



St. Gabriel's C.E. Primary School

"Stand firm... be courageous" 1 Corinthians 16:13

March 2026



Staffing Changes— We are sad to say farewell to **Mrs. Crossman** who's last day will be 27th March. We would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication over the past 26 years and wish her all the best in her retirement.

We would like to introduce our newly appointment **site supervisor, Mr. Bullcock**. You may have already seen him on the yard opening the gates for us.

Mrs Haigh's appointment as a Canon —

Congratulations to Mrs Haigh for her official appointment, by Bishop Philip, as a Canon at Blackburn Cathedral for her long service to the Diocese and her Christian leadership of our school.

She will join the 'Chapter of Canons' at the Cathedral – which means more meetings!



Let's Go Sing— We can't wait to see the children perform at the Let's Go Sing Concert at the Blackburn Ice Arena on **Wednesday 18th March**.



Gymnastics performances— Parents of children in Y3 & Y4 are invited to watch their child perform a 15 minute sequence on **Tuesday 24th February**. Y3's performance will be at **3pm** and Y4's will be at **2.15pm**. A Google Form will be sent out for you to complete to confirm your attendance.

School Lunches— From 13th April 2026, the cost of a school dinner will increase to **£2.80 per day (£14.00 per week)**. We understand that any increase in costs can be difficult for families; however, due to the continued rise in food and supplier costs, this increase has become necessary to ensure that Lancashire County Council remain fully committed to providing healthy, high-quality meals for children. This increase to costs is in line with schools across Lancashire. We will be introducing a new menu for our Spring/Summer period which will have some exciting and tasty new choices whilst keeping a lot of our children's favourites. More details to follow once the launch date has been confirmed.



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Cool Milk— BwD has provided milk to infant children at a heavily subsidized rate for many years. Unfortunately, from the Summer Term, all schools will no longer be able to provide infant school milk through BwD council. Along with the majority of BwD schools, we will now be arranging the supply and delivery of all infant school milk via Cool Milk Ltd. **Parents will be required to order and pay directly to Cool Milk Ltd.** For the parents who have already paid for milk for the Summer Term we will deduct the £4.00 from their annual class trip charge, as this is easier than a direct refund from the School Money system. More details to follow.



Eggciting News— Our lucky Year 1 class had a special egg delivery last week. The children have been so excited to see all 9 chicks hatch.



Cross Country Competition— Well done to the selected children from Y5 & Y6 who competed in the first two events of the Cross Country competition at Witton Park. Good luck for the final event on **Thursday 26th March.**

East Lancashire Hospice Visits— Last week our Y6 Beacons visited ELH and helped their Creative Arts & Therapy team with singing/movement activities. This week, staff & residents visited the Y6 Beacons at school. The children sang to the residents and helped create a collaborative mosaic as well as a piece of artwork for the residents to take back to the hospice.



Decorate an Egg Competition— This year's Easter Egg challenge celebrates the National Year of Reading. We invite all children to decorate a hard boiled/blown egg **to represent a scene or character from a favourite story book.** There will be a 1st & 2nd prize awarded to each class and all children in school will receive a small chocolate egg from The Friends. Please bring your creations to school on **Monday 13th April.**



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School Trips

Going forward, information regarding school trips will be sent home via email with a link to a GoogleForm to rather than a physical letter. School will aim to send information out 4 weeks prior to the trip. Once received, please complete the GoogleForm to provide consent and your child's lunch order as soon as possible. All payments should be made via the SchoolMoney system before the trip takes place. Thank you.

Reception will be visiting Smithills Farm on Wednesday 13th May

Year 1 will be visiting Imagine That on Thursday 18th June

Year 2 will be visiting Brockholes Nature Reserve on Thursday 23rd April

Year 3 will be visiting Blackpool Zoo on Thursday 11th June

Year 4 will be visiting Lancaster City Museum and Castle on Tuesday 28th April

Year 5 will be visiting Helmshore Mills on Wednesday 17th June

Year 6 will be visiting the Imperial War Museum on Thursday 21st May

Regular Activities during & after school—Spring 2 (After Feb Half-Term up until Easter)

Monday— Y5/Y6 Ukulele 12.00—12.30pm

Thursday— Y5 PE

Tuesday— Y1/Y2 Gym Intervention

Brass Music Lessons

Y4 PE

Choir 3.30—4.30pm

Y3 PE

Friday— Y1 PE

Violin Music Lessons

Y2 PE

After School Gymnastics 3.30—4.30pm

Y5/Y6 Lunchtime Football

Wednesday— Y6 Swimming

(alternate weeks)

Reception PE

Multi—Sports 3.30—4.30pm

Violin Music Lessons

Woodwind Music Lessons

Newspaper Club 3.30—4.15pm

Easter Holidays



School will close at 3.30 pm for Easter Holidays on Friday 27th March.



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Dates for Diaries...

Wed 18th Mar	Y6 Swimming (4/4)
Wed 18th Mar	Let's Go Sing Concert at Blackburn Ice Arena
Thu 19th Mar	NO CHOIR
Thu 19th/Fri 20th Mar	Possible dates for Eid— (1 day authorised absence)
Tue 24th Mar	Y3 + Y4 Gymnastics Performances
Tue 24th Mar	NO AFTER SCHOOL GYMNASICS
Thu 26th Mar	Cross Country at Witton Park (3/3) selected children
Thu 26th Mar	Finance Governors Meeting @ 4pm
Fri 27th Mar	School Closes @ 3.30pm for half-term
Mon 13th Apr	<u>School re-opens as normal</u>
Thu 23rd Apr	Y2 Class Trip to Brockholes Nature Reserve—details to follow
Tue 28th Apr	Y4 Class Trip to Lancaster City Museum and Castle— details to follow

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