



# Mellor St Mary CE Primary School

*Believing, Learning and Sharing Together*

## February News

It is lovely to start off this month's newsletter with some exciting news. Over the last few years, we have been developing our playtimes, lunchtimes, PE lessons and after school provisions to ensure all children have equal access to sports and sporting events both in and outside school. All this hard work and planning has now been officially recognised by the Local Authority and Lancashire Schools Sports Partnership, who have very kindly awarded us the 'Barclays Equal Access School Award for 2024'. Well done to Mr Blackburn and all the other staff who have supported in school and a very big thank you to all the children and parents who have supported us with transportation to and from after school events.



The second piece of good news I would like to share with you is about our recent **P.A.L.s** (Pupils Against Loneliness) event, which School Council organised as a way of tackling loneliness in our village. Although the turnout was small (Storm Eowyn did have a lot to do with this!), the 5 people who attended had a fabulous time along with the School Councillors, who enjoyed talking, playing games, reading stories and colouring. We are planning on holding these events each term and hopefully next half term the weather will be a little kinder to us and more people will feel able to come and join us, being **P.A.L.s** together. Dates will be put on Mellor and District Voices MAD Facebook page and posted through doors.



### Upcoming Events

#### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February

Parents Evening

#### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Class 3 Ukulele Performance  
2:30pm in school

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

Wear It Woolly Day

EYFS Stay and Play afternoon

FOSMS Disco

KS1 6pm—7pm

KS2 7:15-8:30pm

#### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

Village / Church Quiz Night—  
tickets are £7.50 each including a  
hot supper.

### Events Next Month

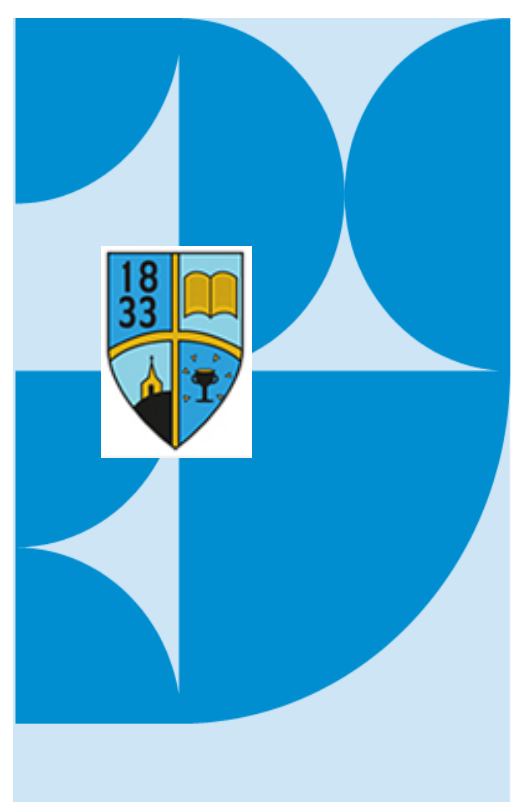
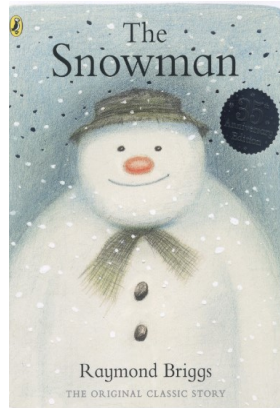
We will be holding auditions for our annual talent show week commencing Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

The Easter Talent Show will be taking place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April



# Author of the Month

The author for this month is Albie in Y2. Following a whole school writing task based on the classic children's book 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs, Year 2 have been challenged to create their own stories using elements from this original story, but with an added twist. As you can see, Albie has worked really hard to include a range of grammatical features, noun phrases and punctuation marks to give his opening a dramatic effect. We can't wait to read the rest of your story now Albie. Well Done.



Thursday 23rd January 2025

L.O.: To write the first part of my story.

S.C.: Orally compose each sentence ; be

able to innovate from an existing story ; CL :

fs ; ! ; ? ; adverbs ; noun phrases ; past

tense ; first person ; spelling ; handwriting .

One winters morning I looked  
out my window. I saw my  
garden was full of snow! I raced  
down steps! I nearly forgot to put  
my shoes on! I slammed the door  
open! to make a snowmonkey!

