

Note from the Head

Year 4 and 5 had a very enjoyable start to the week with a trip organised by our friends at Community Rail Lancashire. The Inspiration Train is currently on a 60-stop, year-long tour of Britain – and has received rave reviews from our children. The children learned how railways transformed the UK – and ultimately the world and is part of a national campaign celebrating two centuries of the modern railway. The children were incredibly well behaved and represented the school well.

Music School Choir

The Schools Singing Programme delivers high quality singing provision in partnership with



Archdiocese of Liverpool

MUSIC



schools across the archdiocese. Our chorister Libby Morris, visits us on Monday afternoon and delivers a scheme of work that covers the music curriculum and works alongside the Religious Education Directory, *To Know You More Clearly*. The weekly singing sessions give children the chance to develop their skills while enjoying music and performing together. From this, we are invited to take part in major services at the Cathedral, such as the Good Shepherd Mass or the School's Advent Service, which helps to bring our pupils closer to the life of the Church.

In the Autumn term, Classes 3 and 4 had singing lessons. Now in the Spring term it will be Classes 1 and 2. Libby will start working with children on Monday afternoons. She will look at developing pitch, rhythm and the ability to sing within an ensemble. We are looking forward to sharing their wonderful progress with in our future assemblies!

Online Safety - Mobile phones

Concerns were raised earlier this week regarding Whats App groups circulating among children. I emailed all KS2 parents to warn them and to urge them to check their children's phones. I have spoken to the older children about the dangers of accepting friend requests from people they don't know and have reiterated the fact that there may be adults masquerading as children. To support parents, I have attached to this week's email two parent guides for Whats App and Snap Chat as these seem to be two of the most popular apps used by children in school. If you have any concerns or questions please come and ask for advice.

Year 6 SATs

Mrs Quirk will be holding a short SATs information drop-in session in Class 4 on Tuesday 20th January from 3:30pm–3:45pm. This session is an opportunity to share key information about the upcoming SATs exams and to answer any questions you may have. The drop-in is open to both Year 5 and Year 6 parents.

Friday 16th January



Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

18/01/26 Second Sunday in Ordinary time

Gospel Reading: John 1:29-34

Notes for Adults

The readings for this week remind us of the call to holiness and the mission to serve. In Isaiah, we hear about the servant who was called by God from the womb. This shows that each person has a special bond with God from the moment of conception. It also reminds us that God gives each of us a purpose in His plan. The psalm expresses both trust in God and a desire for His help in times of need.

Approaching the Gospel with children

John tells us that he saw the Holy Spirit come down like a dove to rest on Jesus. Because of this, John believed that Jesus was the Son of God. A dove is one way that the Holy Spirit shows itself, but most of the time the Spirit is invisible. We cannot see it.

One way to think about the Holy Spirit is like the wind. You cannot see the wind, but you can see the branches of a tree moving when the wind blows. Or you can see a windmill spinning round. Like the wind, the Holy Spirit helps us. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised and the Spirit stays with us all through our lives, helping us to do things that are difficult.

Jesus asks us to love other people, to care for people who are sick and to be signs of hope in our world, especially to people who are poor. This is not always easy, especially when people are in different countries to us. But when we do these things, other people can see the Holy Spirit working through us, just as we can see the wind in the trees.

The Holy Spirit can help us to be kind, generous, brave, and to work together with others to make the world a better place for everyone.

What could you do this week so that other people can see the Holy Spirit working through you?

Parent Forum

A letter is attached the email this week to let you know about upcoming Parent Forum meetings. The aims of this will be:

- To encourage parents to participate fully in the life and work of the school
- To ensure effective communication is maintained between all stakeholders
- To be a forum for parents to express ideas and views of their class
- To gain the support of parents and actively encourage them to participate in the process of school improvement as we share our vision for excellence



Ideally, the parent forum will meet five times every year, broadly once every couple of months, for around an hour. In advance of the meeting I will send an email to inform you of the agenda and you can confirm whether you would like to attend. If you are not able to attend, but have a point or query you would like to raise in relation to the agenda, that there will an option to do so via Microsoft Forms. Minutes will be taken at each meeting and shared with you all through the school website.

The agenda for this year is:

Topic	Agenda	Date of Meeting
Partnerships between home and school <i>This is specifically for parents that are new to the school e.g. Reception class and new starters</i>	Improving the induction process for new children moving to St John's from other schools. Review the transition arrangements for the new Reception class children.	Tuesday 10 th February 2:30
The Curriculum	What drives our curriculum? What do we include at St. John's? How can we improve our curriculum?	Monday 23 rd March 2:30
Teaching and Learning between home and school	What works well and What needs to be improved? Homework Different approaches for different age phases. Barriers to developing an effective home school partnership	Tuesday 12 th May 2:30
Behaviour and Rewards	Focus and principles Structures in school What works well	Tuesday 30 th June

I am looking forward to working with you to continue improving our wonderful school

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.

Forest School

Each class will attend Forest School on a rota this term

Class 1: 03/02, 25/02

Class 2: 03/02, 25/02

Class 3: 09/02, 03/03

Class 4: 12/02, 11/03

On these days, children may come to school wearing their own clothes and suitable footwear in case it is wet outside. As we are outdoors it is likely to be muddy so scruffy clothes are the best!



Dates for your Diary

Week beginning 26th Jan - British Values themed week

Wednesday 11th February - KS2 Valentines Disco

Thurs 12th Feb - Half term achievement assembly 9am

Thurs 12th February - Nursery & KS1 Valentines Disco

Friday 13th February - School closes for half term week

Monday 23rd February - School closed for INSET

Tuesday 24th February - School reopens

Monday 2nd March - Class 3 Swimming lessons begin

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Friday 6th - Sunday 8th March Y5/6 Residential trip

Week beginning 9th Mar - British Values themed week

Thursday 12th March - Mothers Day assembly 2:30

Friday 20th March - Easter Bingo

Week beginning 23rd March - Y5 Bikeability

Tuesday 24th March - Y6 Good Shepherd fundraising

Wednesday 25th March - Parents evening

Thursday 26th March KS1 Easter Bonnet parade @ 2:30

Friday 27th March - School close for Easter at 1:15

Class Mass.

Children will attend 9 am mass on alternate Wednesdays with their class on the following dates. You are very welcome to come along and join us.

Class 1: 04/02, 11/03

Class 2: 28/01, 04/03

Class 3: 21/01, 25/02,

Class 4: 14/01, 11/02, 18/03

Our value for this half term is - Courage

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

Class 1: Lincoln

Class 2: Savannah

Class 3: Liam and Keira

Class 4: Madeline



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

Class 1: Kohen

Class 2: Lea

Class 3: Michael M

Class 4: Saoirse

