

With God
we Grow

Clayton-le-Woods CE Primary School

Weekly Newsletter 11.09.26



Strong beginnings

It has been a joy this week to welcome our Ash and Willow children as they begin the new school year. They have settled into classroom life exceptionally well, and I have been delighted to see how confidently they are interacting with one another and with the adults in class.

I have enjoyed many lovely conversations with the children, hearing all about themselves, their interests and the exciting things they have been doing. It is wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence already shining through.

Over the past week and a half, we have welcomed a number of prospective parents who have visited the school, as well as a representative from the Diocese. Without exception, our visitors have commented on how focused, engaged and settled the children are in their learning. In particular, our Diocesan Adviser remarked that you would never think the children had only been back in school for a week, such was their positive attitude and commitment to learning.

We are incredibly proud of all our children and the way they have embraced the start of the new academic year. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow in confidence and flourish throughout the coming months. As we begin the year, I would also like to let parents and carers know that our newsletters will contain fewer photographs than in previous years. This is because we will be making greater use of ClassDojo to share children's learning journeys and celebrate their achievements with families. We hope this will provide a more regular and personalised insight into what your children are doing in school.

Over the coming weeks, we will also be rolling out additional features of ClassDojo to further strengthen communication between home and school. As part of this process, we will be sending out a questionnaire next week to gather the views of parents and carers on behaviour and the approaches we use to celebrate children's achievements. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and will help us continue to develop our provision in partnership with our school community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we can ensure the children have a happy, successful and rewarding year ahead.

Mr Howard

Reminders:

- Ensure all uniform and PE kit is clearly named. This makes it much easier for us to return misplaced items to their owners.
- Please arrive at school on time each day so that children can make a positive start to their learning.
- Notify the school office of any changes to contact details, including telephone numbers, addresses or emergency contacts.
- Report absences as early as possible on the first day of absence, giving a reason for your child's absence.
- Encourage children to read at home each day, even if only for a short period. Regular reading has a significant impact on children's progress and confidence.
- Please send children with a named water bottle each day to help them stay hydrated and ready to learn.
- Please no dogs within the gates on the school ground.

Car Parking

Our car park is an extremely busy area at the start and end of the school day, and parking spaces are limited. To help ensure everyone can arrive and leave safely, please could we ask that once you have dropped off your child, you leave the car park promptly to make space available for other families.

At present, vehicles are occasionally backing up onto the main road, which creates a safety risk for children, parents, carers and other road users. By moving on as quickly as possible after drop-off, you can help reduce congestion and keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us maintain a safe environment for our whole school community.

Worships and Assemblies

Our Christian value this half term is Thankfulness.

During worship on Tuesday, Philip spoke to us about Psalm 119:105:

“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.”

Philip encouraged us to think about why we might be afraid of the dark and reminded us that, when we have a light to guide us, there is no need to be afraid.

He explained that life is a little like going on a walk. Sometimes the path ahead may not always be clear, and we have choices to make along the way. We need to learn the difference between right and wrong, good and evil, and make choices that help us to stay on the right path.

Philip reminded us that Christians believe the Bible is like a light, helping to guide us through life and showing us the way we should go. Just as a lamp helps us to see where we are walking in the darkness, God's Word can help us to make good choices and find our way when life feels uncertain.

On Wednesday, Shinpo Martial arts came in to demonstrate Brazilian Ju-Jitsu that runs on Friday's in the school hall. Leaflets have been sent out, check out book bags for these.

During Thursday's worship, we reflected on the theme of Blessings and the words of Psalm 103:2: “Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” We thought about the many blessings we experience each day, both big and small, and considered how often we take time to notice them. Through our window question, “What blessings do I notice?”, and our mirror question, “Am I grateful?”, children explored the importance of thankfulness. As an act of gratitude, pupils were invited to add something they are thankful for to our Blessing Jar. As we settle back into school together, we are reminded that everyone matters and that appreciating the blessings we share helps our school community flourish.

Friday saw the welcome return of our Celebration Worship and the presentation of our first Ethic of Excellence certificates of the year. It was a joy to hear about the outstanding learning, effort and achievements taking place across the school, from our youngest children in Willow Class right through to Year 6. The children were rightly proud of their accomplishments, and it was wonderful to celebrate their success together. Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for this special occasion. Your support and presence mean a great deal to the children and help make these moments of recognition even more memorable.



