

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 01.11.24

## Mission

Together we love, learn, follow Jesus

## Vision

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.

## Values

Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect

**A Message from Miss Dewhurst:** Our first week back in school, as always, has been a busy one! November is the month of Remembrance and marks the end of the Liturgical year. As we start this new month, we talk to the children about the importance of saying our prayers and learning from the examples the saints set for us. It also gives us another opportunity to pray for all of the those people who are no longer with us who we miss and remember fondly.

This week we celebrated the Feast of All Saints. Thank you to Fr. Raphael and all of our families for coming and sharing Mass with us in school. All Saints' Day is part of the three day triduum dedicated to remembering those people who have died. This starts on All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), the evening before All Hallows' Day, known as All Saints' Day. This Feast Day remembers all of the saints and martyrs that don't have their own feast day and are now with God in heaven. Tomorrow we celebrate All Souls' Day, remembering all of our loved ones and all who have died.

**Pope Francis:** *Let us ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle the fire of love in our hearts and to move us to joyfully bear witness to His presence in our lives.*



**Happy Birthday to:**

Nancy-Rei & Layla

**Classroom Round Up:** We've had a wonderful first week back in **Class R/1** this week. The children have settled straight back into their routines which is great to see. In Phonics this week, Reception have been mastering the h and b sounds, while Year One have worked hard to grasp the ea and ee sounds. It's lovely to see how proud the children are of themselves when practicing their phonics flashcards. In English this week, we have begun to explore *The Gruffalo*. We have identified rhyming words in the text and adjectives to describe the Gruffalo's appearance. It was a practical science lesson this week as the children had fun identifying push and pull forces in the classroom. Participating in a range of Halloween themed fine motor and art activities was a highlight of the week for many children. 'Pick a Pumpkin' was Class R/1's favourite story this week.

It has been a great first week back in **CI 2/3/4**! In English, we have enjoyed learning the features of instructions and writing our own versions of 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'. In RE, we have begun our new topic, Prophecy and Promise, exploring the role of the Church and the importance of Mass and Sunday for Christians. We also enjoyed celebrating All Saints Mass on Friday with the rest of the school.

We've had a very productive start to Autumn Two in **Class 5/6**! In French, the children have been focusing on the theme of 'school' where they have learnt to share opinions based on school subjects, as well as stating the date and time that the lesson is taught - they have done incredibly well with this. On Tuesday, we had a final history lesson for our unit where we enjoyed a whole-class game of Kahoot to consolidate our learning. The children have loved learning about the Ancient Greeks and have even produced their own travel guide to transport you back in time. Maths wise, Year 5 have been focusing on multiples and factors, whilst Year 6 have been exploring the order of operations (BODMAS). All in all, a great week!

**Parents' Evening:** Many thanks to those of you who have already booked an appointment to see your child's class teacher on **Monday, 11th November**. The form will remain open until the end of the day next Thursday. If you are not able to make this date, please contact school and we will make an appointment for you on a different day.

## School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	<b>100%</b>	97.7%
Yr 1	97.9%	98.1%
Yr 2	93.2%	95.8%
Yr 3	<b>100%</b>	97.5%
Yr 4	97.7%	98%
Yr 5	96.3%	96.4%
Yr 6	95%	97.8%
Total	97%	97.3%

### This week spotted by pupils: Brandon

For being kind, caring and funny

**Sunday Gospel:** One of the experts in the Law came up to Jesus and put this question to him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" "The most important on," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength'. The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is no commandment greater than these." "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your hear, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.  
Mark 12: 28-34 (Wednesday Word)

**Uniform Change: 04.11.24:** The photographers from Tempest will be in school on Monday afternoon to take pictures of individual pupils and their siblings. As a result, **all pupils** should come to school in their uniform, not PE kit or Forest School kit

## Award Winners

### CI R/1:

Dojo Champion: **Oscar**

School Values/Mission: **Marnie**—friendship—for always making sure that the Reception children are happy by cheering them up and making them smile

### CI 2/3:/4

Dojo Champion: **Elliott**

School Values/Mission: **Denis**— collaboration—for supporting his friends always. He is a joy to have in the classroom and makes everyone feel happy

### CI 5/6:

Dojo Champion: **Effie**

School Values/Mission: **Charlotte & Isla** — collaboration—for demonstrating this value in maths lessons all week

## Recent Correspondence

Please find below a list of information that has been sent out this week.

Remember to check School Spider for all communication from school:

*Nasal flu vaccine consent*

*National Child Measurement Programme: Yr R & Yr 6*

*Online Safety Newsletter: November*

*Reminders for 1/11/24*

*CI 5/6 Forest School 1/11/24*

*M&M Productions "Snow White"*

*Well-Being Wednesday*

*School Meals for week commencing 4/11*

*Dodgeball Competition*

**Prayer & Liturgy dates:** Parents and family members are welcome to join a class prayer and liturgy on the following dates at 9am:

CI 5/6—Friday, 15th November

CI 2/3/4—Friday, 29th November

**Book Swap—second chance!** Many thanks to those of you who supported our fund-raiser today by sending in a book. Unfortunately, we had more money sent in than books brought in. As a result, children who bring a book and a £1 will be have another chance to support this School Council initiative next Friday—November 8th.



**Autumn 2: Forest School:** Pupils in **Year 4** will continue with Forest School sessions on a **Wednesday** for the rest of this half term. Every other year group in school should be in full uniform.  
On a **Thursday, Year 3** will continue with their visits to Stanley Grange. They should come in their Forest School kit, but make sure they have footwear for both PE and going outside.

**Advance Notice:** Here are a few dates for your diary for next half term.

There will be more details about many of these events sent to you via School Spider after half term.

