

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 10.01.25

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

Headteacher's Weekly Round Up:

What a super start to the year it has been this week at St Joseph's. The children have returned to school and have settled back into their class routines very quickly and sensibly. Many of them have come to say hello to me and asked me lots of questions so I am taking that as a good sign!

The weather conditions and the icy roads have made the mornings a little trickier than usual. Thank you to children and parents for staying on the paths around school that are gritted. Unfortunately, the playgrounds have been out of bounds for a couple of days as they are not safe. If your journey to school has been made harder because of the weather, please take your time and keep safe.

Thank you once again for the lovely, warm welcome I have received this week. It has been a pleasure to spend time at St Joseph's and I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone better over the coming term.

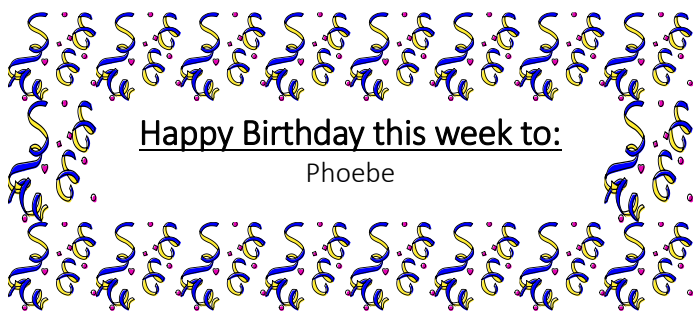
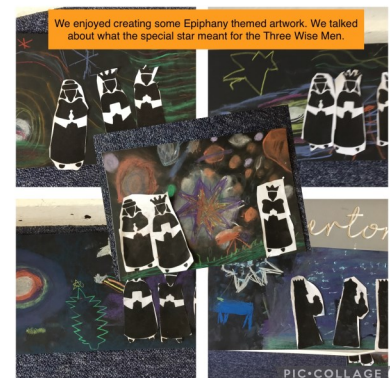
*Happy New Year
Mrs Brownsey*

Classroom Round Up: What a wonderful first week we've had back in CI R/1. In phonics this week, Reception have been learning the Tricky Witch "oo" sound, while Year One have been focussing on the "ue" and "ew" sounds. In RE we have started our new learning branch which is titled "Galilee to Jerusalem".

We talked about the ways in which we can shine brightly like Jesus, as well as creating some Epiphany themed artwork.

Maths wise, Year One have been exploring the composition of teen numbers, while Reception have

been busy exploring the concept of zero. What a fantastic, very cold first week back for everyone, including CI 2/3/4! In English, the children have created some incredible poems titled, 'The Magic Box', using a range of different expanded noun phrases. Year 2 have continued to explore shape, including lines of symmetry, whereas Year 3 and Year 4 have explored multiplication and division. We have completed our geography topic on the UK, with researching and locating physical landmarks using atlases. In RE, everyone enjoyed learning about the Magi's visit and each child retold the story in lots of detail. And just like that, CI 5/6 are in 2025! The children have been amazing this week and worked incredibly hard despite there being indoor playtimes and some interesting weather! Maths wise, Year 5 have been adding and subtracting fractions, whilst Year 6 have been continuing to convert units of measurement (e.g. miles to KM). In English we have been exploring persuasive speeches linked with our geography unit 'Save Our Planet!' The children will be using Greta Thunberg's 'How dare you speech!' as inspiration for their own speeches next week - I cannot wait! In science, we have been continuing with our electricity unit and this week we focused on the question, "How can I change the brightness of a bulb?" All in all, a fantastic start to the new year.



Happy Birthday this week to:

Phoebe



Pope Francis: *Even in the darkest nights, a star shines. It is the star of Jesus, who comes to care for our fragile humanity. Let us set out towards Him. Let us not give apathy and resignation the power to trap us in the sadness of a flat life.*

School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	100%	96.6%
Yr 1	98.3%	96.8%
Yr 2	99.1%	94.9%
Yr 3	97.8%	94.6%
Yr 4	84.5%	95.6%
Yr 5	98.2%	95.1%
Yr 6	90%	96/8%
Total	95.5%	95.8%

Award Winners

★ CI R/1:

★ Dojo Champion: **Archie L**
 ★ School Values/Mission: **Joshua**—Friendship—for
 ★ being a kind and caring friend to his classmates,
 ★ often making them laugh.

