



Newsletter 8 – 19th October 2026

Knowledge begins with respect for God (Proverbs 1:7)

This half-term's value is 'Generosity' (2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

Harvest Assembly – Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who sent in donations of food for our Harvest Festival service last week. Blackburn Foodbank were delighted to receive so many tins of fruit – this, along with the food collected by other local schools, will all go to help families in need in Blackburn.



Thanks also go to the Kestrels' class for their amazing Harvest Festival assembly and to the parents and carers who came along to support the children.

Walking to School

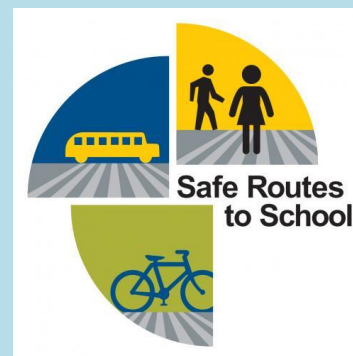
Walking to school is great exercise and reduces congestion and pollution. It helps children to have a healthy start and end to their school day.

We are working with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Living Streets to try to make walking to school safer and more enjoyable for everyone. They would like to find out your ideas about improvements that could be made, for example, traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, dropped kerbs for buggies and wheelchairs, crossing points, signs, lower speed limits etc.

They would like parents and carers to answer some questions in a short online survey, which should take less than five minutes to complete. The survey is available in English and Urdu and can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StMatthewsCE>

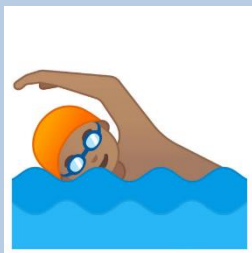
We have a better chance of accessing funding from the council to make some valuable improvements if a lot of parents and carers complete the survey. If you would like a paper copy, please let the office know.



Half Term Break

School closes at 3.00pm this Friday, 23rd October for the half term break and re-opens at 8.20am on Monday 2nd November (with Breakfast Club from 7.45am). I hope you have a lovely week with your children.

Swimming



The children have thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons in our outdoor portable swimming pool! The pool will be with us for the rest of the week and will be dismantled during the half term holiday next week.

Swimming is an inexpensive but fun way to keep fit and healthy as well as an important life skill which could save your child's life. Now that they have had a taste of swimming, many of the children would like to go swimming on a regular basis.

Free Tennis Coaching

Looking for a fun activity this half term? Join us for a free junior tennis session packed with games, activities and plenty of smiles!

Ages: 5–10 years' Time: 10:00–11:00am Date: Monday 26th October

Location: Corporation Park

No experience is needed, and all equipment is provided—just bring comfortable clothes, trainers and lots of energy!

Places are be limited, so book your child's free place today:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CorporationPark/EventsV2/Book/5e855793-fb13-4e27-ab6d-4cad1d798dd7>



Robins' Class Stay and Play

Parents and carers of children in our Robins' class are invited to the next stay and play session which will be taking place this Wednesday, 21st October, from 2.00 – 3.00pm.



Summer Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following children for completing Blackburn Library's Summer Reading Challenge:

Ayra Kayani, Hira Kayani, Yusuf Kayani, Zaheera Satia, Zoya Satia (x3), Zeynah Satia (x3), Abu-Bakr Siddiq, Aamirah Karolia, Sima Khaled & Yusuf Mangera

Best wishes

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julian Rogers'.

Julian Rogers
Headteacher

Attached to this newsletter:

- Information from East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health team
- Information about activities taking place in the Family Hubs and Children's Centres during the half term break

This week's Amazing Achievers!

You've Been Spotted!

Children who have been spotted demonstrating one of our school values:

– Woodpeckers
 Adam Sabir – Kingfishers
 Jannat Sharif – Swallows
 Khadija Malik – Doves
 Haris Jahangir – Owls
 Inaayah Mulla – Kestrels
 Zakei Ullah – Hawks
 Malik Hasan – Falcons
 Adam Chopdat – Eagles

Headteacher's Award

Children chosen for a special achievement:

Safa Ahmed – Woodpeckers
 Ismail Mahmood – Kingfishers
 Abeera Chaudhry – Swallows
 Azaan Khan – Doves
 Iqra Aziz – Owls
 Sara Holme – Kestrels
 Armaan Ahmed – Hawks
 Amna Hussain – Falcons
 Safaa Zaman – Eagles

Recent Reading Badges

Doves

Mustafa Ibrar - Emerald

Hawks

Humairah Bhamjee – Bronze, Aaishah Sidat & Aamirah Karolia – Topaz,
 Yousaf Iqbal – Jet, Aayza Farooq – Pearl, Hamza Jafar & Aleena Bhamji – Bronze
 Star, Zainab Mahmood & Jumaanah Isa – Silver Star, Zayd Patel – Gold Star

Mrs Martin's Class of the Week:
Kestrels

Mr Ulhaq's Ultimate Achiever:
Hussain Ali Shah (Hawks)

Mr Richardson's Lunchtime Awards:
 Hishaam Kayani (Kingfishers) & Simrah Hajat (Hawks)

Last Week's Attendance

	Best attendance	Best punctuality
Infants	Swallows	Kingfishers
Juniors	Kestrels (100%)	Kestrels

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via
'Attend Anywhere'**

Delivered by CYPMH East

tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



**Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the
second name followed by your date of birth.
You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.**

Wednesday 4th November 2026

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 11th November 2026

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 18th November 2026

5pm – 7pm

Wednesday 25th November 2026

1pm – 3pm



October Half Term Activities (0-8 years)

Come along to your Children's Centre or Family Hub to experience an array of Universal Groups and Supportive Services.

Please call **01254 585000** or scan the code below for more details.

Monday 26th October	Tuesday 27th October	Wednesday 28th October	Thursday 29th October	Friday 30th October
09:30am - 11:30am Growing Together with Home Start Darwen Family Hub	09:30am - 12:30pm Drop-in Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora) Little Harwood Family Hub	09:30am - 10:30am Autumn Fun Shadsworth Family Hub	09:30am - 10:30am Autumn Fun Hancock Street Children's Centre	09:30am - 10:30am Lets Play @ The Hub The Hub @ Shadsworth, Rothesay Road
1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Wensley Fold Children's Centre	10:00am - 11:00am Autumn Fun Darwen Family Hub	1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Shadsworth Family Hub	09:30am - 12:30pm Drop-in Rock Pool Experience (with Aqua Explora) Shadsworth Family Hub	10:00am - 11:00am Pumpkin Play Livesey Family Hub
1:00pm - 2:00pm Pumpkin Play Highercroft Children's Centre	10:00am - 11:00am & 1:00pm - 2:00pm Sounds Fun - Music Hancock Street Children's Centre	1:00pm - 3:00pm Growing Together with Home Start Livesey Family Hub	12:30pm - 1:30pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Little Harwood Family Hub	10:00am - 11:00am Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Darwen Family Hub
Ask us about Toileting Support at any of our groups...	1:00pm - 2:00pm Nourish and Nurture (Infant Feeding and Breastfeeding Support) Livesey Family Hub	1:00pm - 4:00pm Re:refresh Active Autumn Corporation Park	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Livesey Family Hub	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Little Harwood Family Hub
 	1:00pm - 4:00pm Re:refresh Active Autumn Queen's Park	 Blackburn with Darwen 	1:30pm - 2:30pm Peep-Stay and Play Darwen Library	1:00pm - 2:00pm Autumn Fun Highercroft Children's Centre



Family Hub

Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth



Scan me →

