

Grimpsargh St Michael's Newsletter

17.12.2021

'Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' (Matthew 5: v.16)



Congratulations to our **STARS** who have let their **lights shine this week**. The following children were presented with their certificates in our celebration worship this morning. They also received a treat from the 'treat basket!'

Reception (Miss Lemmings): **Aiden H and Eva P**

Year 1 (Miss Threlfall): **Tyler D and Caleb C**

Year 2 (Miss Sweeney): **George H and Daisy D**

Year 3 (Mrs Todd/ Mrs Slattery): **Evan W and Reggie C**

Year 4 (Mr Brooks): **Oliver L and Harmony B**

Year 5 (Mrs Loughran): **Amy C and Bethany C**

Year 6 (Miss Cross): **George R and Finlay W**

100% Attendance

At the start of next term, we will be presenting children with their 100% attendance certificates for this, the autumn term.

Children who have only had Covid-19 related absences, whether this being due to testing positive themselves, or absent while awaiting a PCR test result will also receive their 100% attendance certificate.

Unfortunately, and as I am sure you can appreciate, with 208 children in our school, we will not be able to respond to queries regarding attendance records.

To reassure you, we do record the reason you provide for your child's absence at the time of communication.



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 4th January

3pm Hymn practice

5th January

3pm KS2 Worship

6th January

3pm KS1 Worship

7th January

2:45pm Whole school Celebration worship



Instagram

SOCIAL MEDIA



'grimsarghstmichaels' on Instagram

'Grimpsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School' on Facebook.



KS2 Christmas Carol Service

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! Reverend Neil and our Key Stage 2 children took the lead during our service on Wednesday morning. It was wonderful to be able to gather together to worship in church with parents, carers, grandparents and friends whilst taking time out to reflect on the deep meaning of Christmas. The children sang beautifully and spoke very clearly. Thank you to all involved, especially the Year 3 children who enthusiastically performed the carol *'Jesus the Saviour'*, the Year 4 children who eloquently shared their thoughts about the true meaning of Christmas via poetry and metaphors for Jesus and the talented Year 5 children who performed a wonderful group poem. Our Year 6 pupils were excellent role models throughout the service and they read the story of Christmas from the Bible whilst others shared their own seasonal prayers.



Have a look on social media <https://www.facebook.com/Grimsargh-St-Michaels-C-of-E-Primary-School-482128518626303/>, <https://www.instagram.com/grimsarghstmichaels/> and the school website <https://www.grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk/faith-in-action/> for fantastic photographs and more.



Reverend Neil used Scottish author Robert Louis Stephenson's quote about, 'making *holes in the dark*', referring to a lamp lighter, to illustrate his Christmas message to our school community. Reverend Neil linked this to the Advent candle. As we lit the candles on the Advent wreath, the children sang, *'Light four candles, see them burning bright, Jesus will be coming soon, He will be our light'*.

The children were reminded of the significance of the four Advent candles in the Church of England and how the candles help us understand how characters from the Bible made *'holes in the dark'*.

- **Candle one** reminds us of Abraham and the patriarchs. He was the father of the nation of Israel. He praised God and prepared the way for Jesus and our faith as Christians.
- **Candle two** reminds us of the prophets, including Isaiah, Amos and Moses. The prophets help to bring us closer to God's heart.
- **The third candle**, reminds us of John the Baptist. John was a special prophet. The Year 6 pupils shared learning from their RE lessons with Mrs Slattery and explained how 'wildman' John baptised Jesus, wore clothes made from camel hair and ate insects with wild honey. John had one purpose, to make people ready to welcome Jesus. He made a 'way in the dark'.
- **Candle four** reminds us about Mary. Her faith illustrated how she made a hole in the dark. She brought our light, Jesus, into the world.
- At the end of the service, we lit the **candle for Christmas Day**. The candle represents Jesus. He brings light into the world. Reverend Neil asked us how we bring light into the world?

**How do you let your light shine in your family?
How do you let your light shine in our community?**

Remember to take time out to be with God this Christmas.

Faith in Action

We are delighted to announce that our school community has supported a range of charities in the wider community and has raised **£796.45**. Thank you for your contributions.

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community

CHRISTMAS PARTIES!

Our children really enjoyed their Christmas parties this week! Thank you to the school staff for organising all the Christmas activities these past two weeks. We have managed to go ahead with all we had planned which we are extremely proud of and happy about.

