



Our Lady and St. Gerard's News

Week Ending: 19th December 2025



School breaks up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday 19th December (3:15pm) and will reopen in the New Year on Monday 5th January 2026

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year"

Dear families,

As we draw 2025 to a close, I wanted to send out a few messages of thanks and some updates.

We are blessed to have a really strong parish-school-parent community here at Our Lady & St. Gerard's. These links are going from strength to strength with more parents getting involved in our PTA and Parish events and supporting our school in any way they can. As the Headteacher and Chair of the PTA, I can honestly say that any help and support you can give is REALLY appreciated. Thanks to all the 'Elves' who helped to prepare our grotto and gifts recently. The children had a lovely time, thanks to your kindness. A big thank you to the Tree Warriors who turned up with spades, wheelbarrows and wellies to help us plant 150 saplings! We have had several charity fundraising events and PTA fundraising events which have all been really well supported. Our PTA bingo raised an amazing £1359.33 - thanks to all those who supported this! The charities and PTA are always extremely grateful for any contributions and donations made. Thank you all for all your kindness and support during the Autumn Term.

I also feel very blessed to have an amazing, dedicated and passionate team of staff who continually go above and beyond for our children. As the old saying goes, **'It takes a village to raise a child'** and every member of our team show this commitment every day in the work that they do. In addition to all the usual school learning, we have also shared joy through...

- ✓ Nursery singalong
- ✓ Reception Nativity x2
- ✓ KS1 Nativity x 2
- ✓ KS2 Carol Concert
- ✓ Christmas dinner
- ✓ Y4 singing at Lostock Lodge
- ✓ Y5 singing at New Day Church Food Hub
- ✓ Y6 singing at Regenerage
- ✓ 350 (ish) visits to see Santa
- ✓ All Hallows' visit to school – Christmas Roadshow

We have now completed another phase of our outdoor plan! Many of you will know that we have already worked on our Reception play area, our trim trails, playground markings, Peace garden & allotment, field drainage, car park, improved fencing between school and church - and now our security system and canopy at the main entrance is complete. We will keep you updated when our next phase is approved. As part of our commitment to sustainability, we already have solar panels, recycling, composting, water butts and we have achieved Level 5 (the highest level) RHS School Gardening Award, due to the work we do in the Peace Garden. We have just had LED lighting installed across the school to help us cut our energy costs and reduce our carbon footprint.

This year has also been the start of our Forest School journey! Our Reception and Year 1 children have enjoyed using the outdoor spaces to learn about nature, improve their wellbeing and learn important skills. This ties in with our school improvement priority which is to increase opportunities for active learning. We have just had lots of Cross-Curricular Orienteering boards put around school so that children can take their learning outdoors, reduce sitting time and create learning memories. We will have a launch day on 7th January - more details to follow. Thank you all, once again for your ongoing support. Have a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. We will see you all on 5th January.

**Best wishes,
Miss Harvey & the OLSG Team**

Christmas Jumper Donations: If you have Christmas jumpers your children have outgrown, please donate them to school for those children who do not have one to use next year. We will be collecting in January. Many Thanks



School Admissions

Reception class applications close **15th January 2026**.

Apply online: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

Please remember to apply for a reception class place for your Nursery class child. Although your child may attend our Nursery class you will still need to apply for a Reception class place in our primary school through the Lancashire admissions process.

Love, Inspire, Shine

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

PRIME SPORTS
WINTER HALF TERM
SPORTS CLUB

How to book:

1. Receive your 16 digit voucher code from HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES via email
2. Log into your Holiday Activities account using the link www.holidayactivities.com/login
3. Add your child's details to your account, including any relevant information
4. Book your sessions & confirm!

Venues:

- Remsworth Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham, PR1 8JQ
- Our Lady & St. Gerard's Primary School, Lourdes Ave, Lostock Hall, Preston PR3 5TB

WINTER MULTI SPORTS CAMP
FOR AGES 5-13
DEC 22-23, JAN 2

Activities

- ✓ Football
- ✓ UV Dodgeball
- ✓ UV Golf
- ✓ Axe Throwing
- ✓ Soft Archery
- ✓ Cricket

FREE HAF PLACES AVAILABLE

- 9:00am - 11:00pm
- 9:00am - 5:00pm

Why Join

- MULTI-SPORTS GAMES
- QUALIFIED COACHES
- OUTDOOR & INDOOR GAMES & CHALLENGES

Spots fill fast - Sign up via our booking website

For more information:
www.primesportsacademy.co.uk

Contact Us: 07497160152 | www.primesportsacademy.co.uk | @primesports23

Active Lifestyles Programme

Spring 1

Thursday 8th Jan – Dr Bike AM & PM
 Wednesday 14th Jan – AM Tots on Tyres
 Wednesday 21st Jan – AM Tots on Tyres
 Wednesday 28th Jan - AM Tots on Tyres
 Wednesday 4th Feb – Scootsafe AM & PM
 Wednesday 11th Feb -BikeFix AM & PM



Bike Fix
 An initiative to teach pupils to perform basic maintenance on cycles. Your child is invited to take part in this free session on the dates below.
School: Our Lady & St Gerard's Primary
Year Group: Y6
Time: During the day AM & PM
Date: Wednesday February 11th
 Return this letter to school to book.

