



NEWSLETTER

Headteacher: Mrs Maria Whitehead

Friday 9th February 2024



Dear Parents,

Half term has arrived and what a very busy five weeks we have had!

Highlights for me have been the whole school trip to see the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at Pendle Hippodrome; Pendleside Hospice visiting school to collect their cheque; Y6 children becoming Wellbeing Champions; Y5 and 6 Bikeability; Y2 visiting the elderly residents in McAuley Mount with Mrs Whittaker and Mrs Barker; and Governors spending a day in school.

Lots of hard work has been going on in English lessons with the children in years 3 and 4 preparing for their national Poetry Vanguard examinations in March, and Years 5 and 6 preparing for English Speaking Board examinations in February. They need to continue to practise over the holidays.

The weather has posed some problems to Forest School lessons and made playtimes tricky, but we have battled through. It has made it even more apparent that the children need to remember to always come in their school coat with hat and gloves, and bring warm socks and footwear for Forest School lessons.

Our swimming lessons are going very well and Miss Grillo is reporting good progress in all groups. As learning to swim is part of the National Curriculum, it is really important that children attend swimming lessons every week and do not miss them. They are learning valuable life skills and if they are not taken swimming at any other time, then this is their sole opportunity to learn to be safe in and around water.

Enjoy the half term break next week and we will welcome the children back to school on Monday 19 February.

Best wishes

Mrs Whitehead

Assemblies for the next half term

Please attend our Friday assemblies. We have the following planned up until Easter:

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| • 23 February | Online Safety | Mr Bailey and selected children |
| • 1 March | British Values | Year 3 |
| • 8 March | No Assembly | Family Friendly Friday |
| • 15 March | Ramadan and Eid | Year 4 |
| • 22 March | St Joseph's Feast day | Year 5 |
| • Thursday 28 th March | Easter Assembly | Year 6 |

Spring Term Charity

We have chosen to support UNICEF as our Spring Charity this year. We will do a Park Hill Walk for UNICEF. We will record the miles we walk during Lent and Ramadan and then ask friends and family to kindly sponsor us for the miles we walk. A letter and sponsor form will come home on today. Thank you for your support.



Bikeability

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed their Bikeability course last week, despite the weather.



Snow Alert

As Headteacher, my priority must be for the safety of children and staff travelling to and from school in what may be dangerous conditions. In the event of overnight snow, a decision on whether or not school should be closed will be made after consideration of the state of the roads around school and the areas from which staff and pupils will need to travel. We will also have to consider the likelihood of further snowfall during the day. If the school is to be closed parents will be informed by :

- Text message
- Website
- If possible a message will be left on the school phone
- Radio Lancashire and 2BR will also have information about school closures



If snow falls during the day please contact school for information. If you are unable to collect your child yourself, please make sure that you inform school, giving details of the person who is authorised to collect them for you.

SPORTS NEWS

Speed Stacking

On Tuesday 6th February, four children represented St. Joseph's in a speed stacking challenge. The children had to build cups into a 3,3, 3 formation and then build onto a 3,6,3 as quickly as possible. They to work as a team to see how quickly they could complete this as a relay and then in pairs only using one hand each. It was a brilliant experience for the children involved and Ziyaad and Xavier were awarded a school games badge for their effort. Well done to everyone involved!



Sportshall Athletics

Well done to our Athletics Team who came 3rd place in the Sports Hall Athletics competition after competing in a range of track and field events. They represented school well and were supportive of each other. A special mention to John who stepped up and ran in the Year 5 and 6 team.

