

Note from the Head

The weeks are passing by and before we know it we are already half way through this half term! I have walked through and observed many lessons this week and it makes me very happy to say how proud I am of the staff at St John's. The teachers work tirelessly to prepare exciting lessons to bring learning alive and the teaching assistants work hard to give support to children whether in small groups or 1:1 as well as supporting children with their social and emotional welfare. It is a great team we have here

Online Safety - Toxic influences and Online Safety

Keeping Children Safe Online is an key part of Safeguarding and through PSHE and Online safety lessons at St John's, we try and ensure young people are educated to fully understand the digital world around them.

Continuing research has highlighted serious concerns about online safety for young people and the need to promote better modelling/ behaviours and understanding, especially regarding toxic online influences/influencers. There are also rapidly growing serious concerns regarding the misuse of AI and its potential impact on children and young people.

The government's Online Safety Act raises critical concerns regarding the protection of young people from inappropriate content and the need for internet platforms/providers to do more on this. An important part of this process is a strategic partnership with parents to ensure young people are safe in school and at home.

There is a workshop available for parents, delivered by consultants from the Lancashire Education service that can take place within the school day or after school for parents and carers. It looks at how you can protect your child from toxic influences and give support in developing Online safety at home. If you would like to book a place on this can you please respond via the Google form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/21Ume97DdU>

or scan the QR code

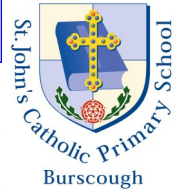


Benefit related Free School Meals

Currently, the department for work and pensions household support fund have been granting families (who are in receipt of benefit related free school meals) vouchers through Edenred during the school holidays. You will receive a voucher in the February half term and over the Easter break but after this, the funding will cease. We have been advised there is currently no further provision plans for holiday time free school meal vouchers. We are awaiting for further details for any future funding and will share this with you when we hear more.

- Edenred vouchers for the Easter holiday period **must be placed by Friday 27 March 2026**.
- **The Household Support Fund will cease from 01 April 2026** and will be replaced with the Crisis & Resilience Fund
- There is no provision for holiday time free school meal vouchers to be issued under the Crisis & Resilience Fund conditions.
- Holiday time free school meal **vouchers will no longer be allocated to eligible pupils from 01 April 2026**

Friday 23rd January



Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

25/01/26 Third Sunday in Ordinary time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

Notes for Adults

The readings for this week remind us that Jesus brings light and salvation, even in times of darkness. In the first reading, we hear how God offers hope to those in exile. The Gospel shows Jesus calling simple fishermen to follow Him and spread the Good News. This reminds us that God doesn't choose us based on our skills or status but on our willingness to serve.

Approaching the Gospel with children

The Gospel for this week talks about people who lived in darkness seeing a great light. One way of thinking about this is that when we are sad or lonely, everything feels dark and gloomy. This is the dark. But then when someone does something nice for us, like including us in their game, or making us laugh, everything seems brighter again. This is the light. This is the light that Jesus brings into the world. It is the light of God's love for each one of us.

Can you think of a time when someone did something that helped to light up your world and make you smile? What did they do?

We can try to share this light by loving our neighbours, near and far. By helping to make the world a fairer place so that every person has what they need to live a healthy and happy life.

We all live in one world, with the same sun shining down on us. We are all God's children and belong to one global family. Jesus asks us to care for one another. By doing this we can help the light of Jesus to shine in the world.

What will you do to share the light of God's love for us all this week?

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

Parent Forum for parents that are new to the school e.g. Reception class and new starters Tues 10th Feb 2:30

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

Monday 23rd March Parent Forum 2:30

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: Romee

Class 2: Ivy and Aubree

Class 3: Emilia

Class 4: Toby, Elliott, Mia



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

Class 1: Bobby

Class 2: Ivy

Class 3: Esme

Class 4: Elliott

