



# Brinscall St John's CE and Methodist Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Joanna Owen



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach our final week of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to pause and reflect on this incredible year we have had together. This year has brought about a wonderfully diverse array of experiences and opportunities for each and every one of us. We have implemented a fair few changes which, although sometimes difficult, have ultimately enriched our school community. Some changes were necessary, such as tightening up our risk assessments and safeguarding procedures, while others have fostered a more inspired and happier environment for our children.

One of the highlights of this year has undoubtedly been the introduction of the Headteacher and Values Privileges, which were thoughtfully decided upon by the children. The overwhelming response has been a joy to witness. I'm pleased to share that this initiative will continue next academic year, and we will engage with the children to determine whether to maintain the same privileges or make fresh updates.

We have poured our love into the classrooms while truly valuing our children's voices. This year, we provided children with autonomy over the aesthetics of their learning environment by allowing them to choose the colours for their displays and decide on the layout of their tables. Our newly introduced WOW Walls serve to showcase the fantastic work that children are rightly proud of, thus promoting a sense of ownership over their learning space.

Celebrating World Kindness Day was another highlight. Our Shining Flames children created beautifully designed kindness posters and embarked on a mission around Brinscall to spread kindness to local businesses and residents. The smiles we brought to faces as we delivered uplifting messages alongside chocolates were priceless.

Our family events this year have been plentiful and a joy for all. From Grandparents' Coffee and Cake to Chinese New Year celebrations, International Women's Day Afternoon Tea, and Men's Health Week 'Graze and Giggle', we have truly relished the opportunity to welcome families into our school and share precious moments together in a school environment.

Our ECO Team has also bravely stepped up, taking on the important responsibility of promoting energy-saving practices within the school. They initiated a campaign encouraging everyone to turn off switches and created thoughtful posters urging passersby to switch off engines when parked in consideration of the pollution in our local area. It's been inspiring to witness our children taking ownership of important social responsibility issues.

The school council has been particularly proactive, reaching out to local businesses and visiting establishments such as the dental lab, nursery, and Cottage Tearooms. Their goal was simple yet meaningful: to understand those who make up our village community and explore possible ways to support them. Since then, the Year 5/6 pupils have been visiting the nursery every Friday afternoon to share the joy of reading with the pre-school children, thereby strengthening bonds within our community.

Another initiative close to my heart is the participation of our school community in the Diabetes UK 62 Miles in March challenge. Together, we committed every Monday morning to walk and rack up steps, raising over £700 in the process, and we even made it into the local paper as the first school to take part!

Our inaugural Science Fair was a resounding success, enabling children to showcase the most extraordinary projects that highlighted their knowledge, creativity, and talents. The excitement in the air was palpable!

A notable event this year was our first Reflection Day, where we were privileged to welcome Bishop Phillip, Rev Read, and Iain Parks (our Director of Education). Children engaged in various prayer activities and created original reflections that will be used in their class areas next academic year.

Moreover, it has been heartening to observe many children blossom into advocates for change, conducting their own bake sales to raise funds for charities beyond our school's boundary. Their passion and compassion have been truly inspiring!

Our Key Stage workshops continued to celebrate children's achievements outside of school, and we improved our outdoor aesthetics with new signage featuring our current logo and a regularly updated noticeboard. We are excited about implementing the equipment needed for our new outdoor space, ready for September 2025.

This week was our very first Sports Week! It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to get active and have a bit of fun. From adventurous sports like climbing and orienteering to calming, more meditative activities like yoga, our children really got stuck in. The smiles on their faces as they tried new things were absolutely priceless! And if that wasn't enough excitement, we also hosted our inaugural Rocksteady concert today. Wow! Our budding rockstars absolutely blew us

away with their incredible talents. It was such a joy to see them perform confidently, showcasing everything they've been working so hard on. The atmosphere was electric, and the pride we felt was overwhelming. We have truly celebrated our children's diverse talents and encouraging them to shine in their own unique ways beyond their academic ability.

I cannot conclude this letter without acknowledging our incredible staff. A great deal of effort has gone into ensuring their well-being this year, with initiatives such as Staff Well-Being Star Days, recognition during Thank a Teacher Day, and Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day. We provided breakfast butties and tasty snacks and even organised for their cars to be washed during the school day!

