

## St Mary's RC Primary School, Sabden

Another new term starts with everyone returned feeling rested and refreshed. Several new pupils have joined us at the start of this new school year and we are excited to welcome them into the St Mary's family.

The Pupil Chaplains and The School Council are already very busy. The Pupil Chaplains are taking more responsibility for leading the children in worship and are currently writing their own Action Plan. The School Council elections have started and this term they will be choosing which charity we will be supporting.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 3 staff members and 19 pupils from Y5/6 will be setting off to Lockerbie. They will be staying there for 5 days and carrying out many different outdoor adventure activities. These will include climbing, abseiling, fencing, air rifle shooting, zip wire and many more. Not only does the trip support the pupils to learn many new skills it also helps them to bond as new class, ready for the year ahead.

Father Kevin has now moved Parish but we are happy that he will be visiting us in October. We will be able to say a proper thank you to him for all the care and support he showed us over the last two years.

Claire Halstead



## Thorneyholme RC Primary School, Dunsop Bridge

It is a great pleasure to have our school family back together again after the long summer holidays. We welcome new children and their families to our Foundation Unit and hope they will be happy in our family school. We also welcome Mrs Zoe White and Mrs Kate Warburton who are joining our staff team. Again, we pray they will feel supported by our Parish School. We are all looking forward to a busy and exciting year ahead!

Just before the summer, our global learning ethos was graded as Outstanding by Salford Diocese RE Inspectors during our brilliant Section 48 inspection and so this year we begin work towards UNICEF'S Rights Respecting School Award. This gives a structured, far reaching perspective to our global work. The inspectors also validated the quality of all aspects of the provision which we work so hard to achieve with comments such as: "The children are nurtured into caring for their locality and the wider world in an exemplary manner," along with "There is a profoundly caring culture within the school with a helping hand and a warm smile around every corner," and "The quality of worship at Thorneyholme is outstanding with prayer and worship being at the very heart of the school community."

On 9th October our Y4 & 6 pupils will be setting off to Hothersall Lodge for 3 days of fun filled activity and adventure! Our school choir has already got several performances lined up this year, including Christmas Carols at Clitheroe Market and a Christmas performance at a local Residential Home.

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

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[www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk) 01200 422560

# Parish of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Primary Schools Newsletter Autumn 2017



## Welcome

Well I think we can safely say that "summer" has ended and we are now well into the autumn weather! As I write, here in Dunsop Bridge we are all praying for kind weather on Saturday's Hodder Valley Show. This is a big event in our annual calendar with the communities of Dunsop, Newton and Slaidburn all coming together to celebrate our farming heritage. There are prizes to be won (and lost), friends to catch up with, competitions to take part in .... and lots more. What makes it such a wonderful occasion, with or without good weather, is that everyone works together to make it a special, community event. Here in the Parish of Our Lady of the Valley, our three schools have the opportunity to do the same. We are three communities, all with the same shared focus of education and faith, who can work together for the good of all. Our children are precious to all of us, being the future of our Church and our world. As we start another school year, with all its challenges and opportunities, we ask for your prayers to support us all.

Judith Metcalfe

## Religious Education Autumn Overview



### St Mary's RC Primary School

KS1 are learning all about God. Who He is – what he does and they'll be celebrating His gift of Creation. They will then start to look at the many different signs and symbols of Christianity.

Year 3 and 4 are exploring their own ancestors and family tree. They will then look at how all of them fit into the wonderful family of God. Later in the year their studies will turn to Advent and all its preparations.

Year 5 and 6 will explore the many faces of love. Love for one another and the beauty of God and all He has created.

### St Michael & St John's RC Primary School

The children in Reception will be learning about the beauty of God's World. In Year 1 will be learning about God's great plan and the Bible stories of The Creation and Noah and the flood. In Year 2 the children will be finding out about God's chosen people. In the juniors, Year 3 are learning about the Christian family. Year 4 will be learning about the stories and people from the Old Testament. Year 5 will be learning about the gifts God has given us through the creation of the world and how we use our gifts and talents to look after God's world. Year 6 will be finding out about The Kingdom of God and how our decisions and beliefs are informed by Jesus' teachings.

### Thorneyholme RC Primary School

Our youngest children will begin this term by learning all about Myself and Our Families. They will consider how God knows and loves each one of us and how he cares for each and every family. Following this, children will learn that Baptism is an invitation to belong to God's family. As Christmas approaches, they will go on to learn about Mary the Mother of Jesus and the meaning of the Advent Wreath and Christingle. In KS2, children will learn all about Ourselves; how we are all created in the image and likeness of God. We will be linking this with the life and qualities of Maximilian Kolbe. Showing care and commitment will be the next focus during this term, particularly the call to life and love within the community and within marriage. During Advent, the juniors will be exploring the promise of the new Messiah before the actual birth of Jesus. In October, we will join in sessions of the Holy Rosary and be participating in Remembrance linked activities at Clitheroe Castle in November. Our whole school theme running through the year will be learning more about Islam. At the start of this term, we will find out what Eid-ul-Adah is and why it is such an important celebration in the Islamic calendar.

### Suggested Family Fun Activities from St Mary's

Harvest fast approaches and as we give thanks to God for providing us with all we need why not have some fun? Play the Leaf Pile game. Go out in your garden as a family, split into teams. Decide on a time limit. In that time collect as many fallen leaves and put them in a pile. When time is up the team with the tallest pile wins! You'll also have a tidy garden.

Harvest is a brilliant opportunity to take food to a local food bank - sharing God's gifts with others.

### A Family Prayer from Thorneyholme

God of Light and Truth,  
thank you for giving me  
a mind that can know  
and a heart that can love.

Help me to keep learning every day of my life,  
for all knowledge leads to you.

Let me be aware of your presence  
in all things and at all times.

Grant me the grace to put my mind to use  
exploring the world you have created,

### Other News from our Schools

Our 3 schools will be coming together at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 4th October at Sabden, to celebrate our start of year Parish schools Mass. This is a lovely way to begin our school year in recognition of our

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

We have welcomed back our children and families with 26 new reception children and 3 new children all of whom have settled back so well after the holidays. Throughout the building work the staff have ensured this has not been of any detriment to the children's learning and our pupils and staff have made a wonderful start to the year. The improvements to our school building are now nearly complete. The children are looking extremely smart in their new uniforms and it is amazing how many children can tie their own ties! 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.

Our school will miss Father Kevin and his inspiring guitar playing now he has left our Parish and we wish him well in his new role at the Sacred Heart, Rochdale. We congratulate Mrs Wade (nee Miss Acklam) Year 4 Teacher, who was married during the Summer holidays.

The autumn term will be filled with fun and new experiences. This year, we will be part of a Maths cluster, developing maths mastery and we are now an official Forest School. We look forward to our welcome Mass on Tuesday 26th September and the 3 schools Mass at Sabden St Mary's on 4th October 27th. Please join us if you can.

