



St Clare's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Friday 15th December 2023

Play, learn and grow together with Christ

St Clare's is a Christ-centred family where everyone is valued and respected. We learn and grow, whilst strengthening our relationship with God and one another. Together in His love, we can achieve our full potential.

Mrs Charnley's Message



As Christmas approaches and preparations continue, there is a real sense of community within the school. It is never easy at these times when children are learning song words, movements and acting roles in addition to all their curriculum work. It would be so easy to get caught up in performance and forget the faith journey along the way; the most important message: 'Such a big miracle in such a little baby'. Every year we try so hard to keep this message at the centre of all our Advent preparations and encourage the children to see the beauty of Christmas and to appreciate the true meaning of Christ's birth. Therefore, when children look outwards and recognise the needs of others, this is a true reflection of their growth; something for all of us, young and old, to aspire to. I was immensely proud of all the children as I watched them perform their plays this week. Watching them reminds us all of the true meaning of Christmas and the most important story of all. Well done children, you really did make sure that this message is clear for everyone.

There was joy on the children's faces when we went to see A Christmas Carol at the Dukes today. I know how much the children enjoy this annual event so thank you for your support. Please remember that next week sees our Christmas lunch and party day. The children can come in their party clothes and Christmas jumper.

Second Week in Advent: Joy

Gospel [John 1: 6-8, 19-28](#)

A [man](#) came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, to bear [witness](#) to the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, he was to bear [witness](#) to the light. This was the [witness](#) of John, when the [Jews](#) sent to him priests and [Levites](#) from [Jerusalem](#) to ask him, 'Who are you?' He declared, he did not deny but declared, 'I am not the Christ.'

So they asked, 'Then are you Elijah?' He replied, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?'

So he said, 'I am, as [Isaiah](#) prophesied: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight!' Now those who had been sent were Pharisees, and they put this question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptise with water; but standing among you -- unknown to you- is the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandal.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where [John](#) was baptising.

Have a lovely weekend with family time together.

God Bless,

Mrs Charnley and the Staff of Saint Clare's.

Faith

Here is our weekly mission - a small way of putting into practice the gospel values. We believe we are called to live our lives differently because of what we have experienced and prayed about. What we offer as the 'mission' is a suggestion of how we can all do just that.



Celebrate Christmas with Jesus in mind.
Enjoy the presents, songs, food and games.
As you do, remember that the true reason for
happiness and joy is that Jesus came at
Christmas to be close to you.

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young." — Henry Ford

Headteacher Awards! Awards of Excellence



This Weeks Winners Are...

Little Saplings: Ameerah - *"For using great manners".*

Rowan: The Whole Class - *"For putting on a super Christmas Play".*

Willow: Teddy - *"For writing a fantastic set of instructions".*

Hazel: The Whole Class - *"An Excellent Christmas nativity performance".*

Beech: The Whole Class - *"For two wonderful Christmas nativity performances".*

Pine: Daniyaal - *"For fantastic column subtraction in Maths".*

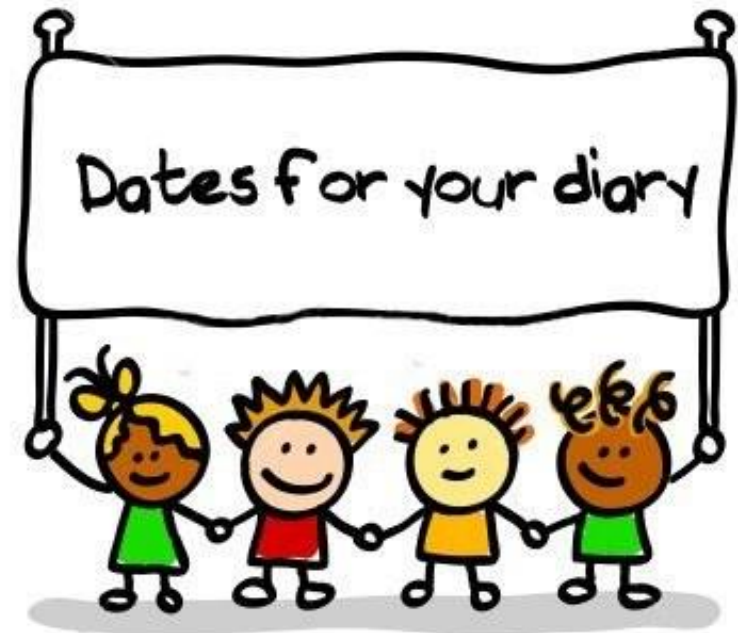
Elder: Zaydan - *"For his Excellent attitude to all areas of the curriculum".*

Cherry: Mason W - *"For showing maturity".*

Oak: Merida - *"A fantastic chapter written in the style of classic fiction".*

The Winning House this week: Southworth!

