



# St. James' Catholic Primary School

## Newsletter (Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015)



### Star Pupils Of The Week (week ending 30-1-15)


Rec T- Leah MacCallum  
 Rec B- Isabelle Whalley  
 Year 1R- Georgia Warburton  
 Year 1C- Minnie Grady  
 Year 2E- Harley Roby  
 Year 2B- Thomas Such



Year 3S- Richie Broderick  
 Year 3/4C- Ruben Ruane  
 Year 4F- Finn Norburn  
 Year 5C- Miller Glenholmes  
 Year 5W- Joe Baldwin  
 Year 6B- Grace Mounfield  
 Year 6M- Ben Mahoney



### Attendance Update (week ending 30-1-15)

Overall from September 2014	Weekly Attendance
<p>Whole School = 97.05%</p> 	<p>Overall= 95.99% **A below average weekly attendance by the standards of our school which is explained to some degree by the poor weather at the back end of last week. After an excellent start to the term, it is vital that this lower weekly attendance is just a blip and that we all continue to avoid any unnecessary absences.**</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> = Y3/4C (100%)                  2<sup>nd</sup> = Y3S (98.67%)                  3<sup>rd</sup> = Y2E (98.40%)</p> <p><b>Congratulations also to the following classes for their excellent (98%+) weekly attendance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Y1C (98.33%)</li> <li>- Y5W (98.08%)</li> </ul>

### House Points (week ending 30-1-15)

1<sup>st</sup> = St. David  
 2<sup>nd</sup> = St. George  
 3<sup>rd</sup> = St. Andrew  
 4<sup>th</sup> = St. Patrick



### Term Time Leave of Absence Requests- A Reminder

As you are aware from previous communications on this matter, national guidance now states:

**Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances". If the leave is granted, Headteachers should determine the number of days a child can be away from school.**

The letter sent home on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 stated that to request a leave of absence, our request form should be used- this is available from the school office and our website. This form needs to be completed for all leave of absence requests and it must be made very clear for term time holiday requests how the circumstances are exceptional -with supporting evidence if appropriate.

There is still an issue in some cases with requests being submitted without supporting evidence when it would be appropriate to do so in order to demonstrate 'exceptional circumstances'. In addition, there are ongoing issues with requests being submitted late. For example, it is not appropriate to submit a request for an event which is known about months in advance (i.e. not medical appointments or emergencies) at the last minute unless there is a strong explanation as to why this was not possible. *Many thanks to all those who continue to support the school on such matters.*



In addition, we have recently agreed with St. Peter's Catholic High School a system that, where a holiday request is made for both a pupil at St. James' and sibling at St. Peter's, there will be a discussion between the Headteachers to look at each others assessment of whether the request meets the 'exceptional circumstances' criteria. In most cases, this will now mean a joint decision between both St. James' and St. Peter's.

### Free Football Coaching from Lancashire FA

We have a FREE Half Term Event coming up at Abraham Guest Academy (WN5 0UH) on Monday 16th February 10-1pm, Bolton Arena (BL6 6LB) on Thursday 19th February 10-1pm. Would it be possible for your school to promote the event for us via a school newsletter if you have space available, or any other means that you use to get information to parents.

Any help with this would be appreciated.

To reserve a space for the session visit [www.thefa.com/skills](http://www.thefa.com/skills)<<http://www.thefa.com/skills>>

Regards

Chris Hurst - Skills Coach

FA Skills Programme (Lancashire)



### Upcoming Events (correct at the time of publication of this newsletter and may be subject to some alterations)

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Y6B/ Y6M/ Y5C Swimming (am) \*a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per child is requested

Y3-6 Tennis Club \*until 4.40pm

French After School Club \*until 4.20pm

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Y1C Tennis Taster Sessions (am)

Y1-2 Gymnastics Club \*until 4.40pm

Y5-6 Athletics Team to Wigan West Sports Hall Athletics Tournament @ Abraham Guest Academy \*after school

#### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

Year 3-4 Cardio Tennis After School Club \*until 4.30pm

St. Peter's Y5 Hockey Tournament \*after school

Y5 Digsimart After School Club \*until 5pm

Y5-6 Chess After School Club \*until 4.30pm

Y4 Sacramental Preparation \*6.30pm

#### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Reception Active Living Session (am)

Y5W Swimming (am) \*a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per child is requested

Reception Chime Music Workshop (pm)

Y5-6 Rugby Team to Contact RL Festival (pm)

Y1-2 Superstars Dance Club \*until 4.40pm

#### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Y4 Music Workshop

Y3-6 Superstars Dance Club \*until 4.40pm

### Future Dates (subject to change)

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 inclusive- Spring Half Term

3<sup>rd</sup> April- 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015 inclusive- Easter Break

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2015- Y4 Coniston Residential

1<sup>st</sup> May 2015- School Closed (INSET day)

9<sup>th</sup> May 2015- First Holy Communion/Confirmation Mass (group 1)

11<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 inclusive- Y6 SATS

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015- 9<sup>th</sup> May 2015- First Holy Communion/Confirmation Mass (group 2)

25<sup>th</sup> May- 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 inclusive- Summer Half Term

13<sup>th</sup> June 2015- Summer Fair

15<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Testing Week

17<sup>th</sup> July 2015- School Closes for the Summer Holidays (3.30pm)

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## Parish News

Midstream Coffee Morning & home-made cake sale

St. James Church Meeting Room

Every Friday

10.00 am to 12.00 pm

TO RAISE MONEY FOR WIGAN AND LEIGH HOSPICE



**Wigan & Leigh Hospice**  
*time is precious*