



Our Lady and St. Gerard's News

Week Ending 13th September 2024

NEW School Times Reminder: Gates open 8.35am, Registers taken 8.45am

Welcome!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to all the new families joining us this year – we are delighted you have chosen our school. Welcome back to those who have been with us for a while. We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break.

The children were all so amazing last week, settling into the new term with a real enthusiasm for learning. Each class has spent time recapping our Behaviour Charter '**Be safe, be a learner, be kind and respectful**' and our mission statement '**United in love and the light of Jesus, we inspire one another to learn, grow and shine.**' Our mission statement and Behaviour Charter guide all our decisions and help us all to be the best we can be.

This first term is already looking busy, with a wide range of activities planned for our children. We will keep you updated about events and activities, either on the 'school story' in Classdojo or on your child's Classdojo class page. Please remember that teachers will not have time to see or answer messages on Dojo during school hours as they will be working hard to ensure quality education is being given to your child. If you have an important message, you can see the teachers at the end of the school day or call the office.

We want to work closely with you to ensure your child's experience at school is positive and they are making the most of the opportunities available to them. We work hard in school to ensure our children remember what they have been taught. Please help by asking your child what they have learnt in school – daily discussions at home about learning can teach children the value of learning, keeps you informed and helps children to articulate their learning more clearly.

It is normal for children to have some worries about school from time to time, especially at this time of year – you can help with this by giving your child opportunities to talk to you, by listening and by speaking to your child about solutions to any problems, whilst speaking positively about school. It is also normal for children to have arguments and friendship issues – again, they need us to work together to teach them how to solve problems in friendships, rather than trying to solve the problems for them. When children have 'big feelings' which need some more specific support, please reach out to us.

Thanking you in advance for your continued support.

Miss Harvey & the OLSG team

Thank you!

Thank you to all the parents, carers and relatives who have helped to make the transition into a new academic year, smooth and calm. The children all look smart in their uniforms and are settling in well to the new procedures. The staff are all incredibly proud of the way the children have returned to school with a positive attitude.

Love, Inspire, Shine

United in Love and the light of Jesus, we inspire one another to learn, grow and shine

Important Updates & News

We try hard to keep our families informed of events and activities relevant to your child via Clasdojo class pages. We also share wider news via the 'School Story on Clasdojo'. This is news which we feel all parents would be interested in as it is usually news to celebrate something going on in our school, which we are proud of. We may also send messages via dojo or Parentpay if appropriate. Our website is updated regularly too with important information.

Term Dates – Our Term Dates are available on our school website please make sure you review these when making holiday plans as holidays in term time cannot be authorised. Our term dates are decided a year in advance through collaboration with our main feeder school and other partner schools to try to make it easier for families who have children in both primary and secondary schools. These are approved by the Governors.

Meet the Teacher evenings

PLEASE NOTE: these meetings are scheduled at a later time rather than straight after school because we are unable to offer any supervision for children during the meetings – all available staff are involved in the meetings or after school clubs. This later time was requested by parents previously and worked well last year to allow children to be taken home and childcare arranged. Obviously, if you have no option than to bring children back to the meeting with you, they can stay with you.

Tuesday 17th September – KS2 – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 at 4.15pm

Wednesday 18th September – EYFS & KS1 – Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 at 4.15pm

Please don't worry if you can't make this meeting as all information will be shared.

Open Evening – Tuesday 24th September

We are holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 24th September 2024 between 3:45pm-4:45pm. A member of staff will show small groups around our school and answer any questions you may have.

We are also welcoming visits to school on the following dates:

- Thursday 27th September - 11am
- Wednesday 2nd October - 11am
- Tuesday 8th October - 11am

Please ring the school office on (01772) 335025 to book in if you would like to book a place on one of the additional tours.

PTA

We have a very active 'Friends of OLSG' group who regularly raise funds to ensure our children benefit from exciting resources and experiences. If you are interested in being involved, please contact school and we can provide further details. Your involvement could be by helping out at events when you can, or attending meetings to help with fundraising ideas – every little helps! We will sadly be losing our long-standing Chair (Rebecca Mason) and our Vice Chair (Liz Forster) as they step back from these roles. They have served our school community through their tireless and committed fundraising efforts for more than a decade! We will soon be announcing the dates of our meetings and would love to see some of you there – maybe you could stand for one of these important roles?

The next PTA meeting is on Monday 23rd September at 6pm

Breakfast Club & Dinner Booking Reminder

Please remember to book school meals and breakfast club via the ParentPay app at least a week in advance as bookings close. **Bookings for week commencing 23rd September close on Monday 16th**



SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?

Closing date: 15 January 2025

You must apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit lancashire.gov.uk/schools

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces and click 'school admission policies'.

lancashire.gov.uk >>>> **Lancashire County Council**

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

If your circumstances have changed recently it is worth checking if you are now eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium. If you claim certain benefits you may be entitled to free school meals for the whole of your child's journey through primary school.

To check your eligibility please go to <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/> school will be informed automatically if you become eligible. You can check eligibility at any time via this link.

Severe Allergy Alert

We have children in school with severe allergies.

These allergies are caused by both touching and consuming certain foods.

I am sure you will agree, that we need to work together to do everything possible to ensure the safety of any child who may become seriously ill as a result of being in contact with certain food products.

We need your help to keep these children safe and healthy and you can do this by not sending food that contains the following in your child's lunch box:

- **Any food item containing nuts**
- **Chickpeas (including houmous).**
- **Sesame seeds - these are also found on bread buns.**

We would really appreciate your support in this matter and we ask that you do not send the above food items in even if your child is in a different class. **This allergy is life-threatening.**

To ensure that school is as safe as possible for our children, we would like to get everyone into the habit of sending food that doesn't contain nuts, chickpeas or sesame seeds. We appreciate your support in this matter.