# Other News

## Children's Mental Health Week 2025



Children's Mental Health Week 2025 will take place from **3-9 February 2025**. The theme for this year is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**, with the aim to equip and empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. During the course of the week we will be supporting children to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

During this week, children of all ages will be using materials from Place2Be and Here4You along with MyHappyMind, to explore the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions using a range of resources including Disney Pixar's Inside Out 2 characters. If you haven't seen these characters before, they are a great way of explaining to children what different emotions and feelings look like from the inside as well as outwardly, which helps them get to know how they react to events as well as spotting these signs and emotions in others. If you would like to find out more please use this link [Children's Mental Health Week website](#)



**Safer Internet Day**  
Together for a better internet



Tuesday 11th February is national online safety day and the theme for this year is **Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online**. All our children regardless of age learn about how to keep themselves safe both in the real and virtual worlds as part of the computing, PSHE and wider curriculum lessons. Mr Blackburn will be leading an assembly on this year's theme as a way of developing the children's understanding of protecting themselves and others online. As more and more children have access to their own smart mobile phone, it is extremely important that they are made aware of how easily they can be drawn into financial scams and phishing scams without knowing. If you would like more information on this, please use the link: [Education resources - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) or see our monthly online safety newsletters on the website.

# Other News Continued



The next Stay and Play session for EYFS families is on **Friday 14th Feb** starting at 1:30pm. Please can you inform Mr Birchall if you or a family member will be attending so he can plan some amazing activities for you and also make sure there is enough tea and coffee at breaktime!

This month our Eco Warrior team would like you to have a think or maybe rethink about your morning routines, because believe it or not a simple change to your answers below could have big change to our planet today.  
*p.s. they don't need to know your answers! DO YOU .....*

*Have cereal from a cardboard box or from a plastic bag?*

*Drink loose lead tea or a tea bag which contains plastic ( who knew??)*

*Have a long shower or a short shower?*

*Wash your hair with shampoo from a plastic bottle or a shampoo bar?*

*Brush your teeth with a plastic toothbrush or a bamboo one?*

*Turn the tap off while you're cleaning your teeth or leave it running?*

*Use a refillable deodorant or an aerosol?*

*Make your own packed lunch or buy sandwiches while you're out?*

*Wrap your packed lunch in clingfilm or Tupperware?*

*Take water in a reusable bottle or buy a single use one while you're out?*

*Have tea or coffee in a reusable cup or buy a takeaway cup?*

*Set the heating timer so it's off while you're out, or leave it running all day?*

*Walk or drive?*

As part of the government's plans to work towards being net zero by 2030, all schools have been tasked with creating a sustainability / climate action plan which outlines how, when and where climate education will be taught in school, as well as how we will develop children's awareness of social action around climate change. If you would like to know more about this, or how we are trying to become more energy efficient through decarbonization, our sustainability climate action plan is available to read on the school website [Climate Action - Sustainability Plan | Mellor St Mary Church of England Primary School](#)



## Attendance

Our current whole school attendance target is: 96.8%

**Class 1 = 96.6 %**

**Class 2 = 95.7%**

**Class 3 = 94.3%**

**Class 4 = 94.6%**

**Class 5 = 97.9%**

**Total = 95.5%**

This is the first time we have fallen below our set attendance target, which is mainly due to sickness and chicken pox !!

Thank you to all those who continue to arrive at school on time each and every day at 8:30am. Being punctual makes a real difference to children as they enter school calm and ready for the day's learning.

Just a reminder that holiday requests in term time will be declined and may result in a penalty notice being issued. Fines are issued by and paid to Lancashire Authority and not our school.



# WEAR IT WOOLLY

## in February

Help us raise money  
to end loneliness  
& keep older people  
warm and well this winter



All monies raised will go to Age UK Blackburn with Darwen  
Your local charity helping older people



As part of their **P.A.Ls** project, School Council is also working with Age UK to raise awareness of the difficulties older people face during winter and they would like everyone to support their Wear It Woolly campaign if possible. All this entails is on **Friday 14th February**, children can wear one thing woolly, e.g. hat, scarf, gloves, jumper, socks, the choice is yours, for a £1 donation which will go towards Blackburn with Darwen Age UK. Please join in with us if you can.



