

St. James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School



"All Special in God's Eyes"

Our Church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

Psalm 92.13

Firstly, thank you for all your well wishes and prayers...the sun shone on the 5th August and I had a wonderful wedding and enjoyed a great honeymoon. My new name is Mrs Dugdale, it has taken awhile for everyone remember...including myself!

Our first month back after the Summer Holidays has been a lovely start to the school year with our focus for this term being the Words of Jesus. We have enjoyed reflecting on multiple scriptures as we have learnt about the words of Jesus but have all been keen to practice John 13.34-35; *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"*. This has been very important to remember as we have welcomed lots of new faces to the school with our new reception children starting with us as well as two new teachers, Mrs Thornton (who previously worked at the school) and Miss Robinson. We also welcome Mr Riley who is our new site supervisor. The new academic year has also seen the return of some familiar faces as Mrs Ellis and Miss Rushton return from their maternity leave. We have given them all a huge St James' welcome!

Miss Parkinson, our new Sports Subject Leader, has started as she means to go on and planned LOTS of fabulous sporting events for our children to take part in as we are aiming to exceed our current GOLD award this year and go for the PLATINUM! You may have read that we have won the title of 'Burnley School of the Year' award and we will be going forward for the Lancashire awards in November. The children have all had a fabulous time on the sporting events with Mr Playfer this month. We have seen the Year 2 children take part in a fun run at Towneley Park, multiple Tag Rugby competitions for different ages at Sir John Thursby and two of our Sports Ambassadors in school attended the Bronze Young Ambassadors Evening where they took part in training on how to be a Sports Ambassador in school. We have also had multiple visits from a cricket coach from the School's Sports Partnership this month who has worked with Class 6 to help improve their cricket skills. The children have really enjoyed this and have learnt lots from the opportunity of working closely with an experienced cricketer. In addition to a cricket coach, we have also invited a member of staff from Burnley Football Club into school on Mondays to work across the school supporting learning and delivering sports sessions. As well as working with classes as a whole, he will also be carrying out sports sessions for children in school as part of the disabilities in sports offer. As part of his work, he will be running an after school session for a small group of children to develop skills such as self-esteem, motivation and discipline. The coach's background is in wrestling and boxing where he competed professionally for several years. He has since worked with

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the Manchester City Academy before joining BFCitC. He will be passing these skills onto the children through non-contact sessions that will allow them to develop in the skills above. He will be an asset to the school and we cannot wait to see the impact of his visits!

The sporting activities didn't stop over the Summer as we saw four of our staff members completing the 'Ninja Warrior course' for Pendleside Hospice. The course was a 5km run with 10 obstacles to complete such as quintuple steps, a balancing beam, monkey bars, bouncing balls and an electronic resistance climb. Mrs Cassidy, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Irvine and Miss Jarvis raised £200 for Pendleside Hospice and had a fantastic day undertaking the challenge.

One of our pupils, Morgan H, has also raised £250 for Pendleside Hospice over the Summer holidays. She held an event which included a karaoke, raffle, tombola and other fundraising items. Pendleside Hospice was so impressed with her generosity, they sent a rep to her house to collect the cheque. We are extremely proud of Morgan as she has shown such enthusiasm for supporting the charity and worked hard to plan and execute a fantastic event.

Mrs Cassidy and Mrs Hodgson have been very busy month with our Family Friday sessions in school. We have hosted a New Parent's Coffee Morning for the parents and carers of our new reception children, an EYFS stay and play session, a MacMillan Coffee Morning for the whole school and a Roald Dahl Activity session for the whole school. All Family Fridays have been extremely popular this month and the feedback has been fantastic, the families of our pupils love the opportunity to spend time with their children in school and be more involved in school life. Our Family Fridays are something we are very proud of and we love having the chance to get to know the families supporting our pupils.

The Roald Dahl themed Family Friday was part of Roald Dahl Day which saw our pupils taking part in Roald Dahl themed activities across school throughout the day and also taking part in a Roald Dahl themed lunch. The children loved learning about Roald Dahl in class, trying some Roald Dahl themed food at lunchtime and even meeting Mrs Cassidy's tortoise, Doug, at the Family Friday event as part of the Esio Trot activity.

We have also had an author visit to school recently. E.R. Reilly, a popular children's author, visited us on Monday 16th September and carried out an assembly for our pupils where he spoke about being an author and gave the children tips on how to write a story. The children absolutely loved the assembly and we received LOTS of orders for his books which also meant a donation of 16 free books to our school library. After he delivered the assembly, he came back into school to meet the children and carry out a book signing. The children absolutely loved having the opportunity to meet Eamonn on a 1:1 basis and ask him some questions themselves.

Mrs Towriess and Mrs Wilkinson combined literacy and physical education this week with their PE lesson based on the book "Going on a Bear Hunt" which saw the reception children utilising PE apparatus to act out the story. They went under an elevated mat for to represent going under the bridge, stepped across some blue fabric to represent going through the water and then finally went under a huge brown cloth that Mrs Towriess and Mrs Wilkinson were moving to represent going under the duvet away from the bear. The children absolutely loved this lesson and Mrs Towriess' innovative idea of combining the two subjects really helped to introduce the children to Physical Education in a fun way.

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Mrs Bradley and the PTFA team had a productive meeting planning for the upcoming Bingo Night in school on Friday 4th October 2019, 6-8.00pm. This year we will be making Bingo Night a ticketed event to help ensure the school hall isn't too crowded. Adult tickets are selling for 50p per ticket and children's tickets are free but do need to be ordered to ensure we have enough space. Tickets are still available if you wish to attend, tickets are available from the school office. The event is always very popular and extremely fun, we hope to see you there!

Another important upcoming event is our Open Events for prospective 2020-2021 pupils. We have two events; Thursday 10th October 2019, 5.30-6.30pm, and Thursday 12th December 2019, 9.30-10.30am. These events are open events and parents/carers are welcome to attend at any point during that time frame, where they will be taken on a tour of our school by one of our Year 6 pupils. These events are an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to see the school and speak to the pupils themselves about what it's like to be a pupil at St James' Lanehead. All members of staff, and our Chair of Governors, will also be in school to answer any queries. Please encourage all your friends and families to apply for our school.

As always, I am proud to be the Head Teacher of such a wonderful school, with highly skilled and a dedicated staff team, where everyone works hard together and as one team with the goal to inspire each individual to grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

Mrs Dugdale

Headteacher

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