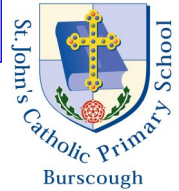


Note from the Head

Fame has arrived at St John's! Our green fingered 'Pot Gang' were interviewed live on BBC Radio Lancashire this week to talk about their new initiative in planting and growing fruits and vegetables. The Year 6 children talked about how much they are enjoying their gardening club and were a credit to the school. We were joined by the Mayor of West Lancashire Anne Fennell who learned more about the children's endeavours to create their own produce. A huge thank you to Mrs Harrison-Scott Mrs Suggitt for all of her hard work in organising this initiative.

There are quite a few pages of information in this weeks newsletter - please read to the end so you don't miss hearing about what is going on in school!

Friday 21st November



Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

23/11/25 Solemnity of Christ the King

Gospel Reading: Luke 23:35-43

Notes for Adults

The readings for this week teaches us that Jesus is our true King. His kingdom is not about wealth or force, but about love, mercy, and peace. He leads by serving and giving His life for us. His rule shows us that real power is found in kindness, forgiveness, and sacrifice.

Approaching the Gospel with children

We hear how Jesus is put to death on a cross and how he is laughed at and made fun of by people watching. The label above Jesus' cross said he was the king of the Jews. Kings are powerful, but on the cross Jesus seems helpless. He is going to die and the people can't understand why Jesus, the Son of God, can't save himself. However, Jesus is a very different kind of king to one who lives in a palace. He is the king of love.

There were two thieves, one on either side of Jesus, on crosses as well. The first thief wanted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God by coming off the cross. He insulted him. But the second thief tells the first off for being so rude to Jesus. He knows Jesus has done nothing wrong. The second thief asks only to be remembered by Jesus. Jesus can see that the second thief is sorry for what he has done. Jesus promises to remember the second thief and that that he will be welcomed into Jesus' kingdom.

Jesus, the king of love, showed his love for us and for all people by dying on the cross for us. How do you think we can show our love for others as Jesus asks us to?

We can be kind, welcoming, generous. We can make sure we include others in our friendships and in our games. We can join together with others to raise money or to change a situation that we think is unfair.

This week, when things are difficult, remember that Jesus is always with you. And when you see that things are difficult for others, perhaps you can try to do all that you can to be loving towards them and to help them.

Class 2 Forest School

Class 1 are going to Forest school next Thursday and may come to school wearing their own clothes that day.

Christmas movie night

Back by popular demand is our Christmas Movie Night. This year we will be holding the event over two nights:

4th December: Nursery and KS1 11th December: KS2

These events will cost £5 per ticket and can be booked through SCOPAY. Children will get a hot snack, drink and sweets.

Art Exhibition

On Tuesday 2nd December we shall be holding an exhibition of children's art work from 3pm - 4pm in the school hall. Each class will have created works of Art based on a theme which will be available to purchase for £5. Mince pies and refreshments will be served to parents who would like to come along and take a look at the children's work.

Advent Service

On 10th December I am looking forward to taking the Year 5 and 6 children to the annual Advent Service at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. We will be joining many school across the arch-diocese and I'm sure this event will be a memorable experience.

If you have any new or unused gifts that you do not need, could you consider donating them for the less fortunate of our Archdiocese. The charity being supported is Nugent and they have suggested that the most welcome gifts which they can distribute this year are NEW TOYS and GAMES. Parent are welcome to attend the service which starts at 10:15

Infant Nativity

The infant nativity 'Hello Ewe', will be performed at 2:15 on Tuesday 9th December and Wednesday 10th December. Due to space in the hall, Children will be allocated 2 tickets per family per performance.

Advent Service

The Juniors will be hosting their Advent service on 16th December at 2pm in church. You are all welcome to join us.

Reverse Advent Calendar

During the season of Advent we shall direct our thoughts in school to those families in need. We would like to run a 'Reverse' Advent Calendar appeal to support the local food bank. To enable the food to be distributed to this in time for Christmas, we will be running this from next week.

Week 2 (24/11): Packets Week 3 (01/12): Perishables and treats Week 4 (08/12): Toiletries.

We know that Christmas is an expensive time of year, but if you are able to, could you please send in an item each week for us to help build Christmas Hampers for families in need. If you are in need, or if you know of a local family in need, please get in touch – in confidence – to Mrs Harrison-Scott in the office.

Published Admission Number (PAN)

We are seeking to consult and reduce the PAN from 25 to 20. This reduction in PAN will not affect the ethos, values and success of St John's Catholic Primary.

Reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in its long-term planning and allow us to continue to secure high quality education for the pupils currently on roll, whilst continuing to provide an appropriate number of places for future pupils in line with local demand. A letter was sent home this week giving more detail about the consultation. Please ask at the office if you have not received one.