On Thursday **13th February** we will be holding two music workshops led by RockSteady Music School. They will be introducing children to band instruments and showing them how to perform as a group, which will be exciting for some, as this may be the first time they have seen a real life band play together. Following their presentation, they will then be workshopping with both KS1 and KS2 classes throughout the morning. If you or your child are interested in learning more about this, letters from RockSteady Music School will be sent out on the day. Their lessons are not part of our current music curriculum and are paid for in the same way as Lancashire Music Service peripatetic lessons.

**A Plea for Help .....** Thanks to the kind generosity of FOSMS and the Book family, we now have some new benches for our school playground and field. The only problem we have is that they need building! If you are able to spare some time (and a screwdriver or drill!), then Mr Venables would love some help putting these together before his leaves us completely on the 14th Feb. It could your parting gift to him.

# NUT

## FREE ZONE

Please can I remind all parents that we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**.

Unfortunately some children have been bringing snack bars into school which contain hazelnuts or hazelnut spreads.

Although these are delicious, we are very aware that for some children in school these can be life threatening, especially for those with severe nut allergies. So please can you make sure you check your snack bars before sending them in for snack time (KS2) or pack lunches.

# Church and Community News



This year the Village Quiz Night will be held in school on **Friday 28th February** starting at 7:30pm

Tickets are £7.50 each player which includes a hot supper. There will be a

bar available serving a variety of drinks including soft drinks, and you are welcome to bring your own nibbles along with you.

This year's Quiz Master Mr Venables is infamous for his legendary wit and charm, not to mention his hard questions!

Tickets will have to be limited due to the space available, so start arranging your teams of 4 people now and come along and enjoy what promises to be a great evening. All the proceeds raised will go towards Mellor St Mary Church and tickets are available from Mrs Gorman 01254 812566 or speak to Mrs Holroyd in school.



This Easter FOSMS and Mellor Village Hall are joining together to create the best village Easter Egg Hunt ever! Plans are well under way in order to make this a magical event for children of all ages, with Easter egg trails, colouring competitions, a pop up café, Easter crafts and much much more. Tickets will be £3 each and available from different locations around the village. An Easter egg is guaranteed on completion of the trail. Please watch this space, speak to a member of FOSMS, come along to the next FOSMS meeting on the 4th March or visit the Village Hall website for further details. [Home | Mellor Village Hall](#)



## FOSMS

friends of st mary school

**Upcoming FOSMS Events**  
We have a number of fundraising events planned for the coming months - some of which are for pupils only and others are for the wider community too. Please put the dates in your diaries and look out for further information which will be released closer to the time of each event.

**Half Term Disco Party**  
Friday 14th February -  
PUPILS ONLY

**FOSMS Easter Raffle**  
Friday 4th April - TICKETS  
ON SALE SOON

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th March 7pm in school—see you there if you can make it.

Miriam Carr FOSMS Chair

Hello again, Well done everyone for making through January! The weather might still be causing us a few problems but at least it's starting to stay a little lighter at night. Hopefully, you may want to come and visit after school and don't forget I'm open until 7pm on a Monday evening.

Thank you to those who have signed up for the Lancashire Reading Trail. If you haven't joined yet, why not give it a try, I have maps, stickers and other goodies available – sometimes I also have some sweet treats available!!

### What's On in February?

Our monthly [Lego Club](#) is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Adults and children welcome!

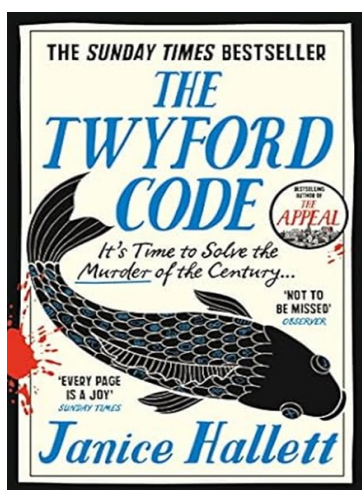
If anyone is interested in jigsaws, I'm hoping to set up a [Jigsaw Club](#) too! Just let me know if you would be interested in this. We also have [National Storytelling Week](#) in February, so why not come in with your family and we can read together. February also brings [Children's Mental Health Week](#). We have lots of books to help support this.

