

# Grimsargh St Michael's Newsletter

22.12.2023

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



## 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 purchased a selection box for each of the class winners:

Reception: **Tom W**  
Year 1: **Buddy S**  
Year 2: **Eliza G**  
Year 3: **Ruby C**  
Year 4: **Harry M**  
Year 5: **Ruby W**  
Year 6: **Florence B-R**



### Weekly Attendance

(Week beginning 4th December)

**SCHOOL MINIMUM TARGET: 96.4%**

**WHOLE SCHOOL: 97.6%**

Reception: 94.4%

Year 1: 99.3%

Year 2: 98.3%

Year 3: 96.1%

**Year 4: 99.7%**

Year 5: 96.3%

**Year 6: 98.6%**

### 100% Attendance

The children who had achieved 100% attendance up to and including Friday 22nd December were presented with their certificates in assembly this morning.

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.

Thank you for your understanding.



### DIARY DATES

**Monday 8th January**

3pm Whole school worship

**YEAR 3 SWIMMING**

**Tuesday 9th**

3pm Singing practice

**YEAR 3 SWIMMING**

**Wednesday 10th**

3pm Key stage worship

**YEAR 3 SWIMMING**

**Thursday 11th**

3pm Key stage worship

**YEAR 3 SWIMMING**

**Friday 12th**

2:30pm Celebration Assembly

**YEAR 3 SWIMMING**



Instagram

### SOCIAL MEDIA



'grimsarghstmichaels'  
on Instagram

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



## Key Stage 2 Carol Service



It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! Reverend Andy and our Key Stage 2 children took the lead during our service on Thursday morning. We gathered to worship along with parents, carers, grandparents and friends, whilst taking time out to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The children sang beautifully and spoke

very clearly. Thank you to all involved; the year 3 children, who shared their religious art work, year 4 pupils who spoke about the Christmas cards they designed and distributed to parishioners after the Key Stage 1 performance and the Year 5 children who sang carols.



Our year 6 pupils were excellent role models throughout the service as they read the story of Christmas from the Bible whilst others shared their own seasonal prayers.

Reverend Andy asked us to think about what we like about being in the dark. The children responded with their thoughts, which included shadow puppets, appreciating little things because big things are out of sight and sleeping. The children then discussed the lights they are able to see in the darkness. Reverend Andy shared a large bag of gifts, including tinsel, Christmas stockings, Christmas lights, baubles, candy canes and a candle.

We were reminded about the importance of candles at Christmas time, to help us to focus on Jesus. The large, white candle at the centre of the Advent wreath represents Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, and they remember His birth on Christmas day. Like the candle, Christians believe that the Jesus makes light in the darkness and they share that light at Christmas time.

Reverend Andy encouraged us to try to think of Jesus for a moment on Christmas and what He means to you.

**How are you planning to share the light of the world, Jesus, with the people around you this Christmas?**



## Christmas Services

- 24th December 4pm: Christingle- ALL WELCOME. Option to dress as Mary, Joseph a shepherd or an angel too.
- 25th December: 10 o'clock Christmas Family Communion. Children are encouraged to bring any gift to show/ share.
- A special thank you to Penny, Joanna and Jayne from St Michael's church for providing refreshments after the Reception class nativity and KS2 Carol Service.





## **Little Princess Trust**

You may recall, in the newsletter dated Friday 8th December, the news that Savannah A-R, one of our year 4 children, was taking part in a sponsored haircut.

Savannah had been growing her hair for over 18 months so she could donate approximately 12 inches of hair to the Little Princess Trust.

Savannah and her younger sister together raised an amazing £500. Well done from all the staff team– we are proud of you.

## **Welfare opportunity**

We are looking to appoint someone suitable to be part of our staff team in role as a welfare assistant.

This would entail supervising the children during lunchtime.

This is a paid role, with hours 12-1pm Monday to Friday.

Please e-mail Mr Booth if you are interested and for more information:

**head@grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk**

## **THANK YOU**

It is with sadness that I inform you that Mr Fletcher has had his final day with us today!

Mr Fletcher started his career in school as a sports apprentice. His role has evolved over time, and although he still leads many extra-curricular clubs, and leads some of our sports teams, he has mainly worked as a 1:1 and small group teaching assistant for the past couple of years and has excelled at doing so, creating many strong relationships with the pupils he has worked with and supported.