ASDA Cashpot for Schools

Parentkind – a charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative. To support our PTA, all you have to do is opt-in through the Asda Rewards app, choose our school, shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com.

Between 2nd September and 30th November 2024 – every time you shop with Asda using your Asda Rewards app, Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to your chosen Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts-in to support our Primary school, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

The supermarket has joined forces with Joe Wicks to support the initiative – look out for the TV advert, radio ads and social media coverage!

It's as easy as 1,2,3

1. Download the Asda Rewards app, register and opt-in to Cashpot for Schools
 2. Choose our Primary School – either searching by name or postcode – PR5 5TB
 3. Shop instore across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com and start filling your Cashpot as you shop
- Asda does the rest, all money raised will be donated to schools to spend on the things they need the most. This initiative is on top of the existing Asda Rewards benefits you get as a shopper – so you won't lose out on any of your own earnings or Cashpot, so everyone is a winner!

Swimming – Monday Mornings 9am

Autumn	Year 5P and Year 6 Catch up – group will be notified
Spring	Year 5 Johnson
Summer	Year 4 – half a term each

All Hallows Parent Meeting and Open Evening

Monday 23rd September – Meeting at OLSG in the school hall for parents of year 5 & 6 children interested in sending their children to All Hallows in 2025 and 2026
Followed by All Hallows **Open Evening on Thursday 26th September** 5:00 to 7.30pm

Brownedge St Marys High School Open Evening

To be held on **Wednesday 2nd October** and I would like to warmly invite your pupils to come and have a look around our lovely school.

During the evening Mrs Oddie will be hosting two Headteachers talks, one a 5pm and one at 7pm. Nearer the time, parents will have the facility to book onto these using Eventbrite. Details of this will be shared at a later date

Walton Le Dale High School

Walton Le Dale High School will be holding our Open Evening on **Thursday 3rd October**
Please see the link below for further details: <https://wldhigh.co.uk/parents/open-evening>.

After School Clubs

Wednesdays are the Active Club days. Each half term, a different year group will be given the opportunity to attend a sports/active club led by a sports coach. Further information to follow.

Wednesdays	Y5 & 6 Football - Autumn 1 half term (Sept & Oct) Year 3 Dodgeball – After half term (Nov & Dec)
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We also have additional paid for clubs and activities run by external providers.
This term these include:

Wednesdays	Mad Science 3:15 to 4:15pm – Starting 11 th September for 6 wks
Tuesdays	Guitar with Miss Galea – Tuesday afternoon (1:45, 2:15 and 2:45pm) Singing with Miss Galea – 3:15 to 4pm
Fridays	Drumming Lessons 10.00 – 11.30am

Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term

W/C 16 th Sept	Meet the Teacher week
Tues 17 th Sept	KS2 Years 3,4,5&6 Meet the Teacher: 4:15-5:15pm
Wed 18 th Sept	EYFS & KS1 – Nursery, Reception, Years 1&2 Meet the Teacher: 4:15-5:15pm
Mon 23 rd Sept	All Hallows Parents Meeting in school Hall
Tues 24 th Sept	OLSG Open Evening
Thurs 26 th Sept	Year 2 Maths Mastery – Parents Workshop 4.30 to 5.30pm – Details TBA via class dojo
Thurs 26 th Sept	All Hallows Open Evening 5.00 to 7.30pm
Tues 1 st Oct	Whole School Mass - Harvest
Wed 2 nd Oct	Brownedge St Marys High School Open Evening
Thurs 3 rd Oct	Walton Le Dale High School Open Evening
Mon 7 th Oct	Tempest Photography – Individuals and Family Groups
Tue 8 th Oct	EYFS Phonics Stay & Learn – 9.15 – 10.15am
16 th & 17 th Oct	Flat Stan – First Aid
17 th & 18 th Oct	Year 6 London Trip
Tue 22 nd Oct	Y6 Taster Day – All Hallows
Fri 25 th Oct	Welly Walk
Half Term Holidays	Mon 28 th October to Fri 1 st November
Fri 20 th Nov	Tempest Photography –Class & Group Photos



Whats on.... & Information

We are excited to offer a special promotion that we believe would greatly benefit your students and their families. We are currently offering **4 weeks of free martial arts classes** at one of our locations. This promotion provides an excellent opportunity for students to try out martial arts in a safe and supportive environment.



Promotion Details:

- **Title:** 4 Weeks Free Martial Arts Classes at Total Taekwondo
- **Details:** Students can attend free martial arts classes for four weeks at any of our Total Taekwondo locations. This is a great way for them to explore a new activity, develop self-defence skills, and boost their confidence.
- **How to Participate:** Simply visit our website or contact us directly to sign up and choose a location.
- **Contact Information:** info@totaltaekwondo.co.uk | 01772 382988



Holiday List 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

INSET

School Opens

Half-term:

Close

Reopen

School Closes for Christmas

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024
(Years 1 to 6. Reception start Wed 4th)

Friday 25th October 2024,
Monday 4th November 2024
Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

School Opens

Half term:

Close

Reopen

School closes for Easter

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 14th February 2025
Monday 24th February 2025
Friday 4th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

School Opens

School closed for Bank Holiday

Half-term:

Close

INSET

INSET

Re-open

School closes for Summer

INSET

INSET

Tuesday 22nd April 2025
Monday 5th May 2025

Friday 23rd May 2025
Monday 2nd June 2025
Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Wednesday 4th June 2025
Friday 18th July 2025
Monday 21st July 2025
Tuesday 22nd July 2025

190 days

HOLIDAYS/ABSENCES DURING TERM TIME ARE NOT PERMITTED EXCEPT IN "EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES" AT THE DISCRETION OF THE HEADTEACHER