Spring Term Lunches

Opt in lunches on a Wednesday (roast dinner) and Friday (fast food) will start from Friday 7th January 2022.

FLU VACCINATIONS

Intrahealth visit every school for a main flu vaccination session, and then once more for a catch-up. We have now received both sessions.

There are planned Community clinics provided in every area for those who missed the offer at school.

Please contact your local Intrahealth Coordinator on the below telephone number, choosing the appropriate option for the locality, if you would like your child to receive the vaccine.

TEL: 0333 358 3397



Points scored this **TERM**



1st place: Year 3- 183,865 points

2nd place: Year 4- 133,851 points

3rd place: Year 2- 110,795 points

4th place: Year 5- 103,230 points

5th place: Year 6- 65,622 points

6th place: Year 1- 61,728 points

Top student: Zsolt H (year 3)



Mrs Hall's Colouring Competition Winners



Congratulations to all children who took the time to colour in and enter a picture for the annual colouring competition that Mrs Hall organises each December. Mrs Hall very kindly purchases a selection box for each of the class winners.

Reception:	Dylan
Year 1:	William L & Sophie
Year 2:	Evie G-P & Elijah H
Year 3:	Zsolt H
Year 4:	Milly H
Year 5:	Sophie L
Year 6:	No entries



HOUSE POINTS

Children in **Shakespeare** enjoyed an extra break this week after achieving the most house points this half-term. Well done.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced. All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 (whether Omicron or not) should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all pupils should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#). If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If pupils test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Talent Show

Congratulations to our winners...

1st: Jessica G (year 6)- Gymnastics & **Finlay G** (year 2)- Dancing

2nd: Jake B and **Jamie B** (Year 6)- Rubik's Cube speed competition

3rd: Fred C (year 3)- Lego Card Memory

Well done to all finalists...

Ruby C– Magic tricks

Brook W- The Highway Rat

Matilda B– Ballroom dancing

Zsolt H– Singing

Bobby G– Rap

Amber R- Irish dancing

Ted C– Comedy

Katie P/Beth C/Amy C/Sophie L– Dancing & singing

Finlay W– Singing

Big thanks to **Zach A** and **George G** for hosting.

YEAR 4

Clarinet Performance

On Tuesday, our year 4 children led a Clarinet Performance for the whole school. They played their clarinets with confidence and real focus, blowing us away with how much progress they have made since September.

Mr Brooks and Mrs Maddox (music teacher) were both extremely proud.



Our services at St Michael's Church are as follows:

- Sunday 19th Dec 8:30am Holy Communion
- Thursday 23rd Dec 11am Holy Communion
- Christmas Eve 4pm Christmas Crib Service
- Christmas Day 10am Communion Service
- Boxing Day 8:30am Holy Communion & 10am Service
- 30th Dec 11am Holy Communion
- Sunday 2nd Jan 8:30am Holy Communion & 10am Service

Please note Reverend Neil has restarted the 8:30am Sunday service after Covid interruption to facilitate those with sports and other commitments in their busy schedules.

Confirmation dates for our pupils working towards the service with Bishop of Blackburn (Jill) on 13th March 2022 are January 16th, January 30th, February 13th and 27th. (all at 4pm in Church)

Wetlands Nativity



Mr Rae and Mrs Rae senior have sponsored the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust's forthcoming 2022 Calendar on behalf of our school. We are fortunate to have the Wetlands on our doorstep and funding raised through such ventures ensures we can continue to look forward to being able to access the fantastic facilities.

We would love the children to take a walk around the Grimsargh Wetlands and appreciate the beauty of our local community, God's wonderful creation.

Feel free to post a picture, on our school Instagram, of you and your family enjoying a walk round the Wetlands and look out for exciting wildlife and the Wetlands inspired nativity, designed by Mrs Coulston and our creative art club.

Enjoy a moment in the peaceful surroundings of the wetlands and feel the peace of God in your heart as we remember the gift of Jesus this Christmas.

There is a Little Explorer section on the Wetlands' website which has some nature craft activities which may be of interest to you over the Christmas holidays- a bit of fresh air and outdoor fun to counter the mince pies! There are a variety of activities with instructions to take you through what to do- from making ice Christmas baubles to hedgehog houses.

<https://www.grimsarghwetlands.org/little-explorers/>

Merry Christmas

On behalf of all school staff, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Please look after yourselves and your families and stay safe over the Christmas holidays. We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th January.