Admissions - Applications for Primary and High School places

For families who will require a primary school place in September 2026 the means of application is via Lancashire's on-line system at:- www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/. You must apply even if you already have siblings at your preferred school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your on-line application. Alternatively call 01772 532191.

Dates for your Diary

27th November - Class 1 Forest School

3rd December - Class 1 Mass

4th December - Class 4 Forest School

4th December - First Confession for those Y4 making First Holy Communion

4th December - KS1 Christmas movie night

10th December - Class 2 Mass

9th December - EYFS, KS1 Christmas Nativity at 2:15

10th December - EYFS, KS1 Christmas Nativity at 2:15

11th December - KS2 Christmas movie night

16th December - KS2 Christmas Advent service 2pm

17th December - EYFS, Y1, Y2, Y3 Breakfast with Santa

19th December - School closes for Christmas break

Our value for this half term is - Love

The following children were awarded certificates by their class teacher for showing Love to others this week. Well Done!!

Class 1: Rayne

Class 2: All of Year 1

Class 3: Eva G and Tamara

Class 4: Saoirse and Maxwell



The following children have been chosen by the Lunchtime Supervisors for wonderful behaviour!

Class 1: Kevin

Class 2: Sam

Class 3: Emilia

Class 4: Callie-Mae



Forest School

It was a brisk, chilly afternoon on Thursday but Class 2 had a great time developing their perseverance, teamwork resilience in our Forest School session. The children went exploring for natural materials and found lots of pine cones. From this we got crafty and creative by transforming these simple cones into some amazing elves to take home and play with. The children had to listen carefully to the instructions and then use a range of materials to construct their figures. A lot of determination and fun was had by all!!

This weeks Forest School award goes to

Elias, Bertie and Harvey in Class 2

Elias showed incredible kindness to others. When he saw a child without materials he immediately went over and shared what he had. A great role model for others.

Bertie and Harvey showed incredible perseverance and determination, it wasn't easy to attach the different components together and the boys didn't give up, even though it was very fiddly. They made some excellent models to take home.

Well done boys!



S T J O H N ' S

ART GALLERY

TUESDAY 2ND DECEMBER

3PM - 4PM

£5
per painting

Take a moment for yourself and come to see the wonderfully artistic talent that the children of St John's has to offer!

Hot drink and Mince Pie refreshments

Own a unique piece of your child's art.
Cash only

Parent Governor

All maintained school governing bodies must have at least two parent governors. At St John's, we currently have a vacancy for a parent governor which we would like to fill as soon as possible.

What are Parent Governors?

Parent governors are elected by and from the parents of children currently attending our school. They serve a four-year term of office and bring a very important and valued perspective to the work of the governing body. If a parent governor ceases to be the parent of a child registered at the school within the period for which they have been elected, he/she may continue to be a governor for the rest of his/her term of office.

What do governors do?

All maintained schools have a governing body which together with the head teacher sets the aims and policies of the school. The head teacher is responsible for the day to day management of the school. Together the governing body and head teacher must ensure the school provides good quality education and helps to raise standards.

The governing body:

- is accountable for the performance of the school to the parents and the wider community
- plans the school's future direction
- selects the headteacher
- makes decisions on the school's budget and staffing
- makes sure the National Curriculum is taught
- decides how the school can encourage pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development
- makes sure the school provides for all its pupils, including those with special educational needs.

Most importantly, we seek a parent governor who has a passion for St John's and is keen to work in a supportive but challenging way with the Senior Leadership of the school, to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality education for children of families in our local community.

How much time will it take?

To be an effective member of the governing body team, it takes time. You will need to prepare for and attend at least three full governing body meetings per year. You will also be involved in one or two committees dealing with finance, staffing, curriculum or premises. These usually meet at least once a term. In addition some governors take on other roles such as Special Educational Needs governor.

The amount of time you will need to give depends on how involved you become.

What support is available?

Lancashire County Council and the associated diocesan authorities provide a wide range of support services and training for governors. All new governors receive an introductory pack of materials from the county council which outlines the range of training opportunities available to governors and governing bodies and provides the basic reference documents. There is also a termly newsletter which helps to keep governors up to date with recent developments.

If you are interested in becoming a governor and wish to discuss this, please complete the nomination form (available from the school website in the 'About Us', 'Governors' section and return by email to: bursar@bursar.lancs.sch.uk or to St John's reception by 12.00 noon on Friday 28th November 2025. If you would like a paper copy please collect from the office.

If there are more nominations than vacancies than an election may be held and if so, you will be sent a voting paper.

If you are interested in this opportunity, we would love to hear from you!

