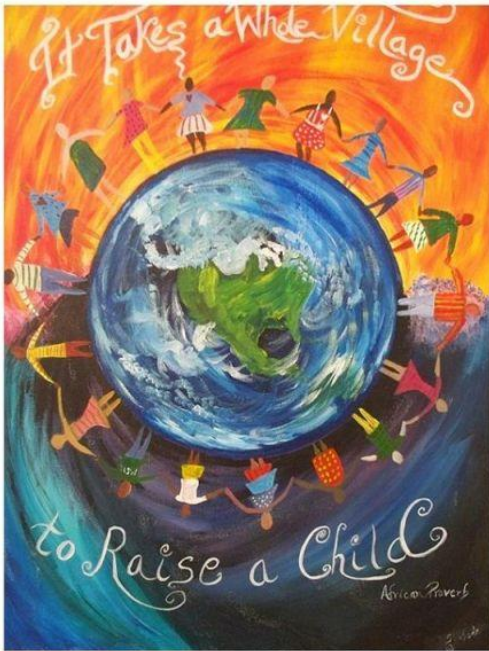




OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL.
CARE – LEARN- RESPECT

Newsletter Update Oct 2023



Dear Families of our Lady's,

We appreciate that at this time everyone is working out how best to manage increased petrol, food, rent and everything charges.

We do appreciate that this is bringing challenge in lots of ways.

We have a large selection of pre loved uniforms. These are genuinely very good quality. Lots of these are available in the Key stage 2 entrance. Please do drop in and have a look. If you find anything you could make use of then please drop a donation to Cafod via the office.

Family Support: If you are entitled to financial support then this link to Blackpool services may be of interest.

If you qualify for free school meals then we would be grateful if you could register even if your child is in reception. Year one or two and receives a free meal already. For every family registered for free school meals we receive additional funding for every school aged child in the family.

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Advice-and-support/Financial-advice/Cost-of-living-help.aspx>

Monday 9th October at 2.30pm ~ Reception Class Welcome

Year 5 and Year 6 will lead a presentation to our reception class parents. This is the first opportunity for our new leaders to take responsibility for a parent and families assembly and share the values of our school as they see them. Our youngest children will receive an Our Lady's medal which is a long standing school tradition to mark their formal welcome to our school family.



Our Lady is our school name sake and an inspiration in the Catholic faith. The medal gives us courage and hope in the form of a blessing from Mary.

Parent Consultation Monday 16th October

You should have received a link to select an appointment for this event. If you haven't received a link please contact school admin asap to ensure that you can select a time.

On Friday 20th October Mrs Ormerod is hosting a tea and cake afternoon with invited guests from services across the area. Please attend if possible. We are very keen to continue to support parents and families with questions, concerns, actions that can help. So come yourself and if you can, and chat to other parents about coming along. You may find out something that could make a difference or share something that could help another family.

Tea and Coffee Afternoon
Friday 2:00pm-3:15pm
20th October
Our Lady of the
Assumption Church Hall

Meet
Parent Forum
SENCO
School Hub
Budget SEND Team
Early Reading Support

Continuous Improvement: We are not perfect but we are hard working and professional

We teach and live a faith principle that each one of us is unique and special and that school works to bring out the gifts and talents of everyone. As a staff team we are constantly striving to recognise what is going well in our school and what can be done to further improve what we offer. We work hard and we try to work smart. We work to see the whole school, our classes and each pupil. Despite our high expectations of course we are not perfect. We are always open to hearing thoughts that you may have as you would clearly see the school from a different place to us. If you see or hear something that you think could be improved email or speak to us. We can't improve things we don't know about.

Lunchtime changes

This term we now have all of reception class, year 1 and year 2 coming straight into the dining hall at 12.00. The children are seated and then called up to the servers table by table. This means that all four lunch time staff can be on and to encourage and support the service. It has been going well.

Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 then join the service from 12.30pm. Year 3 at 12.30pm, Year 4 at 12.40pm, Year 5 12.50pm and Year 6 at 1.00pm. Year 3 are working to adjust from their KS1 lunchtime as they are now eating half an hour later than previously.

We have also been asking parents to select food from the menu by accessing Parent Pay. If you and your child know what they have selected and they know it is food they have chosen this can help their eating and lunch enjoyment. It also helps the efficiency of the service so that caterers can have more information about the food levels for the service. We did hear earlier in the year that parents were concerned that food had run out in this service. This has not happened this year so please do check in with the school office if you have any worries.