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained.

Pupils will learn how to:
 Name parts of a cycle
 Adjust saddle height
 Repair Punctures
 Adjust their brakes
 Learn how gears work

"I've learnt loads AND it was really fun"

"It's great that we could do it ourselves"



Participant Registration Form

Child's Name	
Name of Parent/Carer	
School Year	
Details of Medical conditions or SEND (including allergies to hand sanitiser, etc.)	
Signature of Parent	
Date	

Thank you for co-operation in completing and returning this form to school. This information will be used for the purposes of delivering the activity and will be securely destroyed by school upon completion.
 For more information, see our privacy notice at www.southribble.gov.uk

Have you heard about our free school history clubs?
 Scan here to find out more!



Tots on Tyres
 A learn to ride programme which takes place over 3 weeks. Your child will work on a balance bike and pedal bike.
School: Our Lady & St Gerard's Primary
Year Group: Reception
Time: During the school day
Date: Wednesday January 14th, 21st, 28th - AM
 Please bring a helmet!

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained.

Three week programme where children learn:
 Moving the bike themselves
 Balancing independently
 Steering and Braking
 Pedalling
 Setting off unaided

Most of the children can now cycle. They have all grown in confidence.

"Parents have been amazed by the progress of the children"



Dr Bike
 Perfect for getting your child's cycle ready for Bikeability. Our qualified Cyttech mechanic is coming to your child's school to service their cycle for free on the below date.
School: Our Lady & St Gerard's Primary
Time: During the whole day
Date: Thursday 8th January 2026
 Please bring your child's cycle in.

All cycles signed off by our Cyttech Level 2 qualified mechanic.

Our Dr Bike mechanics will carry out a thorough check of your child's cycle to ensure they have a road worthy bike to cycle more.
 We will repair minor problems, make adjustments and advise on any major problems.

"They were so delighted to be able to ride their bikes again"

"Just let your child's class teacher know if you plan to bring their cycle."

"Thank You, what a great service"



Scoot Safe
 A fun, safety based training programme for scooter riders. Your children is invited to take part in the free on the dates below.
School: Our Lady & St Gerard's Primary
Year Group: Y3
Time: During the day AM & PM
Date: Wednesday February 4th
 Return this letter to school to book.

Please bring a scooter and helmet

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained.

During this 2 part classroom and playground session children will learn:
 Scooter and Helmets Checks
 The importance of road safety
 Scooter Confidence
 Balance and Control
 Learn how gears work

"It was really fun, I loved it"

"The pupils all learnt something and really enjoyed it"

* **Dr Bike**, we triage the bikes from our van outside and check over any bikes brought in; punctures, loose nuts and bolts, loose or broken brakes etc, we can usually get through around 20 bikes in a morning or afternoon. We offer this to the whole school, but the preference is to work on the bikes that will be used at Bikeability ideally so the students will have a working roadworthy bike before they attend the BA session, if we have time we will also work on any other bikes brought in.

* **Tots On Tyres** is for Reception class and we usually take 6 out at a time, 20-30 minutes per group. If your child has their own bike helmet, it would be helpful for them to bring them in.

* **Scoot Safe** is for Year 3's, the first session is 45/60mins of theory in the classroom followed by fun activities on the scooter in the playground for the 2nd session. We have 4 scooters to lend and some helmets, it's better if as many pupils as possible organise to bring/acquire their own helmets and scooters. If you need to borrow a scooter or helmet – please speak to your class teacher as soon as possible.

* **Bike Fix** is for Year 6 Bikeability, we demonstrate how to fix a puncture, they split off into groups and have a go at fixing a puncture themselves, we also discuss other ways to check their bike over before a bike ride.

* **Bikeability** involves first morning on the playground delivering Level 1, if the riders are competent and pass Level 1 they will progress to Level 2 where we go out in the afternoon onto quiet roads. Day 2 is L2 all day on slightly more busier roads, a more advanced and progressive session. If any of the students do not complete L1 on day 1 they will not be able to progress onto L2. Please let us know if your child will need to borrow a bike and/or a helmet if they do not own their own but wish to take part (there is a limited supply of about 4 or 5 bikes and a few more helmets)

Please also note that if any bikes are considered unroadworthy or pupils are considered not competent enough after Level 1 to go out on the roads, unfortunately they will have to stay in school.

