

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.

As we learn about perseverance 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me' Philippians 4.13. The school has transformed once again; the Bethlehem Stars from our entrance display are now turtles. This is because of the perseverance they display when they hatch and have to travel miles across beaches to the safety of the sea. That strength and courage to carry on in the face of adversity is what we are all trying to practice this month as all the staff and children are working towards their own personal goals, learning targets and are asking others and God for help. Mrs Gregory is learning to bake a cake with the help from our resident baker Mrs Moses. I am learning to hoola-hoop with the help from the children! Mrs Towriess is learning to play the trumpet and also learning to draw. Each staff member is learning something new and showing determination and perseverance. Each child has decided to challenge themselves with learning a new skill or self-improvement such as learning times tables, learning to knit or learning how to read tricky words in phonics lessons.

Perseverance has been the key focus of our collective worships throughout this month as well as the class worship performed by Class 3/4 earlier this week. As a school we have been looking at the following poem:

Perseverance is....

Pressing on
Eager to continue
Running the race
Sticking with things
Encouraging each other to keep going
Valuing the support of others
Eyes fixed on the target
Reaching a goal over time
Aiming to complete the task
Not giving up
Commitment to keep going
Ending up where you want to be

We started off the first Friday of the New Year with a Stay and Play Family Friday for all Key Stage 1 children. This proved very popular and the children loved playing with their parents in the school hall and taking part in lots of fun games; there were role play areas with costumes, table top games, a reading area, construction area and even a Small World area complete with cornflakes for the Dinosaurs to stomp

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in! Other 'Family Friday' events have been very informative this month in preparation for the upcoming SATS. We have invited parents of the Year 2 and Year 6 pupils into school to talk about what to expect with SATS and then this information has also been shared across our School App and website.

The App and website are still proving to be great tools of communication between home and school. Notifications are sent out every Sunday afternoon ready for the week ahead with the different events on in school that week. The Latest News section allows parents to read about the big events in school and then the Class pages have recently had a remodel to show what each class has been up to in English, Mathematics, Science, RE, topic work and any curriculum enhancement activities too.

The Wider Experiences section is also a new addition to the school website. Here you can read about the extra-curricular activities provided throughout school such as drama club, tennis, and multi-skills with Burnley Football Club, Sign Language club, art club and We Are Reading. There is also a section on our school choir who were very busy last month. They did so well during their performance at Blackburn Cathedral in November that they were invited to sing at the local Community Centre and Burnley Hospital too. They represented St James' Lanehead brilliantly at both events. The children also attended the Churches Together Carol Concert at Burnley Football Club. They stole the show again with their voices. There are social media links which allow you to view their performances on the school website too.

Our school council have been hard at work recently, making plans towards the changes they would like to see around school as well as looking into charities to donate to this year. They decided on donating £300 to Pendleside Hospice, a charity that is well known in the local area for their compassion and generosity. Our Head Boy and Girl, Harrison and Rebecca, presented Pendleside Hospice with the cheque in December and they were delighted! We are very happy to be giving the money raised to such a worthy cause.

Two pupils in particular have been on the local news for their acts of kindness. It is so lovely to see the children being so charitable and living out our Christian Values.

St James' Lanehead would like to thank Mrs Anne Kelly, our school Governor, for her time and generosity over the 4 years she has been a Governor for our school. Anne attended her last Governing Body meeting in December as she will be focusing more time on her roles as Deputy Mayor and councillor for Burnley Borough Council. We wish her the best of luck as Deputy Mayor and will miss her presence greatly. We know that she will continue to volunteer in a different capacity and help the school with our visits to the community.

In December, we had two year groups attend the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at Darwen Library Theatre. The Year 2 children attended on Tuesday 11th December and our Year 1 children attended on Wednesday 19th December. Both trips went really well and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our Deputy Head Girl, Evie, has a part in the Pantomime and we are so very proud of her. The children went via coach and were escorted to their seats where they watched the story of Jack and the Beanstalk being told with a twist by Fairy Cupcake. The story followed Jack's brother Billy who was very comical and kept us all entertained with his dancing and jokes. He, Jill, Jill's father (the King) and Jack all worked together against an evil villain call Fleshcreep and his big, scary giant. The giant eventually turned out to be nice and even went to Jack and Jill's wedding at the end! The children really enjoyed the spin on the story.

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The children in Classes 4/5, 5/6 and 6 will all be going on a school trip to the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre soon. They received their letters about the trip on the first day back at school and their visit will time perfectly with Science Week.

In sporting news, last month we have had both the Athletics Final and the Hartley Cup football final. The children performed brilliantly, they were great team players and never gave up! This month we have had an Indoor Kwik Cricket event and Special Educational Needs Inclusion event which have been lots of fun! The family support we have received at all sporting events has been really good too; parents, pupils and staff alike have proven that the team spirit of St James' Lanehead is a strong one!

The New Year also saw the start of "Dawn to Dusk". The school hall, library and kitchen are being leased out to an external company which provide an Out of Hours Childcare service to the St James' Lanehead pupils. The new Breakfast and After School Clubs are a hit with both parents and children as they really enjoy the variety of activities and snacks provided as well as the facilities being on site.

The Senior Leadership Team and staff have reflected that they feel so truly blessed to work and lead a school where the children are simply wonderful.

We all wish our colleague Miss Katie Rushton and her partner James all the very best as Katie commenced her maternity leave in December and has since had a baby girl, Isabel.

We would like to say a very warm welcome Mrs Lucy Hargreaves who has joined the Key Stage 2 Teaching team.

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.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Stott

Headteacher

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