Dates for your Diary



Saturday 16th December - Messy Church at St Clare's Church Hall (1:30 - 3:00pm).

Wednesday 20th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day.

Wednesday 20th December - PTFA run Tuck Shop - 3pm.

Thursday 21st December - Break up for Christmas (1:30pm).

Monday 8th January 2024 - Return to school.

Thursday 11th January 2024 - Meet the teacher (5pm)

Christmas Jumper Day



Wednesday 20th December is our Christmas Lunch / Jumper day. Children are welcome to come to school in their own Clothes / Party Clothes and their Christmas Jumpers. The Children will enjoy a Christmas Lunch and Play some Party Games in class.

PTFA - Tuck Shop

Price List	
Swizzler Mix Bag	£1.00
Gummy & Fizzy Mix Bag	£0.60 or 2 for £1.00
Gummy Zone Fast Food	£0.30
Candy Canes	£0.40
Candy Sticks with Tatoo sticker	£0.50
Candy Floss	£1.00
Lollies	£0.20
Golden Wanders Crisps	£0.50
Thingies Crisps	£0.25
Rainbow Drops	£1.00
Cookie	£1.00
Cadbury Santa Selection Box	£2.00
Fruit Shoot Blasts	£0.50
Cup Drinks	£0.50
Chocolate	£0.40

Mrs. Patel will be running a Tuck shop at the end of every term. She has been busy shopping for all the goodies in preparation for this.

Our First Tuck shop will take place at the end of school On Wednesday 20th December 2023. Please see the price list. The correct change must be brought in as no change can be given.

Pray for Peace – Play for Peace

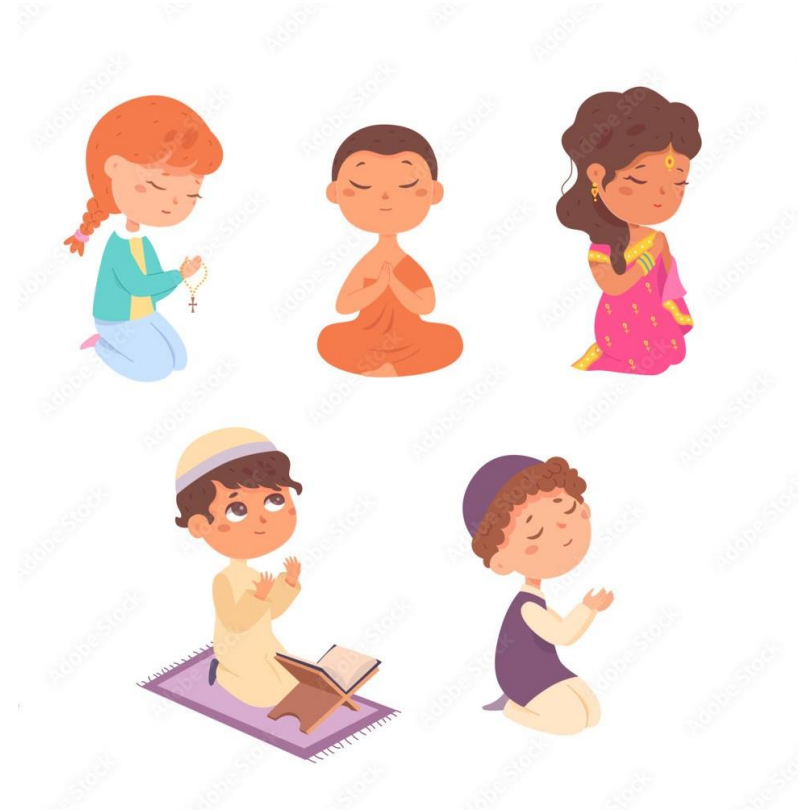


We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating conflict between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Food, water and fuel are in increasingly short supply. Families need urgent help. You will have seen the school council work on 'pray for peace - play for peace' fundraising which took place in school last Friday. With advice from the diocese and the children's and our desire to help all children who are the innocent victims of this conflict the money raised will go to CAFOD. You too can donate directly as this link will take you to their page. <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/israeli-palestinian-crisis-appeal>.