### Warm & Welcome Space

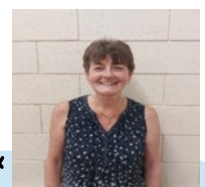
As in previous years, during our opening hours, we will be offering hot drinks, a safe space and access to all our services throughout the winter months. Digital Support: In addition to access to our public computer and free Wi-Fi, Richard, our volunteer Digital Champion attends the library each week to offer help & support with your digital devices. He is usually available on [Saturday mornings](#) 9.30am-10.30am. There is no requirement to book an appointment. If you wish to check that he is planning to attend on a particular day, please pop in and ask.

In addition to our public computer and the printing/copying facilities in the library, you can now print documents using wi-fi from your own device at home & simply call in to collect the printouts within 24 hours for the same cost. We have helpful cards available for you to keep at home if this would be of use to you.

### February Book of the Month



Forty years ago, Steven 'Smithy' Smith found a copy of a famous children's book by disgraced author Edith Twyford, it's margins full of strange markings and annotations. When he showed it to his remedial English teacher Miss Isles, she believed that it was part of a secret code that ran through all of Twyford's novels. And when she later disappeared on a class field trip, Smithy becomes convinced that she had been right. But it soon becomes clear that Edith Twyford wasn't just a writer of forgotten children's stories. The Twyford Code holds a great secret, and Smithy may just have the key.



Looking forward to see you all again soon. Ange x



## For with God nothing shall be impossible

Date	What	When	Who
2nd February	Blackburn Road Runners at Witton Park	Morning	All welcome
5th February	Spring Term Parents Evening	3:30pm	All year groups
13th February	ROCK STEADY Music workshop in school	Morning	All year groups
14th February	Wear it Woolly Day (in support of Age UK and our Pupils Against Loneliness project)	All day	All year groups
14th February	Play and Stay for EYFS parents	1:15-3:15pm	Class 1 EYFS only
14th February	FOSMS end of term disco	6pm—7pm 7:15-8:30pm	KS1 KS2
17th—21st Feb	HALF TERM		
28th February	Village Quiz Night—tickets available from church and school	7pm	All welcome
6th March	World Book Day - dress up optional	All day	All welcome
10th March	Year 3,4,5 Let's Go Sing Performance Winter Gardens Blackpool, tickets available from Winter Gardens	Afternoon and evening	Year 3,4,5
17th March	Easter Talent Show Auditions—lunchtime each day.	12:00—12:45pm	All welcome to audition
18th March	Wonder dome Planetarium in school	All day	Class 3 and Class 4
28th March	Play and Stay for EYFS parents	1:15-3:15pm	Class 1 EYFS only
3rd April	Easter Talent Show Rehearsal	2pm	Those selected
4th April	Easter Worship and FOSMS raffle	8:50am	All welcome
4th April	Easter Talent Show	1:30pm	All School
4th April	Close for Easter Holidays reopen on Tuesday 22nd April		

**And Finally ....** If you have any questions, queries or would just like some help, then please just get in touch in the normal ways , phone, email or chat.

*Believing, Learning and Sharing Together and God Bless* Mrs Embley-Peers (Headteacher)



# WINTER WARMER 10K & JUNIOR 2K FUN RUN

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025  
WITTON PARK ARENA

Accurately measured & Chip Timed 10k Course.  
Starts & finishes on the athletics track in Witton Park.  
You are guaranteed a friendly welcome and plenty of support throughout the race.

Race licensed by UKA RunEvents



**10K £18\* AFFILIATED,  
£20\* UNAFFILIATED &  
JUNIOR 2K (AGES 5-15) £5\***  
\*EXCLUDING ONLINE BOOKING FEE

WINTERWARMER10K.CO.UK | FIND US ON FACEBOOK



*Don't Forget*  
**HALF TERM  
DISCO**

*Friday 14th February*

**Infants: 6-7pm**  
**Juniors: 7.15-8.30pm**

**£5**

**Includes drink  
& snacks**

**FOSMS**  
friends of st mary school  
Charity No. 1080520

**cash only**