



4th Sunday of Advent - Luke 1:39-45

The last week of Advent spoke of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was already pregnant and was to be the mother of John the Baptist. When Mary visited, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear!"



I would like to say a huge 'well done' to all the children for their fantastic performances in the Infant Nativity and Junior Carol Concert.

I am always so happy to watch the children literally shine in their acting, narrating and singing. They really help to make the joy of Christmas come alive!

Thank you to the staff and parents for all their preparations and support. Events like these are an essential part of our Catholic ethos and by taking part, the children are not only giving of themselves but also embracing the real meaning of Christmas - Jesus' birth.



I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming the children back on 9th January and starting our spring term Wonder Week!

M FitzGibbon

We are really looking forward to starting our next Wonder Week - Amazing Artists.

Amazing Artists

Each class will be finding out more about a chosen artist and how they created their works of art. Every child will create a final piece of art in the style of their artist and we will display these at the end of the week for parents to see - and buy if they wish!

We would like to invite all parents and Governors to our Friday assembly (in the morning) on 13th January. We will share what has been going on and celebrate our creative talents.

Parents are invited back at 3pm to view our gallery of work. We hope you can make it!

Autumn Term Attendance

Congratulations to the 89 children with 100% attendance this term.

Good attendance really does help your child to achieve more in school.

We aim for all children to have an annual attendance of 96%.

Parents whose children's attendance is below 90% will receive a letter from Mr FitzGibbon setting out the school's expectations.



HOMework

Homework is set to change at Alston Lane

Parents either embrace homework or feel it has a negative effect on home life by minimising the time they spend with their children. We spend a lot of time preparing homework resources, marking it together in class and chasing up missing homework. We think there is a better way!

From January, we will change the Homework Policy to incorporate core homework tasks and optional tasks linked to topic work. Core tasks will include maths, grammar, spelling rules and reading - lots of reading! We want children and their families to make time for reading every day. Reading with your child every day, especially when they are still learning and gaining confidence, is of vital importance.

If there is one thing that parents can do to boost their child's chances in education, it is reading. This cannot be stressed enough.

Look out for our new homework policy in January and get set to take up the challenge of topic based homework tasks. These may include visiting a museum, walking up a hill, cooking a tasty treat or even researching a famous person. There will be rewards for children who try hard to complete the tasks set each term



In the event of heavy snowfall, please look out for texts and check the school website.

Dinner Money

January = £37.40

February = £33.00



Junior Class Mass Dates

Year 6	12th Jan - 9am
Year 5	19th Jan - 9am
Year 4	26th Jan - 9am
Year 3	1st Feb - 9am

Music lessons are still available in school for woodwind, brass, violin, drums, keyboard and guitar. Please enquire at the office.



Children who receive free school meals or those for whom we receive Pupil Premium funding may receive FREE lessons.

Dates For the Diary - see weekly updates			
Tues 10 Jan	Y4 swimming resumes	Thurs 19 Jan	NSPCC safeguarding assembly for all classes and Y5 / Y6 workshops
Wed 11 Jan	Governors' meeting 6pm	Thurs 19 Jan	Governor's safeguarding training 6.30pm at Grimsargh St Michael's
Fri 13 Jan	Own clothes day for Green Team - House Point Winners	Mon 23 Jan	Governors' SEC meeting 6pm
Fri 13 Jan	9.15am assembly for Wonder Week. All invited	Thurs 26 Jan	PTFA meeting 7pm
Fri 13 Jan	3pm Wonder Week art gallery opens	Tues 7 Feb	Parents' afternoon 1.30 till 8pm
Mon 16 Jan	Year 2 Parents' SATs meeting 6pm	Wed 8 Feb	Parents' meeting extra sessions after school
		Fri 10 Feb	Close for Half Term