



Date: *Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026*

Issue: #31

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



## TRIM TRAIL

We are delighted to share that our new activity trim trail is now complete and ready for the children to enjoy!

To help keep the trim trail safe and in great condition for many years, we have talked through some simple rules with the children in assembly today. These are:

- Have fun and enjoy using the trim trail
- Take turns – only two children on each piece of equipment at a time
- Only use equipment you can get on and off safely by yourself and use as designed
- Use the trim trail at the right time, according to your class rota
- The trim trail is for school time only and should not be used before or after school

We would really appreciate your support in reinforcing these rules, particularly by ensuring that children do not use the trim trail before or after school.

Thank you again to Grimpsargh Parish Council for their incredibly generous donation of £25,000, that has paid for our new trim trail. And to Mrs McGivern for her commitment to driving this project.

Thank you for your continued support.

## WATER SAFETY

Following recent tragic incidents involving open water, the Health Protection Team has asked us to share this important reminder about how quickly situations can change. Even on warm days, open water can remain dangerously cold, and conditions are often unpredictable. Children and young people may not always recognise these risks, so it is vital that key safety messages are shared with parents and guardians and reinforced to help keep everyone safe.

In school, we will be providing additional learning around water safety, building on the education we already deliver, in light of these recent tragedies.

Please help reinforce the following advice with your child/ren:

- **Stop and Think:** Check for hidden hazards such as deep water, currents and cold temperatures.
- **Stay Together:** Never go into or near water alone; choose areas with lifeguards where possible.
- **Call 999 in an emergency:** Ask for the Coastguard at the coast, or Fire & Rescue if you are inland.
- **Float –** If you fall in, stay calm, float on your back and control your breathing.

## Diary Dates

### Phonics Screening Week

#### MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

- 3pm Whole School Worship

#### TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

- 3pm Hymn Practice
- 10:30am Mini-skills competition: reception class
- 6pm 2026/27 NEW RECEPTION INDUCTION EVENING

#### WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

- 3pm Key Stage Worship
- 9:30am Dynamos Cricket- Boys
- 1pm Year 1 at St Michael's Church

#### THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

- 3pm Key Stage Worship
- 10am Dynamos Cricket- Girls

#### FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>

- 2:45pm Celebration Assembly





# WORSHIP this week...



## Worship – God the Creator

In worship this week, the children learned about God as Creator. We explored the Christian belief that God made the whole world, from light and land to plants, animals, and people and that creation is a special gift for everyone to share.

The children listened to the story of creation and reflected on the beauty of the world around them.

We discussed how we can care for God's world, thinking about simple actions such as recycling, saving energy, and looking after nature.

We also ended with a fun and reflective prayer where children used quiet actions to think about animals living in different habitats.

Our prayer:

Father God,

Thank you for all the amazing animals that live in the ocean.

Thank you for all the creatures that live in the jungle.

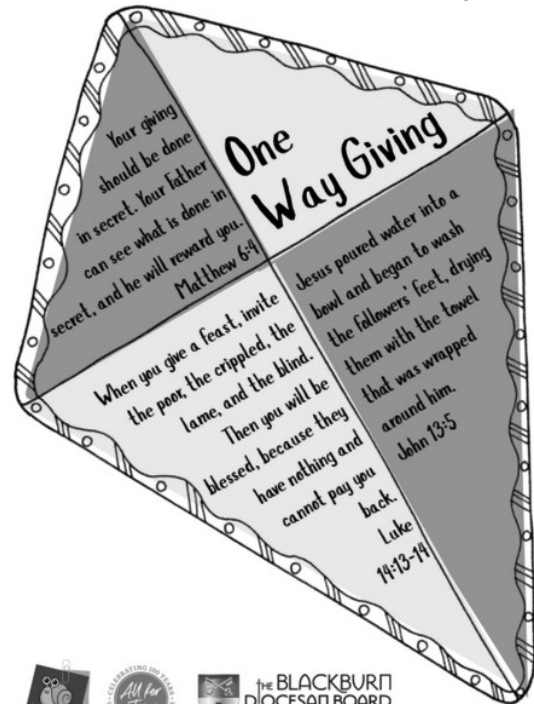
Thank you for all the creatures that live in our gardens.

Thank you for all the beautiful creatures that live in the forest.

Help us to take care of your world. Amen.

Key message:

We are all called to be caretakers of God's creation.



Celebrating Confirmation

We are delighted to share that some of our pupils recently made the important decision to be confirmed, taking the next step in their journey of faith.

The Confirmation Service took place on 17th May 2026 and was led by Bishop Philip. It was a truly special and meaningful occasion, with our pupils showing maturity, commitment, and pride as they affirmed their beliefs.

We are incredibly proud of them for their dedication and thoughtful preparation. Thank you to our families, staff, and parish community for your ongoing support and encouragement.



## All For Jesus Centenary Worship this week: One Way Giving

In key stage worship, the children explored the idea of "one way giving," being kind and generous without expecting anything in return.

