

Children's Liturgy: Sunday is 6th Sunday of the Year - Today we hear about Jesus' special love for those who are poor, hungry, sad or badly treated. Jesus talks to the disciples, saying that some of the people will end up happy, while other people will not.

Jesus says those who are poor will be happy, because the kingdom of God belongs to them :those who are hungry will be happy, they will have enough to eat; those who cry will be happy, their tears will change to laughter; those who are hated and badly treated for believing in him will be happy, because they will be rewarded in heaven.

Jesus says those who are rich have everything they need now, and so do not need the gifts of heaven; those who have more than enough food now, will go hungry, and that those who laugh will be filled with sadness.

It can seem strange to us that it is those who are poor, or hungry, or even those who are sad, that Jesus says will be happiest. And it can seem very strange that Jesus says that those who are rich and happy with lots to eat will end up sad. It seems a bit upside down, doesn't it? It's not Jesus' thinking that's upside down. It's ours. He doesn't want us to think that the only way we can be happy is to have lots of money and all the best toys and latest stuff. Jesus loves all people, but he has a special love for people who are poor, hungry, sad or picked on. And he asks us to be the same. What will you do this week if you see someone who is sad, hungry or hurt?

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

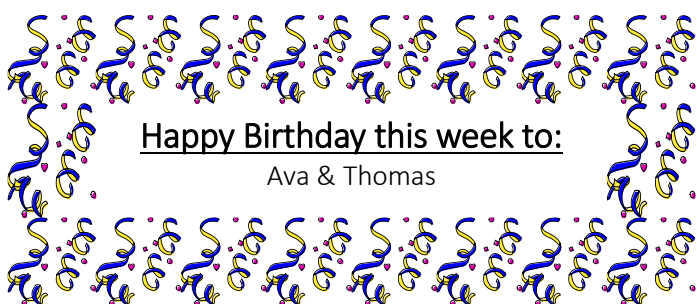
Children's Liturgy Team

Classroom Round Up: Pupils in **CI R/1** have been learning about the planets that make up our solar system.

They have enjoyed listening to various stories about space and role playing in the space station area. Helpfully, they have spent the afternoon spring cleaning the outside classroom, getting it ready for the start of next half term.

A fantastic end to the first half term of 2024 in **CI 2/3/4**. In history, the class explored Emperor Claudius' invasion of Britain and they wrote diary entries from the point of view of a Celt. In English we began exploring William Shakespeare and the features of play scripts.

Well, it has been a very interesting final week of the half term in **CI 5/6**. As you are aware, we had some 'important visitors' in school this week and my goodness did the children make me proud! They were desperate to talk to about their learning and show them what life is like at St Joseph's - this was wonderful to see. In maths, Year 5 have been focusing on multiplying fractions, whilst Year 6 have moved onto decimal place value. In English, we have been comparing the viewpoints of characters from within our text - it is lovely to see the children's understanding shining through. In history, we have been exploring Mayan architecture and comparing it to that of different civilizations. And finally, the children have been looking at ways in which to stay safe online as part of 'Safer Internet Day'.



Happy Birthday this week to:

Ava & Thomas

Recent Correspondence

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

Online Safety Day Newsletter: Safer Internet Day

Photo Consent for Parliament

PTFA Disco: 13.02.25

Yr 6: Anderton Centre & Parliament

Consent Forms for the Anderton Centre

Wednesday Word: Half Term

Ofsted Inspection: 11.02.25

Yr 4 Swimming

World Book Day:

On Thursday, 6th March we will be celebrating this annual event. Our theme this year will be nature, space and universe.

Pupils who would like to dress up can wear something which follows our theme or links to a character of book whose universe or world they would like to be part of. For example they might choose to be in the Hogwart's or magical world of Harry Potter or from Peter Pan's Neverland.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

Swimming: Sessions for Year 4 pupils will start on the Monday we return after the half term. Please remember to send them into school with their kit— costume, trunks or above the knee shorts; cap & towel—this should be in a named bag. Pupils will be transported to Brinscall pool on a coach and will be accompanied by staff from St Joseph's.



Diary Dates:

Monday, 24th February

School re-opens

Start of Yr 6 residential

Swimming for Year 4

Tuesday, 25th February

Year 5—young leaders training

Thursday, 27th February

Year 6—House of Parliament visit

Friday, 28th February

M&M Productions—Wizard of Oz



Mutual Respect & Tolerance

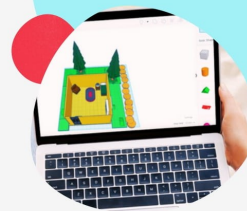
When we travel, we visit places with different cultures, traditions, and ways of life. By respecting and appreciating differences, we can learn from each other and help communities feel valued.

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St Joseph's Hoghton | KS2

SIMULATION CITY Afterschool Club



Get ready for an awesome adventure where you get to design and build a simulation of your very own city using a super cool 3D modelling software! Each week, you'll add new features to your city, like buildings, parks, cinemas, and so much more. As you build, you'll watch your city come to life right before your eyes.

Remember, using colour is key to crafting the perfect look and feel for your cityscape. Whether you're aiming for a vibrant and exciting New York City or something more mystical like Gotham City from Batman, your choice of colour will set the tone. You can draw inspiration from cities you've visited before or invent a completely new one from your imagination; it's all up to you! The goal is to use your creativity to make the coolest city ever.

In this workshop, creativity earns points. In the final week, the team with the most points wins a prize. Let's get building and see our amazing cities come to life!

**"You can't use up creativity.
The more you use, the more you have"**

DATES

27/2/2025
6/3/2025
13/3/2025
20/3/2025
27/3/2025

TIME

3:20 - 4:20pm

PRICE

£7 per session

BOOK HERE :

<https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/4118>

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, please contact your Area Manager on:

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

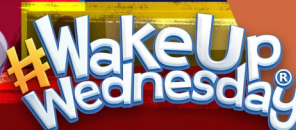
Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>