolutions, they have a better chance for success. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our schools and our children. Have a blessed New Year.

Stay with us Lord on our journey

Mrs Zoe Mabbott

Headteacher, St Michael & St John' RC Primary School.

Religious Education Autumn Overview



St Mary's RC Primary School

This Spring Term our youngest children are thinking about all the special people that help them. Not just the ones at home but also in the wider community.

Class 2 are studying the Liturgical Calendar and all its significant events. They are finishing learning about Advent and then moving on to Lent.

Our oldest children in Class 3 have the topic of Missions. They will be concentrating on learning about and praying for, all the many people who dedicate their life to working for God. They will also make a conscious effort to dedicate parts of their life to doing God's work particularly through Lent

St Michael & St John's RC Primary School

During this term, the whole school will be learning about our *Local Church and Community* in different ways. From Reception who will be looking at how people celebrate to Year 1 who are finding out about Special People we know and who help us. Year 2 are learning about the books we use in church. In Key Stage 2, Year 3 will be learning more about the

Sacraments families receive in church, Year 4 about parish ministries, Year 5 are learning about how we continue Jesus' ministries in the parish. Year 6 are studying The Bible.

Later on in the term the school's focus will be *The Eucharist* and how we relate it to our daily lives in the sending forth of the faithful at the end of the mass. This then leads onto the final unit of *Lent/Easter and Giving*. We reflect on opportunities when we can give of each other as we prepare for Easter.

Thorneyholme RC Primary School

At the start of term, all the children across the school are exploring special people, particularly those within our local parish community. Following this, they will be focusing upon the Eucharist. The infants will be learning about Jesus' special meal. In the juniors this will be extended to how the Eucharist challenges us to live and grow in communion with one another. As we approach Easter, the infant children will learn how Lent is a time for change whilst the juniors will explore and reflect upon how we can grow as individuals and grow closer to God through self-discipline. As a school we will continue to focus upon Judaism this year.

Suggested Family Fun Activities from Thorneyholme

In 'Laudato Si' (Care of Our Common Home) Pope Francis is encouraging all peoples of the world to care for our home communities. Over these winter and spring months why not help care for our local wildlife? Give nature a home in your garden by creating a pile of leaves as a bug hotel; open a hedgehog cafe (with water and hedgehog friendly food); open a bird cafe; create an underground den for frogs and toads or even start composting - worm heaven!

Sharing Our Learning from St Mary's

Why is the Liturgical Year important? The Liturgical year helps Christians to be close to the work of the Trinity, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, throughout the seasons of the year. It brings the Church Family together as everyone shares in the celebrations. Following the celebrations Christians are sent out to love and serve God in the world.

A Family Prayer from St Michael & St John's

Dear Lord,
We pray that this New Year will bring us closer to You.
May we take the time to get to know You.
Help us to truly celebrate the gifts You have graciously given us
and use them to serve You and spread Your word,
May we also see and love you in all the people we meet,
so that in turn, they can see You in us.
Amen

Other News from our Schools

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

As we begin 2017 we think about all of the wonderful opportunities and experiences ahead of us. On Monday 23rd January a group of 7 children will attend Salford where they will be trained as Caritas Ambassadors. Their role will involve using their leadership, communication and team-working skills to promote charity and care for others.

Other fun learning opportunities this term include the start of Forest Schools and our choir will sing at the Young Voices event in Manchester and at Stonyhurst. We will celebrate E Safety Day and World Book day. Lent Masses are planned and our year 3 children will undertake the Sacrament of First Reconciliation.

Our School Council continue to work hard alongside our PTA. Last term they used the money raised to purchase 12 iPads. Their next goal is to raise enough money for picnic benches for the field and a bike stand. The children's designs and ideas for the new Prayer Garden have been reviewed and with so many wonderful ideas the next stage of planning for this will begin incorporating aspects of a number of the children's designs.

Wishing you all a happy and blessed 2017.

Zoe Mabbott