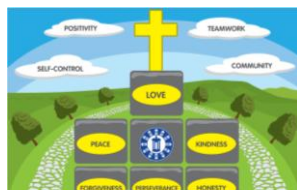


Higham St John's C of E Primary School



Headteacher: Mrs H. Shaw FCCT NPQH



*One school family rooted in God's Love
One more step...
'Let us keep in step with the Spirit.'
Galatians 5:25*

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Date: Friday 25th September 2026

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the halfway point for this half-term, I would like to thank all of the children, staff, parents and governors for their support in making such a positive start to the new academic year.

Ofsted updates:

In January, our school was inspected by Ofsted early in the inception of the renewed Ofsted Framework. I recently received an introductory phone call from Ofsted the purpose of which was to explain the process of the monitoring programme.

*We are committed to working in collaboration with Ofsted in order to support rapid school improvement. A lot of work has already taken place in this regard, and I will be presenting information on this, and on the monitoring process, to parents in an online meeting on **Tuesday 13th October at 4pm**. A link to the meeting will be shared closer to the time.*

Over the past 9 months, schools, Local Authorities and Church Dioceses have learnt a lot about the renewed framework and you will likely have seen a number of news stories about school accountability in the press. Parents may in particular be interested in reading the following articles which featured last week in the Church Times and on Blackburn Diocese's website. Iain Parks, Director of Education for Blackburn Diocese, features in the report and Iain has been following up by speaking to BBC Radio Lancashire and Radio Cumbria this week:

[LINK: Church Times Article](#)

[LINK: Further thoughts following the publication of the article - by Iain Parks, Director of Education](#)

Preparing to say farewell to Rev Lesley:

This week, we share the news that Rev Lesley will be retiring and therefore leaving her posts as Area Dean of Pendle and incumbent at St John's Church, Higham and St Anne's Church, Fence. We thank Rev Lesley for all of her love, support and care for the children, staff and whole school community over the past 7 years and wish her well in her retirement. Please see below for a personal message from Rev Lesley which features in this week's Parish Newsletter.

Some key future dates to make a note of:

Wednesday 30th September – Fairtrade coffee morning

Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th October – Y6 Borwick Residential trip

Monday 12th October – Hello Yellow – wear something yellow for World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 13th October – Parents' information meeting: school improvement updates

Thursday 15th October – Parents' Evening 1

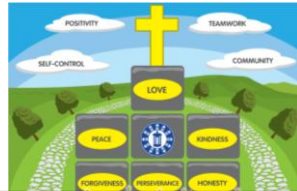
Tuesday 20th October – Parents' Evening 2

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone! Best wishes, Mrs H Shaw

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Weekly Worship focus:

This week, the children have been learning more about our half-termly Christian Value.

Each year group has been given a different line of scripture, which teaches them about kindness, to explore.

Our Christian Value this half term is: **KINDNESS**

Prayers: This week, we have been revisiting the Lord's Prayer, focusing in particular on the meaning of the words 'Give us this day our daily bread', learning how God sustains us physically, spiritually and emotionally by providing everything we need.

British Values:

Throughout the year, our daily act of worship will afford us time to discuss and reflect upon the fundamental British Values.



This half term, the children are learning about: **MUTUAL RESPECT**

Mutual Respect means:

Treating others with **kindness**, **fairness**, and **respect**, even when their views differ from your own.

A message from our Vicar and Area Dean

The Bishop of Blackburn has accepted my formal resignation from the office of Incumbent of the United Benefice of St John's, Higham and St Anne's, Fence, and also from the office of Area Dean of Pendle.

As I approach my 70th birthday, the time has come for me to step down from stipendiary ministry and retire.

My final Sunday leading services in the benefice will be Sunday 1st November, and my official retirement will take effect on Tuesday 3rd November.

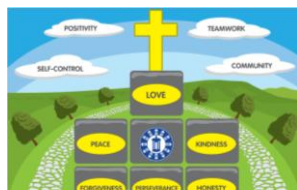
Serving the communities of Higham and Fence has been a profound privilege and an immense joy. I am deeply grateful for your prayers, fellowship, and unwavering support over the years. Together, we have shared in the joys and challenges of parish life, and I will miss you all greatly. Whilst this marks the end of my time as your Vicar, it is not the end of my ministry. In retirement, I hope to continue serving the wider diocese through the Bishop's permission to officiate (PTO) and interim ministry, helping other parishes navigate seasons of vacancy and change.



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Our churchwardens will work closely with the Archdeacon of Blackburn and the leadership team of the Pendle Deanery to prepare for the upcoming interregnum. I have every confidence that they will guide both St John's and St Anne's smoothly into this next chapter.

Please pray for the churchwardens and the Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) in the coming weeks, and rest assured that you will all remain closely in my prayers as we prepare for this transition.

With every blessing,

Lesley x

Sports Cool Clubs – Thursday and Friday: Please note that this now finishes at the earlier time of 4:15pm as school ends 15 minutes earlier from this academic year and the club lasts for one hour.

Positive Learning Behaviours:

Our S.P.I.R.I.T. Learning Behaviours Keep in Step with the Spirit

We ask our everyone in our school community to live out our Christian values every day both in school and at home.

One of the ways we reward these positive behaviours is by recognising the children's achievements in class and in assemblies with reference to the acronym 'S.P.I.R.I.T.'

What does S.P.I.R.I.T. mean?

S = Supportive
P = Perseverance and Passion for Learning
I = Independent Learners
R = Respect and Resilience
I = Ideas and Imagination
T = Teamwork

Fairtrade Coffee Morning:

Please do pop along to school on Wednesday 30th September at 9:30am to join us for our Fairtrade coffee morning.

Please consider bringing a small cash donation to help us cover the costs of purchasing the Fairtrade products for the event.

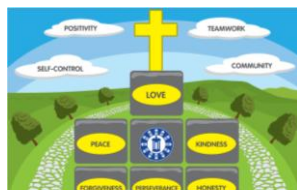
Thank you. ☺



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Celebration Assemblies:

Our favourite time of the week is a Friday morning when we get to welcome some of our parents and carers into school to celebrate their children's achievements. If your child has been picked to receive one of the celebration certificates, you will receive a secret message on Thursday afternoon inviting you to attend the assembly. Please note: the assembly now begins at the slightly earlier time of 8:55am.

We have fewer children on our school roll this year and we therefore have a bit more space in our school hall.

I am therefore delighted to say that **from next week, up to 2 parents / carers per child may attend our weekly celebration assemblies.** 😊

PTA Events:

Please note: tickets for the Infants' Party and the KS2 Disco taking place on Thursday 19th November will be sold at a stall at both Parents' Evenings.

Please bring cash with you on the day to buy your children's tickets.

Please don't worry about being first in the queue as there will be room for every child! 😊

Further information about the events, including pricing, is featured on the posters which have been emailed out to parents separately.

This week's attendance:

Elm Class	99.4%
Ash Class	94.1%
Birch Class	98.6%
Sycamore Class	98.8%
Oak Class	93.4%
Whole School	96.9%

Best wishes
Mrs H Shaw
Headteacher