We thought about how it can be easy to give when we know we might get something back, but much more special when we give simply because it is the right thing to do.

We shared everyday examples, such as playing kindly with a younger sibling, donating to a food bank, or giving toys to charity. We also looked at what the Bible teaches, including how Jesus showed kindness through serving others and how we are encouraged to give quietly without seeking attention.

The children reflected on how they can show kindness in their own lives, even when no one notices.

Our prayer:

Heavenly Father,

Sometimes it's easy to be kind because I get praised for it or because I know that person will be kind back to me.

Help me to be kind even if I know I won't benefit.

Help me just to do the right thing even if no one notices or thanks me.

Amen.

Key message:

True kindness means giving without expecting anything in return.

## MATHLETICS

Scores for: 11.5.26—31.5.26

Children scoring 1000+ points:

1 <sup>st</sup> place: year 5	18 children
2 <sup>nd</sup> place: year 1	10 children
2 <sup>nd</sup> place: year 2	10 children
2 <sup>nd</sup> place: year 3	10 children
5 <sup>th</sup> place: year 4	7 children
6 <sup>th</sup> place: reception	6 children
7 <sup>th</sup> place: year 6	5 children

## CRICKET LEAGUE

We received confirmation earlier this week that we finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the top cricket league this season.



After 5 matches, we won 4 and lost only 1, finishing on 12 points, 3 ahead of 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Longsands Primary School.

Well done to Thomas G, Miles C, Harry M, Shaan S, Fraser C, Henry B and Brook W.

We now look forward to the Dynamos competition and competing in the Sports Festival.

## SAFEGUARDING



What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Online Grooming

A vital guide to understanding online grooming, its warning signs and how to protect children from exploitation.

Online grooming is a growing and deeply concerning threat, with thousands of offences recorded each year in the UK. This edition explores how offenders build trust with children through fake identities, flattery, gifts and group chats before exploiting that relationship. It also examines the rise of sextortion and how gaming platforms and social media can become gateways for harm.

Beyond sexual exploitation, the guide highlights criminal grooming and radicalisation, helping adults recognise that manipulation can take many forms. With practical advice on spotting warning signs, creating open conversations and understanding the platforms children use, this resource empowers parents and educators to intervene early and keep young people safer online.

## CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 20th May, we took a team of 4 children to the Preston Primary Schools Cross-Country Race at ULan Sports Arena.

With it being the first day of our half-term break, a couple of the girls in the team were on holiday. After walking the team around the course, our sole girl runner, Quinn, was up first in the girls' race. A brilliant start and race saw Quinn finish in a fantastic 9th place out of 53 girls. A determined run in which Quinn gave everything. Well done!

Next, was the boys' race in which we had a full team competing. The boys worked superbly as a team, running together and strongly. They all spent most of the race in the top 10 positions with Max leading the way. This is all the more impressive as Max is currently in year 4. The final 200m saw Thomas and Rory kick on and have a brilliant battle to complete the course as the first GSM finisher. All three boys finished well with Thomas in 9th place, Rory in 12th place and Max in 16th place out of 62 boys resulting in 37 points and a 5th place for the team out of 20 teams.

Well done to: Thomas G, Rory B, Max R and Quinn T



# Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community



Grimsargh St Michael's Church & School Garden Party

When?  
Saturday, 20st June 2026

Arrive at 12:50 pm for a 1:00 pm start.  
Dances finish by 2:30 pm.

Where?  
Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School

All pupils (Nursery–Year 6) will perform a dance they've been practising with their teachers.

Families and friends are warmly invited to enjoy stalls, entertainment, homemade refreshments, and ice cream. Proceeds support Grimsargh St Michael's Church and the Barchester fund, which helps fund school projects and resources.

This is a chance to show appreciation to our parish community!  
Donations needed for the school summer stall.  
Please send a summer-themed item with your child by Wednesday, 15th June.





JOIN OUR CHILDREN'S

## HOLIDAY Club

Children will dig, plant, and grow while learning new skills like teamwork, patience, and caring for nature in a fun, hands-on way! They will also have the opportunity to complete nature themed arts and crafts.

MULTIPLE DATES AVAILABLE | Grimsargh St Michael's School, Preston Road, Grimsargh, Preston, PR2 5SD

DROP OFF FROM 8AM | £35 PER CHILD

Book at [www.bookwhen.com/BowlandKitchenGarden](http://www.bookwhen.com/BowlandKitchenGarden)

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year - an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

#### STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or pretend to be someone else's child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, leaving children in significant emotional and physical harm.

#### THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

#### EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or virtual items during online conversations. These tactics create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or coerced to continue.

#### GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Children often begin conversations during gameplay and can become trusted, close friends. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

#### GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This location makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

#### CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders build relationships with children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Children are groomed to radicalise, joining groups with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often have lasting psychological and social consequences.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one 'big talk' about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

#### CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasize that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels odd, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

#### UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

#### STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for irregular grades, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those who communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safety teams' capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

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