You can also donate through Arbor until 20th December 2023 which we will collate and send the total amount from St Clare's.

Thank you, in advance, for your support with this appeal led by the children and school council.

World Faith Week



Next term as part of our R.E. Curriculum we will be focusing the religion of Islam. We will also be taking part in World Faith Week which commences on 29th January 2024. We are asking if any of our Muslim parents would like to come and speak to the children about Islam. If this is something you think you would be interested in then please leave your name with Miss Dedat in the Office.

Online Safety



At the end of each month we will be sending out a Online Safety Newsletter. We have also added a section to the website under 'Parents' which we would encourage you to take a look at, this includes a booklet to help support with parental controls. With Christmas comes a wealth of new technology for children to enjoy. Our ICT consultant has found that by using Google Family you can help to keep your child safe online. <https://familylink.google.com/>

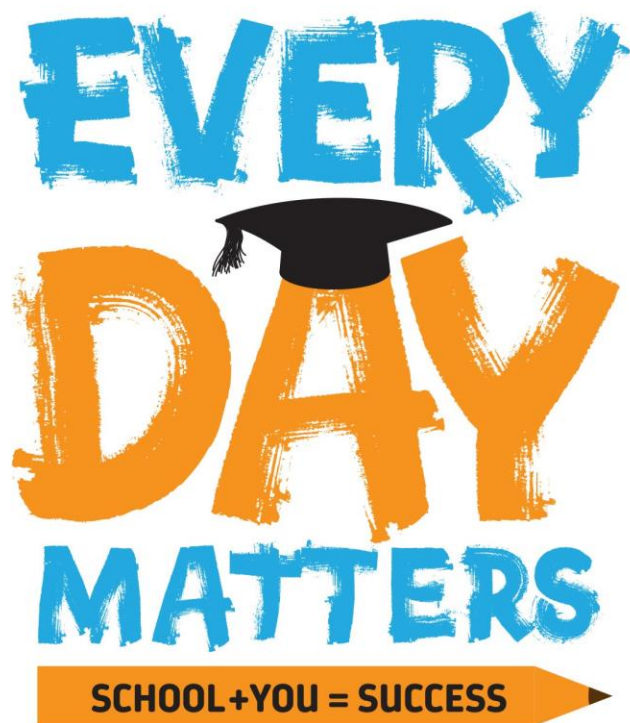
Family Link gives you access to manage your child's account and data settings. As a parent, you can help change or reset your child's password if they forget it, edit their personal information or even delete their account if you feel necessary. You can also use the Google Family Link is a parental controls app that helps you keep your family safer online.

Piano/ Keyboard & Voice Lessons



There are still places available for parents who want to book their child in for Piano / Keyboard and Voice lessons with Mrs. Calman. The Parental Direct Payment scheme allows parents to pay the Music Service directly for instrumental and vocal tuition. The lessons are delivered in school, Individually. Please see the email that was sent to parents last week with instructions on how to book. There are currently only a limited number of places left to book!

Attendance



The whole school's attendance this week was 94.82%.

Well done to Year 1/2 (Hazel), Your class had the highest attendance this week with 99.6%!

ABSENCE REPORTING!

If your child is going to be late or absent for any reason then please call the school office and speak to a member of staff, leave a voicemail, send an email or a message via Arbor to the school. This must be done before the start of the school day which is 8:55am. You must call in everyday that your child is absent.

School Admissions



School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery* you can now apply for their primary school place at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

As we are a faith school you will also need to complete a supplementary form that you will find on the last page of our admissions policy that you will find on our school website.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2024 is 23:59 on 15 January 2024.

St Clare's After School Club



St Clare's After School Club is a private childcare provider which provides childcare solely for children at St Clare's Primary School.

We pick up the children on our register from the school and take them to the adjacent church hall.

We provide a snack and a drink of milk or water then the children are free to choose from a variety of activities including arts and crafts, board games, small world toys, role play, outdoor play, physical play, quiet reading, IT resources (computer, XBOX, Wii etc.).

