



## Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School Prestwich

### Mr Collins' Newsletter October 26-27



Crunchy leaves falling down from trees,  
Squirrels scurrying,  
Hedgehogs hiding,  
Marshmallows toasting,  
Soup bubbling,  
Wrapped up warm,  
Rosy cheeks,  
Cosy socks on my feet,  
Crisp mornings,  
Dark nights,  
A crackling fire keeps my family warm and tight.  
*(A Harvest Poetry Competition entry from one of our families – the response from you all has been overwhelming – thank you!)*

**A Wonderful First Month!** What a month it has been! Our children have settled beautifully into school life – new classes, new routines. Corridors are full of busy, happy learning. We have shared so much together already.

**Harvest Assembly, a Very Special Visitor and £750 for CAFOD.** Our Harvest Assembly was a great occasion – made all the more memorable by a visit from Bishop John Arnold who came to watch our children as they led us in prayer and celebration. Children planned and led the whole assembly themselves. Bishop John spoke warmly afterwards about their confidence, reverence and wonderful singing. We were so proud of them. The Walk for Water was a lovely event. Children learned why some children their age walk for hours before school each day. We walked together – as one school family in support of them. We are delighted to tell you that we raised an incredible £750 for CAFOD's Harvest appeal. Thank you, as always, for your generosity, it will make a real difference.



Fulfilling our Jubilee Promise – Walking in Solidarity with CAFOD and the vulnerable children of the world.

**Parish Coffee Morning** – Father Gerard's Coffee Mornings for parents commence again tomorrow (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 9:10am The Church Cottage). Please join me and other parents for a relaxed cup of tea/coffee a biscuit and a chat.

**Ian Bland – Our Visiting Children's Poet.** We were thrilled to welcome Ian Bland, the children's poet into school. Ian was just brilliant! He began with an interactive poetry assembly that had the whole school joining in with rhythm, rhyme and performance and there was more than a little laughter along the way. Throughout the day Ian then ran targeted workshops with different year groups helping our children to shape their own ideas into poems and to perform them.

**First Aid Day** Every child took part in a First Aid Day, learning how they can help in an emergency. The children learnt how to check that a scene is safe, how to put someone in the recovery position, how to make a 999 call and what information to give, and how to use simple reassurance to help someone who is hurt or frightened. Knowing what to do in an emergency gives a child confidence, we hope they never need to use it – but are glad that they would know how to help.

**Salford City FC Foundation in School** We are delighted to have some Salford City FC Foundation coaches with us in school, delivering high quality sport sessions to our children. Two Salford City players also visited us, which was an exciting moment for everyone! They answered the children's questions extremely well and even joined in with a PE lesson. Thanks to free tickets provided by Salford City FC, many of our children went to their first live football match last weekend. Salford beat Fleetwood Town 1–0. Thank you, Salford City.

**An Important Letter from the Chair of Governors.** By now you should have received an important letter from Margaret Cunningham, Chair of Governors regarding our school joining the St Theresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust (STOC). Please do read it. If you have any questions at all, or you have not received your letter, please contact the school office and we will be very happy to help.

#### **Volunteering and Breakfast and After School Club Opportunities**

As demand for our Breakfast & After School Club grows we may have some opportunities to join our team. We are also looking for volunteers with experience of working with children who would like to give some of their time supporting children here during the school day. If you are interested in volunteering/working with children, or you know somebody who might be, please email the school office.

**PTA Rebrand and Relaunch: Friends of Our Lady of Grace.** A group of our parents are working to rebrand and relaunch our PTA as “Friends of Our Lady of Grace”, with a renewed emphasis on engaging, supporting and welcoming our whole school community. The intention is to move the focus away from purely fundraising towards building connections between families and creating events that our whole community genuinely enjoys. The group is currently exploring what those events might look like and what will best appeal to our families. If you would like to be part of this please contact them via email [olog.pta@outlook.com](mailto:olog.pta@outlook.com). If you are unable to help by giving your time, for just £5 a month you can still support them by signing up to the 200 club which contributes so much to our school (see below). Everybody welcome. All belong.

**PTA 200 Club Winners!** A huge congratulations to our latest £60 winner: Mrs Barmby, which was picked out of the hat by a Year 6 pupil, for September! Fancy joining in the fun? Sign up for our £5 monthly draw and you could be next:

**PTA Bank Details:** Sort 01-07-20 | Acc. 04001990 | Ref: [Child's Name]

Have a brilliant week and don't forget to follow all our adventures on Instagram [\*\*@ologprestwich\*\*](#)

*Tom Collins*

**MR T COLLINS BA (HONS) NPQH**  
Headteacher

**“Our Lady of Grace is an outstanding Catholic Primary School” - RE Inspection**  
**“Pupils enjoy belonging to this school community” - Ofsted Inspection**