Mr Fletcher will be truly missed, especially by the children he has worked so closely with. I am sure you will join us in wishing Mr Fletcher all the best for his future endeavours, and unfortunately for education, not in this sector.

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

- Mrs Lock will temporarily take on the full-time KS2 teaching assistant role, vacated by Mrs Coar, initially for the spring term. Mrs Lock will support Mrs Todd and the year 4 children each morning and then support the children in years 3 and 4 as needed, and mainly for intervention, during each afternoon.
- Miss T and year 1 have a student on teaching placement, during the spring term and, in addition, have a second college student, who has been working in year 1 this autumn term. These two students will provide support for Miss T and the year 1 children, in the absence of Mrs Lock.
- Mrs Claire Wood, who is excellent and has been on supply in our school in a range of classes over the past year, will be working each Wednesday from the first week back in January. Mrs Wood will teach in reception, to cover Miss Lemmings' PPA, and in year 2, to cover Mrs Coupe's leadership time. This plan is to run for the spring term only but it will be reviewed before Easter.
- Mrs Patel will be joining us on supply for the first half term. She will provide additional support each day, for Mr Brooks and some children in year 3. We hope to appoint a full-time teaching assistant, to start after the February half-term, to take on Mr Fletcher's current role.



## **Scores for: AUTUMN TERM** **4th September to 17th December**

<b>1st place: year 4</b>	<b>365,187pts</b>
<b>2nd place: year 5</b>	<b>334,174pts</b>
<b>3rd place: year 1</b>	<b>328,496pts</b>
<b>4th place: year 6</b>	<b>307,860pts</b>
<b>5th place: year 3</b>	<b>284,540pts</b>
<b>6th place: reception</b>	<b>230,588pts</b>
<b>7th place: year 2</b>	<b>217,554pts</b>



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like ping-pong phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holidays in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

## **SPRING TERM DIARY DATES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	School OPEN Epiphany
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Hockey at Longridge High School (9:30-11:30am)
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Winnie the Pooh Day- KS1
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Extra-curricular clubs start
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup>	Multi-cultural Book Day
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Potter Book Night– KS2 (5-7pm)
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	Children’s Mental Health Week
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Safety Day
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>HALF-TERM: School Closes @3:25pm</b>
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	School OPEN
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/ career evening (3:30-6:30pm)
Weds 28 <sup>th</sup>	Parent/ career evening (3:30-6:30pm)
<b>MARCH</b>	
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Liverpool Philharmonic Concert
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day Year 5– Let’s Go Sing
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering Sunday (10th)
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	Height & Weight Check– reception and year 6
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	Last day for school extra-curricular clubs
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Story Worship
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Easter Performance Dress Rehearsal
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Easter Performance 2pm
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3/4 Easter Performance 6pm
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>School Closes @3:25pm</b>





## **GRIMSARGH'S GOT TALENT**

### **Congratulations to our 2023 winners...**

**1st: Eliza K** (year 2)- Hula Hooping

**1st: Bobby G and Noah S** (Year 6)- rapping

**1st: Avneet S, Seb W and Bob G** (year 3)- dancing

### **Well done to all finalists...**

**Bella W** (year 1)- street dance

**Hattie L** (year 1)- gymnastics

**Nes C** (year 2)- tap dancing

**Noah H** (year 3)- singing

**Sophie J** (year 3)- joking gymnast

**Mia-Rose P** (year 4)- dancing

**Harry M and Fraser C** (year 4)- Ju Jitsu

**Anabelle L and Ruby W** (year 5)- tap dancing

**Erin T, Aamal I and Jocelyn B** (year 5)- singing

Big thanks to **Alice R** and **Sophia W** for hosting.

## **Reception Nativity**



Well done to the children in Reception class for letting their light's shine in their Nativity performances on Monday and Wednesday this week. Miss Lemmings, Miss Begbie and Mrs Bibi are really proud of them all for their hard work in learning their lines, songs, actions, stage directions and more! They performed with such enthusiasm and confidence and told the story of Christmas beautifully.

Well done Reception class!

Thank you to our families for supporting our reception children.

Thank you also to Mr Chow for filming the nativity– Miss Lemmings will send the link to watch the nativity as soon as she receives it. Finally, thank you to Penny and Joanna who gave up their time to prepare and provide refreshments.

Well done to Miss Lemmings, Miss Begbie and Mrs Bibi for preparing the children and ensuring they were ready to perform as they did on stage.

# **Merry Christmas**

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