Christmas Holiday Sports Camps & Activities



2025/26 PFA COACHING CAMPS

CHRISTMAS:
MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23RD DEC

FEBRUARY HALF TERM:
MON 16TH TO FRI 20TH FEB

EASTER:
TUES 7TH TO FRI 10TH APR

SUMMER:
MON 20TH TO FRI 24TH OF JUL
MON 17TH TO FRI 21ST OF AUG

9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)

Join us on a PFA Football Camp at Penwortham Primary Academy.

With a daily price of £20 a day, £75 for 4 days or £85 for 5 days.

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ability-Set Tournaments
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Fun-Filled, Active Days!

Instagram: @penwortham.footballacademy
Facebook: Penwortham Football Academy
Website: <https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER?

ARE YOU OR IS YOUR CHILD IN RECEIPT OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD PROGRAMME 2025
WINTER IN LANCASHIRE. EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

#HAF 2025

Scan me to find out more, or call in to your local Family Hub.

Lancashire County Council



Active Camps

South Ribble

Venues:
Cuenden Church Primary School, PR5 6ED
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Kingsfold Primary School, PR1 9HJ
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Halloween Parties, Scooting, Archery, UV Sports, Dodgeball, and so so much more...

Cost per day: £14.00
Cost per block: £28.00

For booking Visit:
southribble.gov.uk/activecamps

Drop off 8.30am - 9am
Pick up 4.30pm - 5pm

Funded places available through HAF

Dodgeball, dance, scooting, cycling, glow sport, soft axe throwing, archery and much more!

All staff enhanced DBS cleared, also safeguarding and first aid trained

With highly qualified sports coaches and teachers

All children provided with a healthy lunch

Click here to find out more



PALS would like to present...

OFSTED Registered PALS

WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS

SOUTH RIBBLE

MIDDLEFORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRESTON - PR1 9YE

22nd December
23rd December
24th December
2nd January

9:00am - 1:00pm

PRICE: £15 per half day

Please ensure that your child brings a packed lunch and still drinks

Click or visit:
<https://pals.ipalbookings.com>

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE
Book NOW by scanning the QR code or visit the link
What to expect: Winter crafts, Baking, Time Making, Lego, Dodgeball... plus much more



PFA PENWORTHAM FOOTBALL ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS CAMP 2025

MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

9AM - 3PM (WITH WRAP-AROUND AVAILABLE)

High-quality coaching designed to enhance players' technical skills, ball mastery, and confidence in possession.

Delivered in an academy-style environment, with tailored, skill-based training.

£20 a day

- ✓ Skill Development Practices
- ✓ Ball Mastery Focus
- ✓ Small-Sided 3v3 Games
- ✓ Qualified & Experienced Coaches

Instagram: @penwortham.footballacademy
Facebook: Penwortham Football Academy
Website: <https://www.penworthamfootballacademy.co.uk>



FAMILY Fun Day

2ND JANUARY 2026
@ LOSTOCK HALL ACADEMY

Start the New Year with laughter, games, and great memories as you enjoy three zones of family fun at Lostock Hall Academy!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE DAY?		
ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflatable Football Pitch Laser Tag Arena 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bouncy Castle PS3 Gaming Stations Wii Gaming Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egg & Spoon Races Wheelbarrow Races Fun Team Challenges And more family competitions!

Suitable for children and families of all ages.

FIRST KICK FOOTBALL CLUB



BEAVERS

Fun and Friends

FOR CHILDREN 6-8 YRS

Thursday evenings 6:00-7:15

1st Lostock Hall Scout Hut
Moss Lane, Lostock Hall, PR5 5BT

Email us on: lostockbeaverstuesday@southribblescouts.org.uk

Join us for:

- Adventure
- Games
- Sleepovers
- Badges
- Fun
- Campfires
- Activities
- Visits



Holiday List 2025 - 2026

Autumn Term 2025

INSET

School Opens

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

(Years 1 to 6. Reception start Wed 3rd)

Half-term:

Close

Friday 24th October 2025,

Reopen

Monday 3rd November 2025

School Closes for Christmas

Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2025

School Opens

Monday 5th January 2026

Half term:

Close

Friday 13th February 2026

Reopen

Monday 23rd February 2026

School closes for Easter

Thursday 2nd April 2026

Summer Term 2025

School Opens

Monday 20th April 2026

School closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 4th May 2026

Half-term:

Close

Friday 22nd May 2026

INSET

Monday 1st June 2026

INSET

Tuesday 2nd June 2026

Re-open

Wednesday 3rd June 2026

School closes for Summer

Friday 17th July 2026

INSET

Monday 20th July 2026

INSET

Tuesday 21st July 2026

190 days

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