WONDERMENT MAGIC SHOW



**Saturday 12th
September**

**2:00pm
to 4:00pm**

**Whittle-Le-Woods Church of
England Primary School**



**An afternoon of fun magic and
activities with a Christian
message and refreshments!**





SUNDAY SERVICE ASSEMBLY BANGERS



**Sunday 13th
September**

**9:30am to
10:30am**

**St John's Church
Whittle-le-Woods**



**A Sunday Morning Service
featuring favourite songs from
parents' assemblies past!
Refreshments to follow.**



Spare Guitars Looking for a New Home

We have a number of guitars in school that are currently without a home. They have seen some use over the years and may need a little TLC, including some minor repairs and replacement strings, but they could be a wonderful opportunity for a budding musician.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in giving one of these guitars a new home, please get in touch. We would love to see them being enjoyed again rather than sitting unused.

Please contact us at head@clayton-le-woods.lancs.sch.uk if you are interested. Thank you.

Diary Dates for Autumn 1

September

Monday 28th

- PTA AGM Face to Face in school 5:30pm

Wednesday 30th

- Open Evening for Prospective Parents 6pm - can be booked on the school website - tell your friends!
- Tempest photographs for individuals and families

October

Monday 12th

- Y5 trip to Mere Tun

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th

- Y6 Bikeability - bikes can be left at school between each session

Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd

- Parents Evening - an email will be sent out with the Booking link.

Friday 23rd

Finish for half term at normal time - no careclub tonight

Friday 31st

Secondary School Admissions closing for Secondary school places (Year 6 children)

PE days

Monday

Y2, Y3, Y5

Tuesday

Y1, Y4

Wednesday

Y3, Y5, Y6

Thursday

Reception, Y2, Y4

Friday

Pre-school, Y1, Y6

Ethic of Excellence Awards

Willow - Rosa

Ash - Rebecca

Year 1 - Sophie

Year 2 - Phoebe K

Year 3 - Ben/Elliott

Year 4 - Freddie

Year 5 - Phoenix

Year 6 - Alfie

Our Vision

Together we inspire one another to live life to all its fullness, rooted and built up in Christ, so that every member of our school community can learn, develop and flourish, to live in the world as the unique individuals God created us to be.



'I had never climbed before. I was scared of heights. But I climbed and rang the bell all by myself and felt really proud of myself'

Poonam

Brownies

11th Leyland Brownies

Where: Manor Road Primary School

When: Thursdays during term time 6.15-7.30pm

Girls have nonstop fun, learning and adventure

for ages 7 to 10

At Brownies, we welcome all girls to explore their creative side, get out into the great outdoors and start to learn to look after themselves, others and the world we live in.

airguiding

Places are available now. Please contact Emily at Emily_brown_owl@hotmail.co.uk for further details

Secondary School Open Evenings

A reminder about upcoming Secondary School Open evenings. Mr Kay also wanted to pass on this important message about Feeder School status to avoid any confusion for parents thinking about applying:

In the past, several of our families have been informed that we are a feeder school for certain high schools – this is not true.

Most high school Admission Arrangements do not make provision for feeder schools. To the best of our knowledge only Brownedge St. Mary's Catholic High School, Parklands High School and Holy Cross Catholic High School have feeder schools named in their Admission Arrangements – despite sending children to all these schools in the past, we are not one of their recognised feeder schools.

It is vital that you check individual high school's Admission Arrangements before applying.
Mr Kay 😊

School	Dates	Time
St Michael's CE High School	Thursday 10th September	5:30 – 8:00pm
Wellfield Academy	Thursday 17th September	4:30 – 7:30pm
Southlands High school	Thursday 17th September	4:00 – 7:00pm
Worden Academy	Thursday 24th September	4:00 – 7:00pm
Albany Academy	Thursday 24th September	Times to be confirmed
Parklands High School	Thursday 1st October	5:00 – 8:00pm
Balshaw's Church of England High School	Thursday 1st October	5:30 – 8:30pm
Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School	Thursday 1st October	From 5:30
Walton-le-Dale High School	Thursday 8th October	Times to be confirmed
Holy Cross Catholic High School	Thursday 8th October	Times to be confirmed