

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 17.01.25

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:

As we end what has been another lovely week in school, I would like to share some things that I have noticed about St Joseph's in my short time here.

Every child I have met on corridors or in and around school has greeted me with a smile, a wave or a hello. They have also held open doors for adults to pass through. Classrooms are quiet and calm and pupils are busy with their work. The playground is a safe and calm space also. There were many volunteers in school this morning and there was a real buzz of activity in every corner - so much so that a visitor commented on how there was a lovely atmosphere in school. A few times this week I have asked pupils to assist me in some way - they have all been polite and willing. They are wonderful. Staff go the extra mile to support the pupils and the pupils love their teachers.

St Joseph's is a very special school.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Mrs Brownsey

Classroom Round Up:

In **CI R/1** Phonics this week, Reception have been learning Brown Owl's 'OW' sound, while Year One have been grasping the spelling rule 'k before i e and y'. It's great to see the children so motivated and eager to read to adults in school each day! In RE, we continued our new unit, 'Galilee to Jerusalem' and talked about how Simeon and Anna would have felt when they found out that Jesus, the Son of God, was born. The children talked about why they think Jesus is the light of the world. Jack and the Beanstalk is the theme of our Spring term P.E. unit. This week, the children worked hard to develop the skill of throwing overarm with some accuracy.

This week, **CI 2/3/4** have started our new book, Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans. The children liked making predictions, exploring new vocabulary and listening to the hilarious first chapter! Also, we have started our history topic, the Romans! We learnt about how and when Rome began with the story of Romulus and Remus, it was quite gruesome in the end. Year 2 have finished their shape topic in maths, and Year 3 and Year 4 have almost completed their multiplication and division topics and should be fantastic on TTRS! In RE, we thought about what the Kingdom of God is and everyone drew beautiful images of what it meant to them.

It has been a very productive week in **Class 5/6** and the children have been working incredibly hard. In English, the children have drafted and presented their 'Save Our Planet' speeches and have done a truly amazing job. In science, the children planned and led their own experiments focusing on impacting the brightness of a bulb in a circuit. In maths, Year 5 have been adding mixed number fractions whilst Year 6 have been focusing on ratio. In prayer & liturgy this week, we have been thinking about the importance of being there for others during their time of need - the children had some lovely responses and ways in which they can go forth in order to do this.

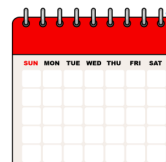
Happy Birthday this week to:

Darcy & James

Pope Francis: *Jesus came into the world by the path of humility. He opens a path, points the way, and reveals our ultimate goal.*



Year 6: Don't forget, we are holding a meeting in school on **Tuesday, 28th January at 3.30pm**. As well as sharing information about the end of KS2 SAT tests, we will also be providing more details about the Year 6 residential visit including kit lists and consent forms that will need to be completed.



School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	85.4%	95.9%
Yr 1	91.7%	96.4%
Yr 2	98.2%	95.1%
Yr 3	90%	94.3%
Yr 4	98.2%	95.7%
Yr 5	98.8%	95.4%
Yr 6	97.3%	96.8%
Total	94.5%	95.7%

Award Winners

CI R/1:

Dojo Champion: **Brandon**

School Values/Mission: **Bobby**—Collaboration— for showing great teamwork while building a pirate ship with his peers in the construction area.

CI 2/3/4

Dojo Champion: **Fawn**

School Values/Mission: **Layla**—Resilience—for showing great determination and resilience during maths lessons, leading to great success and a fantastic new confidence. Well done, keep it up!

CI 5/6:

Dojo Champion: **Eliza**

School Values/Mission: **Florence**—Creativity—for writing an amazing speech in English and presenting it with such passion and enthusiasm

Forest School: In Forest School this week, Class 5&6 enjoyed taking part in some shelter building activities and some tool work using the pruning saw. The children are taking more ownership over St Joseph's Forest School and how they want it to look which is lovely to see! Well done to Viola and Ava who were this week's Forest School stars.



Stanley Grange:

On their first visit, Year 1 pupils walked around the grounds to look at trees. Ben gave them an identification sheet to find out if the trees were ever-green—kept their leaves—or deciduous—drop their leaves. Ben told the group that squirrels buried butts from which the trees grew.



Sunday Gospel: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there with Jesus and his disciples. When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” Jesus said, “Woman why turn to me?” My hour has not come yet.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” There were six stone water jars standing there; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. “Draw some out now,” he told them, “and take it to the steward.” They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into the best wine. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.
John 2: 1-11 (Wednesday Word)



Democracy

Decisions about building homes can affect everyone. We can make these decisions together by learning about others’ opinions and ideas through surveys, meetings, or votes.

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Children’s Liturgy: Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of the Year. In the Gospel Jesus, his mother Mary, and the disciples were at a wedding, where they ran out of wine. Mary asked Jesus to help and so he changed some water into wine so that the celebration could continue. It was very surprising for them. And for the bride and bridegroom who were told that they had saved the best wine for last. What do you think the word “miracle” means? When we don’t know how something happens, and we know it can only have been done by God, we call it a miracle. Turning the water into wine is the first miracle that Jesus performs. The miracle shows us how special and important Jesus is. It shows us that he is the Son of God and that he can do anything.

While we cannot work miracles, we can make real changes that make a difference to our own lives and the lives of others.

What changes do you think we can make to help build a fairer world, so that all people have what they need to live happy, healthy and peaceful lives?

We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children’s Liturgy Room, especially those who are making their First Holy Communion this year.

Children’s Liturgy Team

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: 15.01.25

School Meals: 20.01.25

Stanley Grange—Year 1

Lego Club—Fridays

Year 4 Sacramental Preparation meeting

Letter from Mrs Brownsey

Cl 2/3/4 Forest School Fridays

After school dance club

After school choir

Cross Country event

Cl R/1 Diary Date: On Friday, 7th February, Miss Ollerton is having a Forest School stay & play. The session will start at 2pm and will take place outdoors, whatever the weather! Parents & carers are invited to join us; please come dressed for being outside and getting hands on in our Forest School area!

Theatre production: Actors from M&M Productions will be in school on **Friday, 28th February** to perform the “Wizard of Oz”.

We will be asking for contributions towards the cost of this exciting event. Please look out for more details on School Spider.



Ready, Steady, Go!: St Joseph's was represented in a sports hall athletics competition run by South Ribble Sports Partnership at Lostock Hall Academy, by a group of our Year 5 & Year 6 pupils. They competed in fields events including the triple jump, vertical jump, soft javelin & standing long jump. Track events included relays and obstacle races. The team had great fun and encouraged each other to do their best, cheering each other on during all the events and working as a team.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is falling to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>



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