Weeton St Michael's
CHURCH of ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church Road
Weeton
Preston
PR4 3WD
01253 836280

Headteacher – Mr L Smith

head@weeton-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

"From Small Beginnings, Great things Grow"

Blackpool Tower Ballroom Dance Festival – 10th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to let you know that children in Saplings and Oak Class will be taking part in this year's Dance Festival at the world famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom on **Tuesday 10th November 2026**. This is a fantastic opportunity for our children to perform in an iconic venue alongside children from other schools. We would love all of our children to participate and experience what promises to be a very special and memorable event.

Rehearsals

Preparations begin next week. Rehearsals will take place every Thursday during the school day and will be led by Blue Moose Dance.

Over the coming weeks, the children will learn and practise their choreography, develop their confidence and prepare to perform together at the Tower Ballroom. As each rehearsal will build upon the previous week, regular attendance will be particularly important.

There is nothing additional that parents need to arrange for rehearsals as these will take place as part of the normal school day.

Arrangements on the Day

Children should come to school as normal on the morning of the festival.

They will have their usual lunchtime arrangements at school, whether they normally have a school meal or bring a packed lunch. We will then leave school after lunch and travel together to Blackpool.

Once we arrive at the Tower Ballroom, the children will be taken to our allocated area and will rehearse during the afternoon before preparing for the evening performance. Children will remain with and be supervised by school staff throughout the afternoon and evening.

The main performance will begin at 6:30pm and is expected to finish at approximately 9:15pm.

Packed Evening Meal

As the children will be at the venue throughout the afternoon and evening, every child will need to bring an additional packed meal for the evening, together with sufficient drinks.

This is in addition to their normal lunch at school. Please ensure that your child's evening meal is clearly labelled with their name and contains food that does not require heating or refrigeration.

We Would Love Every Child to Take Part

We appreciate that 9:15pm is a late finish for primary aged children. On an ordinary school night, we know that many families would much rather have their children tucked up in bed well before this time. However, we would ask you to consider how much your child could gain from this experience before deciding that the late finish means they cannot attend.

Opportunities like this do not come along very often. The children will have the experience of working with professional dance staff, rehearsing alongside their friends, travelling together as a class and, most importantly, stepping onto the floor of the magnificent Blackpool Tower Ballroom to perform in front of an audience.

They may well be tired the following morning, and we completely understand that. However, we hope that the confidence, sense of achievement and memories they will gain will make one late night very worthwhile. We really would love to see all of our Saplings and Oak children sharing this experience together.

SEND, Additional Needs and Reasonable Adjustments

We are committed to making this event as inclusive as possible and do not want additional needs to automatically prevent a child from taking part.

We recognise that some aspects of the event may feel more challenging for some children. If you are already wondering whether your child will manage the event, please come and speak to me before making a decision about whether they can participate.

There are reasonable adjustments that can be made to help children access and enjoy the experience. Depending on an individual child's needs, this could include preparation beforehand, support with transitions, consideration of sensory needs, opportunities for breaks and other appropriate arrangements.

You know your child best and we want to work in partnership with you. A conversation in advance will allow us to consider your child's individual needs and plan the right support. Our aim is for children not simply to attend, but to feel safe, supported, included and proud of what they have achieved.

If you have any concerns about SEND, accessibility or your child's individual needs, please come and speak to me or Miss B.

Collection After the Festival

Please note that there will **not be a return coach** journey to school following the festival.

All children must be collected by a parent or carer in Blackpool after the performance.

The festival is expected to finish at **approximately 9:15pm**. At the end of the performance, the children will remain together with school staff and leave the Tower Ballroom separately from the audience. We will then walk as a group to an agreed meeting point in Blackpool town centre.

The exact meeting point and final collection arrangements will be confirmed with parents before the event.

For safeguarding reasons, please do not attempt to collect your child as we are leaving the Ballroom. It is important that we keep the children together, move safely away from the crowds and account for every child before handing them over to their parent or carer at the designated meeting point.

Please also remember that 9:15pm is an approximate finish time, so collection may be slightly later depending on how the evening runs.

Tickets for Parents and Carers

Parents and carers who wish to watch the evening performance will need to purchase a ticket.

Capacity at the Tower Ballroom is limited and the event organisers have advised schools that the festival is likely to sell out. It is therefore important that families wishing to attend purchase tickets using the correct link for our school's performance evening.

There are different festival performances taking place, so please do not assume that a ticket found through a general internet search will be for the correct evening. Tickets go on sale at 12:00 midday on Monday 12th October 2026. The specific ticket link for your school's performance night is due to be emailed on Monday 28th September

What Happens Next?

For now, rehearsals will begin next week and continue every Thursday during the school day with Blue Moose Dance. As we get closer to the festival, we will provide further information regarding costumes, travel arrangements, what children need to bring, final performance details and our confirmed parent collection meeting point.

We are incredibly excited to offer Saplings and Oak this opportunity. The experience is about much more than the few minutes the children will spend performing. It is an opportunity to develop confidence, teamwork, resilience and a sense of belonging, as well as giving the children the chance to achieve something very special together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. If there is anything that might make you unsure about whether your child can participate, please come and speak to me. We would much rather have that conversation and explore what we can put in place to support them. We cannot wait to see our children take to the floor at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

Kind regards,

Mr. Smith