

## Note from the Head

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a peaceful and restful break over the Christmas period. The children have returned settled and ready for another great term. Father Daley has now left our Parish and in the interim period we welcome Father Henry who will be covering masses until April when our Father O'Shea takes up his position as our resident Parish Priest. The children attended Mass today and were warmly welcomed by Father Henry - please take the time to pop into Church and make yourselves known to him.

Friday 10th January



## SENCO

When I took my new position as Headteacher, I appointed Miss Fitzpatrick as temporary SENCO as I knew her skills and experience from her time working with us previously. Miss Fitzpatrick was able to secure flexible working hours from her other job for a term to support the children with SEN at St John's. Her fixed term contract has now come to an end. Whilst school finances in our small school are very tight, I feel the SENCO position is of vital importance in school to support children in their educational journey and I am very pleased to be able to secure the services of experienced teacher Michelle Waine who is a qualified SENCO. Mrs Waine has taken over the SENCO role at St John's and will be working in school on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, taking over the duties and responsibilities previously covered by Miss Fitzpatrick.

## Holidays in Term time

A detailed letter went out to all children on Wednesday regarding DFE policy on taking children out of school.

New legislation from the government states that **Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

Parents must follow correct procedure when applying for a holiday (leave of absence).

- Applications must be made at least four weeks in advance. An application form must be completed and is available from the office.
- An appointment must be made to see the Head teacher or senior teacher.

When considering requests for absence the school will consider each application on an individual basis and whether to grant the absence if there are exceptional circumstances. However under no circumstances can any holidays be authorised retrospectively (whether there are exceptional circumstances or not).

I met with local Burscough Headteachers recently and the policy is rigorously applied through all schools - Holidays will not be granted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

## Mass times

Sunday 09.00 am      Mon - Fri 09.00 am  
Saturday 06.30 pm

**12/01/25    Baptism of the Lord**

***Gospel Reading:*** Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Year C celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ as God's beloved Son and the effects of the Holy Spirit. The readings highlight Jesus' mission as the chosen servant and emphasize the significance of baptism. Key themes include recognising ourselves as beloved by God, the transformative power of the Holy Spirit, and reflecting on the meaning of baptism in our lives

## Approaching the Gospel with children

The Gospel this week shows us that all of us are important in our own special way, and we are all important enough to serve Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are all God's children and we are also filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

The Holy Spirit can help to make us brave and to bring us joy. Just as we can tell that a tree is good because of the fruit that grows on it, we can tell if the Holy Spirit is working in us by the way that we act and how we treat other people.

For instance, we can share what we have with others who do not have enough. We can be kind to others. We can try to make our world a fairer and better place for all people to live in. Some fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, kindness and generosity.

- How do you think you can be kind, loving and generous to others?
- How can you bring peace?

At St John's we understand and value the role of parents as first educators of their children.

Following on from the success of our Parent workshop on Emotional Wellbeing, we would like to continue to offer support with a new series of workshops 'Handing on the Faith' led by Parishioner and retired teacher Mrs Margaret Dutton.

A letter will be sent out next week giving you more information about the dates and times of these sessions should you wish to attend.

### 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:** Arla and Maddison

**Class 2:** Quinn and Idris

**Class 3:** Lily May and Keira

**Class 4:** Isla and Sam



### Dates for your Diary

Thurs 16th Jan - Class 4 at Mass

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 - Whole school achievement assembly 2:30

We close for the February half term week on Thursday 13th February

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 - Fungal Innoculation 1

Thurs 20th Mar - KS1 trip to Martin Mere

Thurs 26th Mar - Mothers Day gift stall

Wed 26th Mar - Class 4 at Forest School - Fungal Innoculation 2

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