While there have been many highlights, I am not in denial that there have been some teething issues. However, I assure you that we have many things pre-emptively arranged in the diary for next year to ensure improved communication moving forward.

As you may know, next week we say goodbye to a few beloved members of the staff. Mr Westwood is relocating to a school in Cumbria to be closer to family. We wish him and his family all the best in this new adventure. Mrs Blezard will be moving to a two-form entry school in Blackburn; after three years with us, it is the right time for her to embrace new challenges. Additionally, we have a couple of teaching assistants who will be moving on to pastures new; Mrs Bhowmick is leaving to work within a college and pursue teaching older children, whilst Mrs Winterson, after many years with us in various roles, has decided to retire this summer. We were all saddened by her departure, but we understand that it is her time to look after herself and her family and thoroughly enjoy her well-earned retirement.

I recognise that change can often be daunting, especially with various staff members leaving, which can be unsettling for some. However, I must assure you that, as in many sectors, change is sometimes necessary. Staff members move on for many reasons, and it is vital to challenge oneself in different ways and explore new opportunities. I find great excitement in the fresh journey that lies ahead for our school as we aim for further successes.

Over the recent weeks, we have made several new appointments that I believe will greatly benefit our children. Firstly, we have appointed a Children and Family Support Worker who will be with us every Thursday, providing unwavering support and love to children and families who may require additional help for various reasons—be it ongoing or more momentary. We have also brought on a Learning Mentor who will support children across the school for four afternoons a week, working on friendship and social groups at lunchtime, leading Rainbows groups, and facilitating many other nurture activities. Additionally, from September, we will have a Speech and Language Therapist available one afternoon a week to conduct assessments, create reports, and work with children both one-on-one and in small groups to help develop their speech skills.

Moreover, we are welcoming two outstanding teaching assistants and two exceptional teachers to join our school team. Every appointment has been meticulously considered with our children's needs at the forefront of our decision-making, and I am confident that our quality of education will be significantly enhanced as a result. Finally, we have restructured our leadership team and are pleased to announce that Mrs Rounding is now our Assistant Headteacher.

As we look forward to next year, we have been hard at work improving our extracurricular offer based on feedback from parents and children alike. I am delighted to share that our extracurricular programme for Autumn 2025 has been thoughtfully crafted. More details regarding signing up for these clubs will be distributed during the first week back in September, with all clubs scheduled to commence in the second week of term.

Finally, I am pleased to share some important diary dates for September 2025 in this letter, allowing you to prepare ahead of the summer break. During our first week back, we will confirm additional events for the Autumn term and share these along with key dates for the entire year. However, please understand that at the end of each term, we will provide an updated calendar for the following term, as new clubs, events, trips, and opportunities frequently arise throughout the year, making it impossible to have everything set in stone by September.

As Headteacher, I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed this year. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know all of the children, and I feel that the bonds between us grow stronger each day. It has also been a privilege to get to know many of our families, and I trust that this relationship will continue to flourish as we progress through the next academic year.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs J Owen  
Headteacher

### **Diary dates for September 2025**

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Inset day – School closed to children
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	School re-opens at 8.45am
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Mad Science assembly and introduction to children for the whole school
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	All you need is love themed day – Introduction to whole year overarching theme (Letter to follow next week)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Individual and sibling photos from 8.30am
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Meet the teacher 3.30-4.30pm (Y6 meeting will be at 5.30pm)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Education Sunday – Service in school at 10am – Everyone welcome
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Y5 Bikeability

