

Note from the Head

It feels like we have been back in school for such a long time and Summer is a distant memory! The children are settled well in to their school routines and are working hard in the classroom. It is a pleasure to see the children enjoy the outdoor environment at break and lunchtime with all ages mixing and play very happily together.

It was wonderful day on Wednesday and our youngest members got to join me in the Forest for their first Forest school lesson. They had to help carry tools and equipment and gathered wood to help me build my fire. They then enjoyed toasting their own chocolate bread around the fire before embarking on their own mini beast hunt.

Rosary Procession

As we enter the month of October, our school community looks forward to dedicating this time to Our Lady, Mary our Mother, through the traditional Catholic devotion of the Holy Rosary.

To mark this special month, we will hold **Rosary Procession on Wednesday 14th October** for children in classes 2, 3 and 4. Children are invited to bring a set of Rosary beads from home to carry during the procession.

We warmly invite parents, carers, and parishioners to join us for this beautiful act of collective worship. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing the faith and spiritual life of our children.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to support our procession and carry Mary to church

Forest School for Class 3

Class 3 will have Forest School next Tuesday (13/10). Children may come to school wearing their own clothing suitable for the outdoors.

First Holy Communion

The next session for the children making their First Holy Communion is this Sunday after Mass. The theme is 'Come to the Water: Baptism'.

Class 2 help requested

As a school community, we greatly value the time and talents that our families share with us. We would love to hear from parents, grandparents or family members who might be able to volunteer regularly to listen to our children read. Whether you can offer an hour a week or a regular morning or afternoon slot, your support would be greatly appreciated.

By giving a little of your time, you can help our children develop their reading confidence, fluency and love of books. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school office. Thank you for helping our children to learn, grow and flourish.

Friday 9th October



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**SCHOOL
BASED
NURSERIES**

Mass times

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

Sunday 09.00 am Saturday 06.30 pm

11/10/26 28th Sunday in ordinary time

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

The readings for this week shows God as a host who prepares a great meal. He wants all people to come. Isaiah speaks of a day when tears are wiped away and death is no more. The psalm says the Lord guides and protects like a shepherd. God's care is steady and sure.

In the Gospel, some people ignore the king's call. Others come in from the streets. The door is open, but guests must be ready. Paul says he has learned to trust Christ in every season. We are invited to say yes to God and live in a way that fits His feast.

Approaching the Gospel with children

The king in Jesus' story represents God and the wedding is the kingdom of heaven. We are all invited by God to enter into the kingdom of heaven. It is a place where everyone is welcome. But we have to be ready to go.

When we go to a wedding, or any party, we tell the person who invited us that we are coming. We get out our best clothes and make sure we are clean and tidy.

How do you think we can answer God's invitation and get ready for the kingdom of heaven?

We can listen to God's word and try to follow what God asks us to do in our lives.

God asks us to be kind, to be welcoming and invite others to share in what we have, to bring peace, to stand up for what is right, to care for and respect one another and to love our neighbour, wherever they are in the world.

By answering God's invitation and being kind & generous, welcoming and fair, by loving our neighbour, we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live.



Rosary Procession

2:00pm

Wednesday 14th October

1:30

Meet in the hall at St John's Catholic Primary School with Classes 2, 3 & 4

1:45

Procession starts from school

Moves from the front entrance, along Chapel Lane and into Church

Process into church and continue to pray the Rosary and sing hymns

Children will present posies of flowers to Our Lady

Working Together for Great Attendance

We want every child in our school to thrive, and good attendance plays an important part in this. When children attend school regularly, they are better able to keep up with their learning, feel part of their class and make the most of all the opportunities school has to offer. We really appreciate the support of our families in promoting regular and punctual attendance. If you are experiencing difficulties that are affecting your child's attendance, please speak to us. We are here to help.

Thank you for your continued support

Attendance for this week:

Class 1 82.2% Class 2 93.2% Class 3 91.9% Class 4 90%

Attendance Matters!

Just 1 day of absence may not seem much, but it quickly adds up:

- 1 day absent = 5 lessons missed (approximately)
- 10 days absent = 2 weeks of learning lost
- 19 days absent = 90% attendance (the threshold for persistent absence)

Over a primary school year of 190 days:

- 95% attendance = 10 days missed
- 90% attendance = 19 days missed
- 85% attendance = 29 days missed
-

Remember: Every school day provides important opportunities for learning, friendships, routines and personal development. Missing just one day can mean missing key teaching that is difficult to catch up on.

"Every Day Counts - Every Lesson Matters!"

A child who misses one day of school each month will miss nearly two weeks of learning over the course of the school year.

Remembrance

The school council will be selling poppies and other fundraising items next week. The costs range for 10p for a sticker to £1.50 for a slap band.

Car Park

We have had a lot of near misses recently and observations from parents regarding the dangers facing children exiting the premises from other vehicles.

In particular, visibility is low when exiting the staff car park and oncoming traffic is having to swerve to avoid exiting traffic. From Monday onwards, I have asked Mr Spencer to close the gates in the morning and the evening. We have ample parking at the end of the road, to the right of the roundabout and to the left.

Admissions - Applications for Primary and High School places for next year

For families who will require a primary or secondary school place in September 2027 the means of application is via Lancashire's on-line system at:-

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/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.

The closing dates for applications are at 11.59 pm on:-

Secondary school applications – 31st October 2025 Primary school applications –15th January 2026

For those applying to Catholic schools you must also complete a supplementary form and return to school with proof of Nationality (e.g. birth certificate or passport) and proof of Baptism of any denomination.

The supplementary faith form must be handed in along with baptism certificate to the office as St Bede's before 31st October otherwise your child may not get a place.

Every year, children from feeder primary schools miss out on their place as this form has not been handed in or has been handed in late.

Dates for your Diary

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

Tuesday 20th October– Parents evening

Thurs 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 2: 21/10

Class 3: 13/10

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!



Weekly Certificates

The following children were awarded certificates by their class teacher for demonstrating one of our core values this week. Well done!

Class 2: Rupert

Class 3: Bertie and Harper

Class 4: Saoirse and Eva Dee

**Growing together
as a family**

**Rooted in God's
love**

