

# St Mary Magdalen's Newsletter



*Nurturing Hearts and Minds*

## Worship Reflection

This half term, during Collective Worship, we have been focussing on our school value of RESPECT. The children have shown great maturity in their understanding of self-respect, respect for others, respect for property and respect for our world. Thank you, children, for your contributions to our worships.

**Loving God,**

Strengthen and help us as we try to say yes to your invitation to be with you, by living lives of sharing, kindness, respect and love.

**Amen.**

## Birthdays this week

*Happy birthday this week to: Leo Swindlehurst, Darcie Steele, Jacob Alty, James Coleman and James Bowes.*

## School Meals

*We will be on week 1 of the menu when we return half term.*

## Half Term

*School will close at the normal time on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October for half term and will re-open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 8.50am.*

## Halloween

*South Ribble Borough Council have asked to pass on Covid safety messages of the not Trick or Treating because of the virus risk. They suggest that if you want to dress up your children perhaps you could wander around the neighbourhood looking for pumpkins.*

## Poppies

*In assembly today we have suggested that as we cannot do Remembrance Day services in the community that they draw and colour poppies for their front windows for the month of November.*

As we close today for our half term break I cannot help but think back to how life has changed for us this year. I am sure some of the changes we have made are here to stay and will improve our lives but some of the changes have made life very difficult for us. I thank God that so far we have managed to keep every bubble going although at times it has been incredibly difficult with shortages of staff. Most days I am having to solve a problem I have never encountered before but throughout it all staff and pupils have stayed upbeat and positive. The children have amazed us with how adaptable they have been and are all working so hard within their class bubbles. And of course the staff have been incredible.

One thing that has not changed is the willingness of the children to do good acts. Today has proved that, with every single child in school coming dressed in bright clothes armed with tins for Penwortham Foodbank and money for CAFOD to feed children in less developed countries. This comes additional to the money you have already donated for Macmillan two weeks ago. We have been really quite overwhelmed by your generosity today and thank you seems a little inadequate. We will quarantine the money over half term and count totals for you for after the holiday.

It is clear that infection rates are still rising and we are a long way from beating this virus. If any pupil does test positive over the holidays please still email me as we still have to report numbers through the break. We are also making it compulsory for parents to now wear a mask when they collect children from school after the holiday,

Parents, thank you so much for all the support you give us, we couldn't do it without you. Have a wonderful half term, we are off to sleep for a week! Take care of each other.

Mrs Gallagher

## Merit Winners

*Congratulations this week to:*

*Year 1 – Louca Gannon for sharing his amazing knowledge when discussing penguins & Sennen Dawson for using brilliant mouse control to design an emperor penguin.*

*Year 2 – Charlie Pays for being a superstar reader! I am very impressed with his determination and attitude meaning he has gone up 2 book bands & Austin Burgess for being keen, eager and always offering to help. A delight to have in the classroom, every class should have an Austin!*

*Year 3 – Faye Roscoe –for her calm and enthusiastic approach to all lessons and her creativity too. And Oliver Beckett for working hard to learn his spellings each week and some thoughtful writing about 'The Tin Forest'.*

*Year 4– Paige Kay for working super hard in Maths this half term, well done and keep it up! & George Swarbrick for persevering with column subtraction with exchanges during Maths.*

*Year 5 – Isabelle Livesey for amazing us with incredible facts about the Solar System & Christian Bly for setting a great example to others with his excellent manners and attitude to learning.*

*Year 6– James Graham for overcoming a new challenge and delivering a great Head Boy presentation even though he didn't think he wanted to! & Rachael Maduka for perseverance in her Mental Maths.*

## PTFA

Thank you to our PTFA for our productive Zoom meeting on Tuesday night. We have lots of ideas for how we can continue to raise money safely. Obviously we cannot have our usual Christmas Fair but instead we are going to have a drive through grotto so that Santa can still visit us and give presents to the children. An order form for a time slot on the drive through will come out on Parentmail after half term. There will be different packages available to buy and for those of you who live very close by there will be a walk through option. I have written to the residents on Buller Avenue encouraging them to park on the back church car park for the night so that we can keep traffic moving.

Before that we are starting a 5p challenge. Children are encouraged to bring to school 5ps which will be placed in a 2 litre pop bottle in their class bubble. We will ensure that they wash their hands straight away. The first class to fill their bottle will win £25 to spend on wet play games for their class.

This Christmas we will also be selling some school bags for life with self-portraits of all the children on and personalised key rings for the children. As we cannot sell the children's calendars at the Christmas fair you will be able to buy it through Parentmail. Again more details will follow.

Last thing. We are registered with the Easyfundraising app. If you download the app and select our school as your chosen charity anything you order from Amazon, Argos, Ebay, M&S and many other online retailers will earn a small amount for school. It is something I had forgotten about and not used and plugged but it is so easy. As many of us will be doing most of our Christmas shopping online please can we put it with your shopping apps on your phone and make sure your purchases make money for school without cost to you.