We would encourage all parents to encourage their children to access the fruit, snacks and milk that we offer children as part of the Blackpool offer. This tops up their food levels through the day.

Water is best: A reminder that children should only have water during the school day. Those children who have packed lunch should have lunch that has an appropriate level of sugar and this would include any flavoured drinks. We do not think it is ever appropriate for energy based drinks and would remove these from children and return them at the end of the day.

Relationship Learning: We give lots of time to encourage children to make the right choice and in being able to resolve everyday relationship issues calmly and positively. It is part of children's learning that they will come up against emotions and every day challenges during the school working day. It is a key part of our work to develop in each child the skills to make the right choice and to manage emotions around solving problems.

In school we teach that if someone makes the wrong choice that does not give someone the right to make one back again. It is part of our whole school culture to

nurture in each child the assertive skills to recognise that something is making them feel unsafe or unhappy and that they have the right to say STOP. We actively teach them to have safe people in school and at home who they can talk to if they can't resolve something on their own. If children feel justified in making a wrong choice back again then we are potentially contributing to a culture that says anything goes; we would never say this to the children but we do recognise that for young people it is where the current knife culture has come from.

We would always work to resolve issues calmly and purposefully and would ask parents to support this approach too. If you ever have questions or concerns then always ask a staff member. Forgiveness is a skill we actively encourage and teach.

As a school we also teach relationship building through our school values, weekly assemblies and curriculum approaches. Every child a leader and real opportunities to work with and for each other are important ways that children can reflect on who they are and who they want to be. It is utterly central to our work as a faith school.

NSPCC Workshops

This year we will be introducing NSPCC workshops into school. On Thursday 12th October Year 1 and 2 then Year 3,4 , 5 and 6 will access an assembly lead by Mrs Mannix which is part of the reminder about children's rights to say STOP and TELL and an introduction to the work of the NSPCC. The following week on Wednesday 18th October NSPCC volunteers will run additional workshops for Year 2, 5 and 6. These workshops use age appropriate language and ideas to ensure that children know what it means to be safe and how to manage that. Over the next few weeks, as a result of this input, children may ask you questions.

Harvest Giving

A reminder that we are asking children to complete tasks at home in return for tinned food and dried goods for our collection for Blackpool Foodbank. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

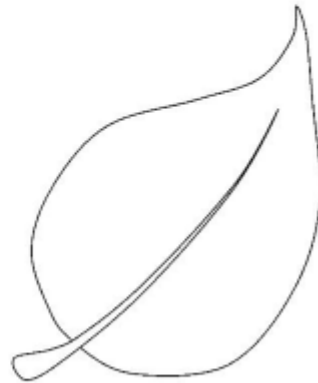
The Blackpool Foodbank needs our help.

This harvest season let's help others as much as we can.

A harvest gift from

*Our Lady of the Assumption
Catholic Primary School*

With best wishes



Year 6 Show Racism the Red Card



On Tuesday 10th October will work with this education charity at Blackpool Football Club. They work with football players and the charity educators to develop their understanding of what racism is and why we all work to stop it. Last year was a powerful day of change so we look forward to finding out what the class group have learned from this event.

Uniform Reminders: We ask that families respect our uniform choices and this includes shoes, hair styles and jewellery wearing. We ask that children wear black shoes appropriate for school. That hair is natural in colour and long hair is tied back with single, simple hair bands. We would also remind parents that we do not encourage scarring cut into hair styles.

Any jewellery should be limited to simple studs and removed for PE.

We are noticing that PE foot wear amongst older children is becoming something of a competition with bright and expensive brand footwear being introduced. This is not necessary and in light of the challenges families are facing we would ask you to consider sending your child in with non-branded black trainers going forwards. We

would most certainly request that any children wearing branded goods would not act unkindly towards others. This is not in line with our values.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 10th October – Year 6 visit Blackpool Football Club for Show Racism the Red Card event

Monday 16th October – 1pm-5.30pm Parent Consultations in school hall

Tuesday 17th October – 2pm Open afternoon for September 2024 reception intake

Friday 20th October – 2pm-3pm Tea and Coffee afternoon in the church hall

Last day of school

We break up for half term on Friday 20th October 3.10/3.15pm

First day back for pupils

Children return to school on Tuesday 31st October

Wednesday 1st November – 9.30am whole school mass for All Saints and to mark the 70th anniversary of Our Lady's.