

Note from the Head

The snow has gone and the sky is looking blue and I am counting down to warmer weather! The children have settled back into school life and it is a pleasure to walk around classrooms and see such bright, well behaved children who are engaged in their learning. Class 4 went to Mass the week with Father Henry who made us feel so welcome. A special Well Done to Sam and George from Class 4 who helped for the first time as Altar Servers and were very sensible and willing to learn about the Mass in more detail.

Friday 17th January



Family Hub—supporting families

Yesterday I met with Helen Watson who is a Community Senior Family Support Worker with the West Lancashire Children & Family Wellbeing Service. It was an incredibly informative meeting as I was made aware of the wide range of services that are on offer to help support our families.

I have taught here for 21 years and feel experienced enough to say that in recent years, there has been a constant trend of parental concern about emotional well-being and mental health issues ranging from a number of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis, and other stressful life experiences.

I would like to do all I can to help support the families of St John's and be able to make you aware of the wealth of resources and support that is out there for you to access. Over the coming week, I am going to book a series of support groups and workshops that I feel may be of benefit to you as parents. I will also share information through the newsletter that I feel maybe of interest to you.

The first thing I would like to make you aware of is the 'One Stop Shop'. This is a monthly drop in where families can access support for housing, finance, emotional health and well being as well as employment advice, household living support and food banks. There are representatives there from:

- CAMHS
- SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service)
- West Lancs borough Council
- Citizens Advice Bureau

Helen gave me a quote from a gentleman who she'd met just a couple of weeks ago who said *"I've achieved more here in an hour than in 18 months or ringing round and trying to make appointments"*.

I have attached the flyer on the second page of this newsletter, if you have any questions at all about this service or would like more information then please pop into the office to see me.

Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am Mon - Fri 09.00 am
Saturday 06.30 pm

19/01/25 2nd Sunday in ordinary time

Gospel Reading: John 2:1-11

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C highlights the Church as the bride of Christ. The readings emphasise God's love for His people, the manifestation of spiritual gifts, and the significance of the wedding at Cana where Jesus performed His first miracle. Key themes include the sacrament of Matrimony, utilizing our gifts for the benefit of others, and the intercessory role of Mary as our Mother.

Approaching the Gospel with children

We will explore the word 'Miracle' and what it means. When we don't know how something happens, and we know it can only have been done by God, we call it a miracle. Turning the water into wine is the first miracle that Jesus performs. The miracle shows us how special and important Jesus is. It shows us that he is the Son of God and that he can do anything.

While we cannot work miracles, we can make real changes that make a difference to our own lives and the lives of others.

Key thoughts

What changes do you think we can make to help build a fairer world, so that all people have what they need to live happy, healthy and peaceful lives?

Through seeing Jesus' miracle the disciples believed in him. Through our actions we hope that others will see that we believe in Jesus too.

ONE STOP SHOP

A monthly drop in where families
can access support on:

Housing

Finance

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

Access to service for:

Employment advice

Relationship advice

Home safety

Find out about:

Mental health support

Accessing Food Banks

Household living support

First
Thursday of
the month,
9am 'til
12 noon

SKELMERSDALE
**FAMILY
HUB**
AND THE ZONE
WEST LANCASHIRE

The West Lancs Family Hub and Zone
Yeadon
Skelmersdale
WN8 6NL
01695 651 350

Gardening equipment

As we look forward to Spring coming I have got plans to make the Quadrangle (the central outdoor space within school) to become a Garden of Peace. It has become a neglected area but offers tremendous potential to be a place of tranquillity amongst nature.

Plans are in place to improve the seating in this area and Mr Spencer and Mr Oakes have done a great job in clearing the site of weeds. I am keen to get the children involved in planting and taking responsibility for their own areas within this space by establishing a gardening club. Being in gardens can boost wellbeing by improving mental and physical health, gardening can also help children to connect with one another and encourage communication and language.

My request is..... If you have any garden planters, plant pots or bedding areas that you have no use for could you please donate them to school so that the children can get off to a good start with their gardening club. If you are keen to be in their endeavours to become green fingered then please let Mrs Harrison-Scott in the office know. Thank you in advance.

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

Class 1: Molly

Class 2: Harper

Class 3: Alfie

Class 4: Coby



Our new Gospel Value is Fairness

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

EYFS: Lewis

Class 2: Sam and Savannah

Class 3: Calleigh May and Alfie

Class 4: Esther and Lily



Dates for your Diary

Thurs 23rd Jan - Class 3 at Mass

Thurs 30th Jan - Class 2 at Mass

Thurs 6th Feb - Class 1 and Y6 Buddies at Mass

Thurs 13th Feb - Class 4 at Mass

Thurs 13th Feb - Achievement assembly 2:30

Thurs 13th February—Close for half term

Friday 14th Feb - INSET Day

Mon 24th Feb - Return to school for New half term

Thurs 27th Feb - Class 3 at Mass

Wed 5th Mar - Ash Wednesday

Thur 6th Mar - World Book Day *Theme to be decided**

Fri 7th Mar - Class 4 residential to Robinwood

Dates for your Diary

Thurs 13th Mar - Class 2 at Mass

Thurs 20th Mar - Class 4 at Mass

Thurs 20th Mar - Class 4 at Forest School

Thurs 20th Mar - KS1 trip to Martin Mere

Thurs 26th Mar - Mothers Day gift stall

Wed 26th Mar - Class 4 at Forest School

Wed 27th Mar - Class 3 at Mass

Wed 27th Mar - Mother's Day assembly 2:30 - all invited

Tues 1st April - Easter Bonnet parade 2:30

Wed 2nd April - Easter Bingo

Fri 4th April - Whole school achievement assembly 9 am

Fri 4th April - School close for Easter at 1:15