★ CI 2/3/4

★ Dojo Champion: **Willow R**
 ★ School Values/Mission: **Darcy**—Creativity—for
 ★ writing an excellent retell of the visit of the Magi in
 ★ RE, with lots of fantastic details and with beautiful
 ★ presentation.

★ CI 5/6:

★ Dojo Champion: **Effie**
 ★ School Values/Mission: **Emelia**—Love—for making a
 ★ fantastic start to 2025 by putting 100% effort into
 ★ her work and demonstrating a love for learning.

Forest School: In Forest School this week Class 5/6 enjoyed building new dens using natural materials, as well as enhancing previously built shelters too. The frosty weather was a perfect opportunity for the children to make some winter recipes in the mud kitchen. The children worked hard to ensure that the site was clear of any litter and that all pathways were clear and safe for future sessions. Well done, Class 5/6!



Tapestry: Just a reminder to parents of CI R/1 pupils - please access your Tapestry account for more details about activities that take place during the week. If you are unable to log on, please speak to Miss Ollerton who will be able to help you access your account.

Stanley Grange:

Our Year 4 pupils soaked a coco brick in water to provide new planting soil called coir which is made from coconut hair. They then put the coir into small pots and sowed peppers and onions. The group also checked on school's planting plots and could only find rosemary, an olive tree and a few old potatoes still in the boxes.



Sunday Gospel: A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Now when all the people had been baptised, and as Jesus was being baptised, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

Luke 3: 15-16 & 21-22 (Wednesday Word)



Rule of Law

There are rules and laws in place to protect and preserve wildlife and their habitats. It is our responsibility to uphold these rules and laws for the benefit of everyone.



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:

Wednesday Word: 08.01.25

School Meals: 13.01.25

Sports Hall Athletics—Cl 5/6

Year 6 Visit to London 27.02.25

PTFA meeting 10.01.25

Year 4 Sacramental Preparation Session

Stanley Grange—Year 4

Year 6 Updates

Online Safety Newsletter: January

Welcome Back!

Reminders: Can we remind you, for health & safety reasons, no jewellery, including earrings, is allowed in school. Pupils can wear a watch or a device that only counts steps. Nail polish is not permitted and long hair should always be tied back, hair bands must be in school colours and accessories of a very simple design. Pupils should come to school every day in their uniform, unless you have been notified about Forest School or activities at Stanley Grange. PE kits can either be brought in on a Monday or on the days when needed. We will advise you of any changes to the current PE days.

If you need any additional items. please help yourselves to items from our "new to you" rail.

Children's Liturgy: Sunday is the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. We hear that John the Baptist was baptising people with water. He told the people that someone is coming who is more powerful than he is. John said that he was not good enough to untie the strap of Jesus' sandals. John does not feel that he is important enough to help Jesus. But, Jesus asks to be baptised by John. After Jesus was baptised the Holy Spirit came down like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you." Jesus is the Son of God and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are all God's children and we are also filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism. The Holy Spirit can help to make us brave and to bring us joy. Just as we can tell that a tree is good because of the fruit that grows on it, we can tell if the Holy Spirit is working in us by the way that we act and how we treat other people. Some fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, kindness and generosity. How do you think you can be kind, loving and generous to others? How can you bring peace? How will you show the Holy Spirit working in you in this coming week?

We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy Room.

Winter weather: We will continue to assess the condition of the school playgrounds. Please be aware, in the event of ongoing icy conditions, priority will continue to be given to keeping a clear path round the perimeter of the building for access at drop off and pick up times.

PTFA Events: If you have any Christmas tops and jumpers that no longer fit your child, or you no longer need, please donate them to school where they will be stored and re-sold in December to raise money for the PTFA. Items can be left at the school office.
On Thursday, 13th February, the PTFA are organising a disco. This will be held in school from 6pm to 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale soon. As always, committee members will be grateful for any offers of help on the night. Look out for more details soon!



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



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

**HAVE
YOUR SAY**

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 and click 'school admission policies'.

lancashire.gov.uk



Lancashire
County
Council



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what *is* and *isn't* safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

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