### **Autumn 1 half term club offer**

Team Building games	Y2, Y3, Y4	Lunchtime Monday	12-12.30pm
Mad Science	Y1 -Y6 - £63	After school Monday	3.25-4.30pm
CSSP – Activity tbc	EYFS / KS1	Before school Tuesday	8am-8.45am
Girls football	Y2-Y6	Lunchtime Tuesday	12-12.30pm
Playdough fun	Y2	Lunchtime Tuesday	12-12.30pm
Gardening	EYFS/ KS1	After school Tuesday	3.30-4.30pm
Guitar lessons	KS2	Tuesday	Afternoon
Choir	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	After school Tuesday	3.25-4.30pm
Playdough fun	Y1	Lunchtime Wednesday	12-12.30pm
Team building games	EYFS / Y1	Lunchtime Thursday	12-12.30pm
Rocksteady	All year groups	Thursday	1pm – 3.30pm
STEM	KS2	After school Thursday	3.30-4.30pm
Spanish	KS2	Thursday & Friday Lunch	12.30pm-1pm
CSSP - Activity tbc	Ks2	Before school Friday	8am – 8.45am
Boys football	Y2-Y6	Lunchtime Friday	12-12.30pm

### **Autumn 2 half term club offer**

Team Building games – Jodie	Y2, Y3, Y4	Lunchtime Monday	12-12.30pm
CSSP - Activity tbc	KS2	Before school Tuesday	8am-8.45am
Lego club – Daisy/Layla	Y1/Y2	Lunchtime Tuesday	12-12.30pm
Girls Football	Y2 – Y6	Lunchtime Tuesday	12-12.30pm
Guitar lessons	KS2	Tuesday	Afternoon
Choir	Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	After school Tuesday	3.25-4.30pm
Lego club	EYFS	Lunchtime Wednesday	12-12.30pm
Numbots	KS1	Lunchtime Wednesday	12-12.30pm
Homework club	Y6	Lunchtime Wednesday	12-12.30pm
Team building games	EYFS / Y1	Lunchtime Thursday	12 -12.30pm
Rocksteady	All year groups	Thursday	1pm – 3.30pm
Board games	KS2	After school Thursday	3.30-4.30pm
Spanish	KS2	Thursday & Friday Lunch	12.30pm-1pm
CSSP - Activity tbc	EYFS / KS1	Before school Friday	8am – 8.45am
Boys football	Y2 – Y6	Lunchtime Friday	12-12.30pm

### September staffing

<u>Reception</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Mrs H Pearce <b>Teaching Assitant:</b> Mrs E Holding, Miss D McIntrye			
<u>Year One</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Mrs E Rounding (Assistant Headteacher) <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Miss L Hilton			
<u>Year Two</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Mrs TA Boucher <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Mrs J Boreham, Miss D McIntrye and Ms G McGurk			
<u>Year Three</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Mrs A Hammersley <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Miss G Atherton			
<u>Year Four</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Miss K Grayson <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Mrs V Alston			
<u>Year Five</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Miss M Gardner <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Mrs R Wright			
<u>Year Six</u>	<b>Class teacher:</b> Mr A Lewis (Deputy Headteacher) <b>Teaching assistant:</b> Mrs R Brown			
<u>School Office</u>	<b>School Bursar:</b> Mrs J Pullin		<b>Office support:</b> Mrs A Clayton	
<u>Family/children support worker</u>	Mrs Tina Salmon			
<u>Learning Mentor</u>	Mrs V Alston			
<u>Welfare assistants</u>	Mrs K Badkin	Mrs A Robinson	Mrs R Brown	
	Ms McGurk	Ms L Brown	Miss G Atherton	Mrs L Lawman
<u>Headteacher</u>	Mrs J Owen			

### Term dates 2025-26

**Inset Day 1: Monday 1 September 2025 (School closed)**

Term Starts Tuesday 2 September 2025

**Half term:** Monday 27 October- Friday 31 October 2025

**Inset Day 2: Monday 3 November 2025(School closed) School Re-opens Tuesday 4 November**

**Ends:** Friday 19 December 2025 (School closes at 2pm)

### **Spring Term 2026**

**Starts:** Monday 5 January 2026

**Half term:** Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February 2026

**Ends:** on Friday 27 March 2026 (School closes at 2pm)

### **Summer Term 2026**

**Starts:** Monday 13 April 2026

**May Day:** Monday 4 May 2026

**Half term:** Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May 2026

**Inset Days (3 and 4 ) Monday 1 June and Tuesday 2 June 2026 (School closed)**

**School re-opens Wednesday 3 June 2026**

**Ends:** Friday 17 July 2026 (School closes at 2pm)

**Inset Day (5) Monday 20 July 2026.(School closed)**