Monday, 4th November	Individual and sibling photographs
Tuesday, 5th November	Free after school dance club for CI 5/6—more details to follow
Wednesday, 6th November	After school choir for CI 5/6—more details to follow Free after school multi-sports club for CI 2/3/4—more details to follow
Thursday, 7th November	Girls Football league games—also 14th and 21st
Friday, 8th November	M&M Productions performance of Snow White
Monday, 11th November	Reception—Vision screening Parent/carer consultation evening
Friday, 15th November	CI 5/6 Prayer and Liturgy at 9am Invite to lunch for parents/carers of CI R/1 & Yr 2
Monday, 18th November	Bikeability for CI 5/6
Tuesday, 19th November	Bikeability for CI 5/6 Nasal flu vaccine
Wednesday, 20th November	Book Fair—more details to follow NCMP for Reception & Yr 6
Friday, 22nd November	Invite to lunch for parents/cares of Yr 3, Yr 4 & CI 5/6
Friday, 29th November	PTFA rainbow non-uniform day—more details to follow CI 2/3/4 Prayer and Liturgy at 9am PTFA Christmas swap / sale at 8.30am
Monday, 2nd December	Nursery & CI R/1 dress rehearsal of “Baarmy Bethlehem” at 2.30pm
Tuesday, 3rd December	Nursery & CI R/1 performance of “Baarmy Bethlehem” at 2.30pm
Friday, 6th December	PTFA Santa Dash / Christmas light switch-on from 2.15pm—more details to follow
Friday, 13th December	Christmas jumper day Christmas lunch CI R/1 Christmas craft stay & play
Wednesday, 18th December	Rock Steady concert at 10am Class Christmas parties in the afternoon
Thursday, 19th December	Christmas celebration in school led by KS2 School closes at 1.15pm
Monday, 6th January	School re-opens

### Update from Governing Body:

I thought parents might appreciate an update from the Governing Board as to the work we undertake in our meetings each half term. In the first half of this term, we have met to agree our Governing Board Vision for 2024 - 2025 which accompanies this newsletter. We also considered our very pleasing pupil data for the 2023 - 2024 academic year and recognised the hard work and effort that last year's pupils put into all that they achieved. The Governing Board also agreed our School Improvement Plan for the 2024 - 2025 academic year and our priorities for this year. We also read and agreed a number of policies for this academic year and looked at our current budget position.

We will meet again in November, and I will provide a further update on our work after that point.

I'm also delighted to welcome Jeanette Hindle to our Governing Board as a Foundation Governor. Jeanette was a Foundation Governor at Brindle St Joseph's until 2012 and brings with her a wealth of financial and accountancy experience which we will be able to put to good use. We thank Jeanette for the significant voluntary commitment they have made to our school and Governing Board.

With thanks and best wishes for the parental commitment that you also make on an on-going basis to our school community.

Kate Armstrong, Chair of Governors

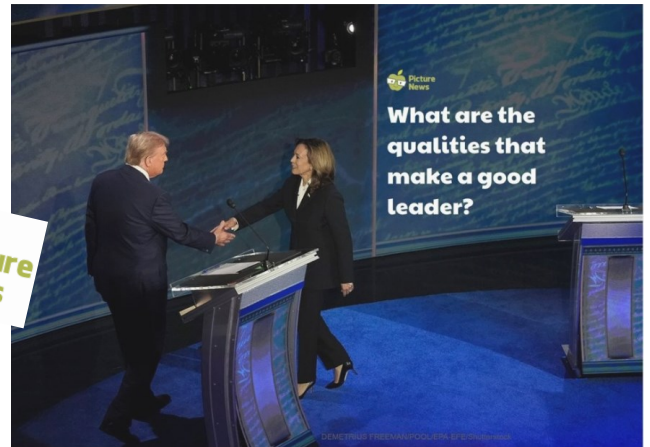


**Free after school activities:** Starting next week, there will be three new clubs—two for pupils in CI 5/6 and one for CI 2/3/4. Details will be sent out on School Spider about the dance club, multi-sport activities and choir. If you would like your child to be involved, please complete the form.



## Democracy

Like the USA, the UK is a democracy. There are similarities and differences within their democracies but both countries hold an election, where people vote for their leader.



**Access to school:** Thank you for your patience while we have waited for repairs to be carried out to the steps at the start of our one-way system around school. All the work has now been completed. As a result, this gate will be open from Monday morning.



## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS PRIMARY SOUTH

**Do you have a child starting primary school in September 2025 and living in Lancashire?**

**Closing date: 15 January 2025**

You **must** apply even if a brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery. Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website, or get a copy from them.

Apply for a school place now by scanning the QR code or visit [lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://lancashire.gov.uk/schools)

If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, please check the guidance on our website, or call 01772 532109.

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schoolplaces) and click 'school admission policies'.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

[lancashire.gov.uk](http://lancashire.gov.uk) >>>>

## OUR JINGLE BELL JOG IS BACK!

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
**Arrive from 11.30am • Jog starts 12 noon**  
**Where: UCLAN Sports Arena, Preston**  
**Why: To have a blast while raising funds for our Children's Fund!**

Scan to sign up!

**Just £3 per person**

**£10 for a family of 4**

Join us for a fun-filled 1-mile festive jog to support our Children's Fund! Bring the whole family along for a day of excitement, featuring special guests, including the big man himself - SANTA!

Don't forget to wear your best costume because we'll be awarding prizes for the best fancy dress!

Book your tickets today at [www.lthcharity.org.uk](http://www.lthcharity.org.uk) or contact Lucy Clark at 01772 528500.

**We can't wait to see you there!**

Kindly sponsored by



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO Items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

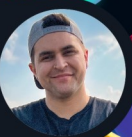
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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