

Note from the Head

Though this has been a short term, it has been incredibly busy as always and with the clocks going forward on Sunday we are looking forward to lighter evenings and hopefully some sunshine as we take our Easter break. I hope you all have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break with your families.



Firstly, I must say a huge well done to Class 4 and their entrepreneurial skills this week as they managed to raise an impressive £152 for Nugent Care. Considering every stall cost only 20p, this is certainly an impressive figure and the whole school enjoyed the range of diverse stalls from biscuit decorating to beat the goalie, sponge a sixer and treasure hunts. It is lovely when our school come together to share these events and watch the children play and interact with everyone.

As we are not in school for Holy Week, we took the whole school to Mass on Wednesday in which the children impressed all those present with their impeccable behaviour, respectful responses to prayer as well as their enthusiastic singing.

The smallest children of the St John's family certainly impressed us all on Thursday with the creative bonnets and cute catwalk dances. It brought a smile to everyone's faces to see their happiness and joy in their faces!

A huge thank you to all parents for supporting the school throughout the term - it is much appreciated by all staff as this truly is a school community to be proud of and work within.

On that note, I have decided to save our best news till last.....

I am delighted to announce that following an application process, St John's has been successfully awarded a £150,000 School-Based Nursery Capital Grant from the Department for Education!

There were 637 applicants from across England, with 331 applications being granted. Of these, there were 12 applications from Lancashire and we are just one of 5 selected to receive the funding. I am so happy and excited about this next phase in the journey of St John's and my commitment to growing our school community so that all children can benefit from the high quality learning, nurture and support that we offer.

This funding is part of a national initiative to create high-quality early years spaces. We will be using this investment to expand our current nursery to provide even more places for our local community. This means: more modern spaces, improved outdoor facilities, more resources, and more places for your children to start their learning journey at St John's Catholic Primary. We are committed to giving our youngest pupils the best possible start.

If you have a child due to start Nursery next year, please contact the office to register your interest.

Work is expected to begin in June, with the goal of welcoming even more new little learners for the 2027-28 academic year. Keep an eye out for progress photos!

Parish event

A series of discussions for adults called 'The Creed in Slow Motion' will be held on Wednesday evenings 7:30pm to 9pm in the Parish Hall starting on 22nd April. All are welcome, whether new to the faith or cradle Catholics. Although it is sequential don't worry if you cannot attend every week.

Mass times

Mon 8:30, Wed 9am, Fri 10am

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

29/03/26 Palm Sunday

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-27:66

On Palm Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey. The people cheer and wave palm branches. They call Him a king. Later in the same Mass, we hear the story of His suffering and death. The crowd that praised Him later calls for Him to be crucified.

This Sunday helps us think about how quickly things can change. People can turn away from Jesus when things get hard. We are called to stay close to Him, even in hard times. Lent is almost over. This week, we remember His love and the cross. We get ready for Easter by walking with Him through His suffering.

Approaching the Gospel with children

We heard how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The donkey was a very humble animal – not very special for such a special person like Jesus. Why do you think he chose a donkey?

Jesus rode on a donkey to show people that he was the Son of God. Despite how important he was he chose a humble animal – to show that his power comes from God and not from riches.

All of the people were so happy to see Jesus that they laid their cloaks on the floor and cut branches from palm trees to lay before him to show their respect. This is why today is called Palm Sunday and why we have palms. They shouted to show their joy and praise for God.

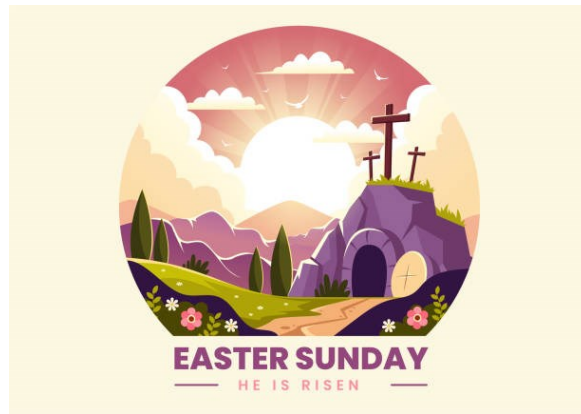
We should try to welcome people into our lives and treat them as we would like to be treated. Can you think of a time you welcomed someone else into your home, your class? Or have you ever been welcomed by others? What did they do to make you feel special and welcome? This week let's try to welcome all people as we would welcome Jesus.

Mass Times for Holy Week

Good Friday 3pm Our Lady and All Saints

Easter Vigil 6:30 St John's

Easter Sunday 9am



Dates for your Diary

Mon 13th April - School reopens for Summer term

Mon 13th April - Class 3 resume swimming lessons

Parent Workshops

Research shows that involving parents and carers in their children's learning is the most important factor in enabling some children to do well regardless of background.

I have planned a series of workshops to help you to support your child in their learning over several different areas. It would be great to have parents attend - if the dates and times do not suit then please let me know and I can put dates on outside of school hours as well. The first two focus on Maths;

Maths 1- 16th April at 2:15

This will demonstrate and explain the different methods used in school for teaching addition and subtraction in order to help you support your child in their learning both in school and at home.

Maths 2 - 30th April at 2:15

This will demonstrate and explain the different methods used in school for teaching multiplication and division in order to help you support your child in their learning both in school and at home.