

Note from the Head

Our new and extended Nursery is now open! The children have a wonderful space in which to play, explore, learn and grow. Miss Riley and the infant team have worked incredibly hard to get all of their resources in place ready for the new intake of little people.

In addition, our 'nurture' room is now complete and offers a quiet space for children to support their social & emotional well being.

As well as welcoming our new families this year, we also welcome Mrs Jones and Mrs Edwardson who have joined the school as teaching assistants and Mr Johnson and Miss Jackson who have joined the EYFS department as part of our apprentice programme. We have a wonderful team here at St John's and I'm so proud of how hard the staff work to support all pupils.

Mrs Merrill

We bid a farewell to Mrs Merrill today who leaves school to begin her maternity leave. The children and staff will miss her greatly but we are looking forward to seeing lots of pictures of baby Merrill when they arrive. We wish Mrs Merrill a wonderful and restful maternity leave.

Mrs Porter

We will be delighted to welcome Mrs Porter back from her maternity leave on 28th September. Mrs Porter will be returning to Class 1 to take our newest children on their adventures in the classroom. The children have been well supported by Miss Hesketh during this first month as they settle into their new routines.

Meet the Teacher

The rescheduled date for Class is Monday 14th September.

First Holy Communion

The Year 4 children have received letters this week giving them information about the preparation for the First Holy Communion. In recognition of the importance this Sacrament holds within the Catholic Faith, the sessions will take place in Church after Sunday Mass and will require parents to be involved in the preparation of the children. There are 7 sessions throughout this year, the first session is on Sunday 27th September after morning mass. The following sessions are scheduled for: 11th Oct, 22nd Nov, 10th Jan, 14th Feb, 14th Mar, 25th Apr.

Friday 11th September



Mass times

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

Sunday 09.00 am

Saturday 06.30 pm

13/09/26 24th Sunday in ordinary time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

The readings for this week call people to let go of anger and choose mercy. They warn that holding onto grudges causes harm. Sirach urges people to remember how short life is. Paul reminds believers that their lives belong to the Lord. This means daily choices should reflect patience, care, and peace with others.

Jesus shares a story about a man forgiven much who refused to forgive little. This shows that mercy must be shared, not stored. Forgiveness is not meant to stop with us. God shows kindness again and again. This Sunday reminds us to pass that kindness on, even when it feels hard

Approaching the Gospel with children

Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone. Jesus says that Peter should forgive someone not just seven times, but seventy times seven. That's 490 times!

Jesus is saying to Peter that there should be no end to our forgiveness, just like there is no end to God's forgiveness. If someone is truly sorry and tries to change then we should try to forgive them.

Can you think of a time when you have been forgiven? How did you feel?

Can you think of a time when someone has said sorry and you found it hard to forgive? Why was it hard? How did you feel?

This week let's try our best to make a change in the way we treat other people, to say sorry when we have done something wrong, and to forgive and help others make a change in the way they behave.

Car Park

Could all parents please remember that the car park at the front of school is for staff only and not parents. We have parking to the rear of Chapel Lane for parents to use. The Reception class enter and exit close to this car park and it isn't safe to have cars accessing this area around drop off and pick up points.

KS1 Apple and Blackberry picking

Class 2 will be heading over to Forest School on Thursday for a session led by Dr Watt and staff from the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The children will learn about the origins of apples before they collect their own fruits to use in class. Children need to come to school in their own clothes for this day with suitable footwear for the walk over. If any adults are able to help accompany the children please the office know.

Children who walk home in the Juniors

A letter will be sent home this week to Class 4 asking for you to sign and give permission for your child to walk home from school. This will help the class teacher monitor who is leaving the school premises at home time and similarly, who is to wait for a parent to pick them up. If you have a child in class 3 and they are walking home please let Miss Smith know.

Martin Mere Competition

Many children from our school entered a colouring competition from Martin Mere and as a reward, every child in the school has been given a complimentary family ticket to be redeemed for a day out at Martin Mere. These are going home today.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our annual event is back! We will be holding two events to raise money for this special charity. KS2 will hold their coffee morning on Thursday 17th September. Nursery and Classes 1 and 2 will hold their coffee morning Friday 25th September. Both mornings will run from 9:15 in the school hall.

For the event to run successfully we will need donations of cake to be taken into class on the morning of each event. Children may join their parents and enjoy a drink and cake. If you have children across both key stages then they may come together to sit with their family and enjoy a cake. Otherwise, due to space, it will be strictly KS2 on 17th and Nursery and KS1 on 25th. We are in need of volunteers to help serve cake and refreshments - if you are able to help out please let Mrs Harrison-Scott know.

To ensure the safety of all our children—and in line with Benedict's Law (the allergy safety regulations for schools)—we are updating how we collect and serve treats. For children with severe allergies, a community cake sale can feel overwhelming, so we need everyone's help to make this event inclusive and safe.

If you are donating baked goods:

- Provide a full list of ingredients: Please attach a clear, handwritten or printed label to your container listing every ingredient used.
 - Highlight major allergens: Explicitly underline or bold common allergens if they are in your bake (such as milk, eggs, wheat/gluten, soya, sesame, peanuts, and tree nuts).
 - No nuts, please: To keep our school environment as secure as possible, please ensure all donations are completely nut-free.
- Shop-bought items: If you are donating shop-bought cakes, please leave them in their original packaging with the ingredients label intact.

How we are keeping children safe on the day:

- Staff members trained in allergy awareness will oversee the serving of these items to prevent any cross-contamination.

Thank you so much for your baking talents, your generosity, and your support in keeping our school safe for every single child!

Mobile phones

As part of our commitment to providing a safe, focused, and social learning environment, we want to remind our school community about our policy regarding mobile phones and smart devices on school grounds.

No Phones During the Day: In line with updated Department for Education guidance, mobile phones and smart devices (including smartwatches with internet capability) are not permitted to be used or visible during the school day. This includes lessons, break times, and lunchtimes.

Exceptions for Walking to School: If your child walks to and from school independently and requires a basic mobile phone for safety, it must be turned off immediately upon arrival at the school gate and handed in to the school office.

If your child does not walk home from school then they should not be bringing a mobile phone into school as it is not needed.

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 17th September - KS2 Macmillan Coffee morning for families

Friday 25th September – KS1 Macmillan Coffee morning for families

Wednesday 14th October – 2pm Our Lady Procession to Church

Tuesday 20th October– Parents evening

Thursday 22nd October – Half term assembly all parents welcome

Friday 23rd October - Close for Half term

Monday 2nd November – INSET Day

Weds 9th December – Nursery, EYFS, KS1 Breakfast with Santa

Weds 9th and Thurs 10th December - Nursery and KS1 Nativity

18th December – School close for Christmas

Forest School

Each class will attend Forest School on a rota this half term

Class 1: 06/10

Class 2: 17/09, 21/10

Class 3: 22/09, 14/10

Class 4: 02/10

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!