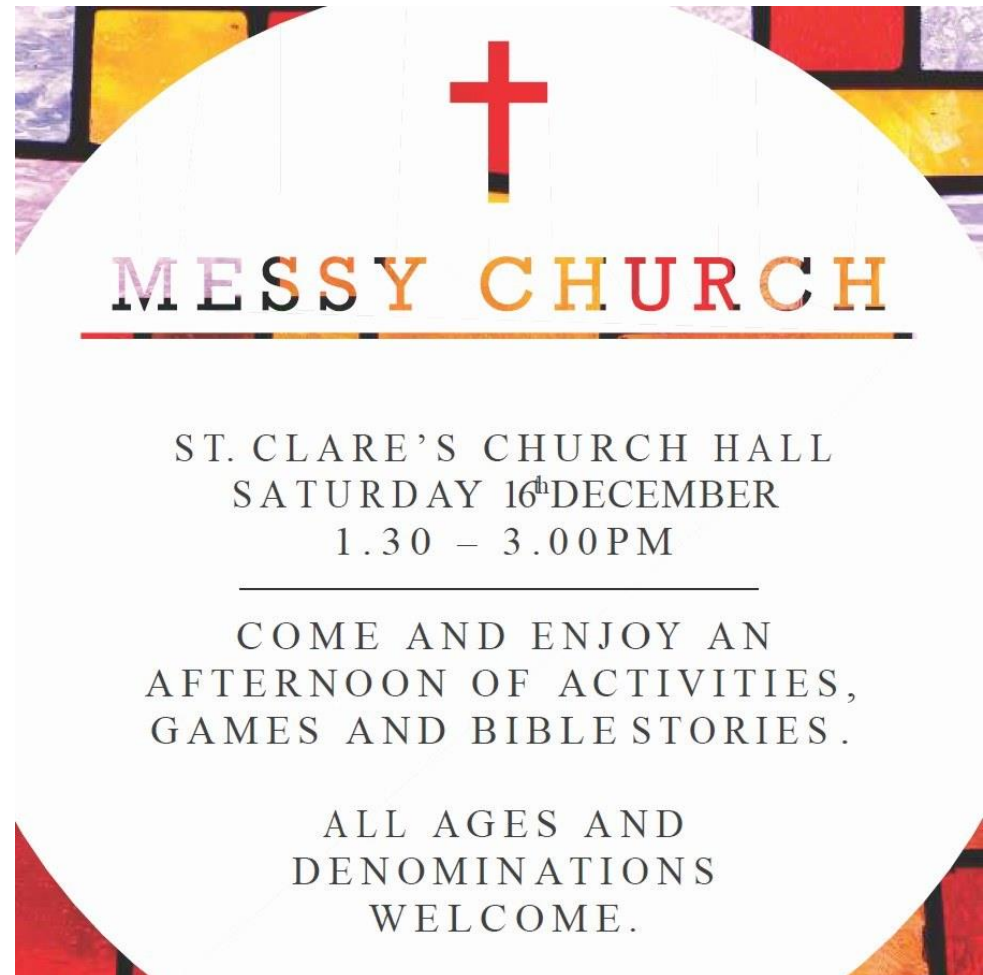
We also have the use of a large grassed area behind the church hall and the school playground for physical activities such as football, cricket, ball games, scooters etc.

We are open after school Monday to Friday. You may book the day or days you require subject to availability. Unfortunately, we cannot take one off or occasional bookings.

We are pleased to say we have spaces available. These will be on a first come first served basis.

Please contact Gill McAuley on 07879241099 between 2.30 and 5.30 for further information.

Please feel free to leave a message outside of these hours and we will get back to you.



Winter Holiday Activities & Food 2023



GET STUCK IN! Winter.

BOOKING OPEN
07879 774978

The booking line is now open to enrol your child in a free holiday clubs programme over the Winter school holidays!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is a scheme funded by the Government and delivered by local councils, providing healthy food and fun activities to children and young people, with free places available for those on free school meals.

Sessions will include a variety of fun activities, including sports, music, arts and other exciting opportunities to learn and develop skills like meeting new friends, alongside a nutritious meal each day.

For information on how you and your family can get involved this Winter, please visit www.getstuckin.org.uk or call the booking team on 07879 774978 and quote your FSM code.

Your FSM Code

If your child is eligible for FSM and would like to attend this holiday club then please call the school office for the code.

PARKING!



I understand that we all have to get to drop off our children on our way to work and how busy that can be with the traffic at that time. I also know that by parking on a double yellow line on the road outside the school is illegal and dangerous for the children—particularly if it is right in front of the gates to the school or parish carpark. Please be aware that we have been asked by the police to pass on any car number plate of anyone doing so. Think carefully about all the children coming to school and the safety of everyone. As reception children become more familiar with the routines and our drop-and-go system I am sure things will ease. Please use the one-way route when using the drop-and-go system. Some of the parking spaces are reserved for hospital staff, please be mindful that you are not blocking them in. I really appreciate your help and support in this matter.