



Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 7- 24th October 2025

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Miller

Cluster Headteacher: Mr Sam Keys

Chair of Governors: Mr D Low

Telephone: 0191 373 0355

E-mail: olsju@olsju.bwcet.com

Website: ourladyandstjosephsu-



Dear Parents, carers and parishioners,

The first half term of this school year comes to an end today. 8 weeks is one of the longest half terms but time has flown by in school. We are delighted with how well the children have settled into their classes and we are all very impressed by the excitement and enthusiasm in the classrooms, corridors and out on the yards. We hope that you all manage to have some special family time over the half term break and we look forward to seeing you all return on Monday 3rd November.

Have a great week,

David, Joanne and Sam



Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus

Spotlight Success



In the middle of the room there was a large, brown wooden desk. It belonged to Peter! Just beside the desk, a stack of ancient scrolls lay covered in dust. Elizabeth Marmade a pink marble column had Elena and Rosa Polyn every day.

Super Writing

Year 5 had a brilliant writing session on Wednesday this week, where they used their incredible range of vocabulary to describe settings. Here are Penny, Kasper and Richard's descriptions.

Wednesday 22nd October 2025
 Step 1: Describe a setting using adverbial phrases accurately.
 Dictation
 Flavia decided to dispose of the artifacts secretly before the thieves could return.
 3. decided decided the thieves decided decided
 In the center of the room, a large silver table stood there isolated, while the scrolls rolled across the marble floor. In the west part of the study, the lovely shiny shelves of parchment are showing off their beautiful colours in the sunshine.
 2. their their their their
 3. Under the warm sunlight, the thick velvet curtains swayed in the cool, Greek breeze. On the table a candle stood there firmly, even when windy storms happen.
 Excellent effort and writing today!

Wednesday 22nd October 2025
 Step 1: Describe a setting describing adverbial Phrases.
 Dictation
 Flavia decided to dispose of the artifacts secretly before all the thieves could return.
 On the table in the dimly glowing study laid old scrolls bursting with mysterious secrets. Shelves of fresh parchment burn to the touch as hot streaks of sunlight hit the gleaming lamp. A marble bench polished and squeaky clean. The cat sits unflinching and sending scrolls about adventures and crime.
 In the study on a wicker bench stands proud a cold candle burning till its life has run, breathing of the emperor. The seat is with a wicker back. A fier-buck behind that lies at pebbles and scrolls of old decaying cables lie sitting away.

Friday 23rd October
 Dictation
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!

Great effort!
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!

Maths and English
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!
 Apollo worked incredibly hard gaining a Headteacher award in Maths and English on the same day!

Sporting Success

A big well done to our Y5 & Y6 mixed and girls football teams who had enjoyed participating in our football tournaments this half term. We are happy to announce the next football Tournament will be Y3 & Y4 on Thursday 13th November 2025 held here at Our Lady & St Joseph's. Trials have been held, and letters were handed out this week, as always, we welcome all support from parents and guardians.



It was also great to see Finley's pictures of sporting success too! Picking up sports day awards, top goal scorer and Player's player trophies too!



Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus

attendance ~~MATTERS~~

Procedures for appointments during school hours

If you have to take your child out of school for any reason, including a medical, dental, school visit appointment, please could you inform the school office prior to the appointment along with any supporting evidence of the appointment. This is so that we can authorise the absence where we can and your child is not marked as unauthorised in our register.

Please see below guidance from the government regarding school attendance. <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Children should aim to arrive in school by 8:55 am at the latest. **Persistent lateness causes disruption to your child's education.**

Year	Attendance this week:
Reception	90.12%
Year 1/2	95.71%
Year 3	99.09%
Year 4	95.33%
Year 5	98.64%
Year 6	90%
Lighthouse	100%
Weekly Overall Attendance: 94.89%	

Late arrivals

We understand that mornings can be hectic and that, on occasion events beyond parents' control can cause delays on the journey to school.

Class registers are taken at **9:00am** prompt as we don't want to miss any learning opportunities. **All children should be in class and sat down by 9:00am.**

Standards at Our Lady & St. Joseph's

Our expectations on attendance must remain strong and, as the parent community know, we take this part of our job very seriously indeed. We will be contacting parents/carers of those children who are persistently absent, this means any child with an attendance percentage of 90% or less. Please understand that this is a supportive measure and that we are working hard to leave no stone unturned to help your child achieve the very best possible outcomes.



Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus


FREE MONTHLY SENSORY SUPPORT


**For parents & carers of children with
sensory needs**

**Are you a parent or carer of a child with sensory
processing challenges?**

**Join our monthly drop-in sessions at
Pelton Community Centre.**

- ✓ Speak to a Children's Occupational Therapist
- ✓ Ask questions about sensory challenges
- ✓ Connect with other parents who understand
- ✓ Share ideas & support in a safe, welcoming space

 **Location:** Pelton Community Centre

 **When:** Thursday 23rd October. Then the last Thursday
of the month, 10.30am - 11.30am


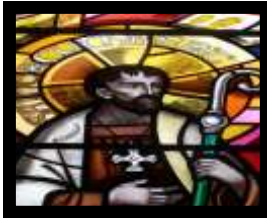


 **Cost: FREE** - funded by
The National Lottery Community Fund



Stars of the week

Sadie	Year R	For showing enthusiasm during phonics this week.
Keisha-Rose	Year 1/2	For showing great enthusiasm when sharing ideas for her diary entry!
Noah		For his wonderful effort and determination in handwriting this week!
Esmae	Year 3	For always working hard and having a positive attitude.
George W		For fantastic effort with handwriting.
Kendra	Year 4	For excellent effort and persistence in maths this week.
Lucas		For superb focus and effort all week.
	Year 5	
Henry	Year 6	For excellent explanation & problem solving during division reasoning questions.
Megan		For fantastic concentration during English, especially when editing.
Oliver	Lighthouse	For fantastic independent work in Maths.
Zane	PE	For excellent throwing and catching.

HOUSE POINTS

Captains	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
Eva Kingsley Daisy Esme				
Weekly total	123	145	122	164
Running total	992	861	819	920

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Apollo: You always bring a smile. Frideswide: For always being a kind friend. Lily-Mae: For supporting her friend in maths.
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Ruby and Miles : Being humble and helping others.
Orange	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	
Purple	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
Pink	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	Kingsley: For always being fair.
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	Jamie: For not giving up during a game. Eva: Always giving her best.

Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus

Ask your child



We're sure you all ask your children what they have learned at school every day. We're also sure that the depth of answers that you receive will also vary, with some children saying, 'nothing'. To help aid your discussions, each week in the newsletter we will include a starter question that will help your child to talk about what they what they have been learning that week in school. Try it tonight

Reception	What does the Priest say during a Baptism?
Year 1/2	What predictions do you have about Jim and the Beanstalk? What is the significance of the white garment during a Baptism?
Year 3	In what ways did ancient Egypt change?
Year 4	What is the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
Year 5	
Year 6	Where does the hymn, "Make me a channel of your peace," come from?
Lighthouse	What is an apostrophe?

Article 14: The right of freedom of thought, belief and religion

There were some people who thought they were better than everyone else. One day Jesus told them a story.* Two men went into the Temple to pray. One of them was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, and unfaithful like other people, and particularly that I am not like this sinful tax collector here. I fast twice a week and always give money to the Temple.' The tax collector stood some distance away, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven, but he bowed his head and said, 'God, have mercy on me, for I am a sinner.'" Then Jesus said, "It was the tax collector who was pleasing to God, not the Pharisee. Those who praise themselves and think they are better than others will be humbled, but if you humble yourself then you will be praised by God."



From the Gospel of Sunday 26th October Cf. Luke 18:9-14. (The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HUMBLE**.



Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus



New dates/changes in purple!

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Monday 3rd November	Pupils return after half term break	8:55am	-
w/c Monday 10th November	Anti-Bullying Week	--	No
Tuesday 11th November	Year 4: Remembrance Celebration of the Word	2:30pm	Yes
Thursday 13th November	Year 3/4 Football Tournament	4:00pm	Yes
Monday 17th November	Year 1/2 : Celebration of the Word	2:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 19th November	Parents Evenings	15:40—18:00	Yes
Thursday 20th November	Parents Evenings	15:40—18:00	Yes
Monday 24th November	Y4 Residential—Youth Village	Monday—Wednesday	No
Thursday 27th November	Pantomime	AM	No
Monday 1st December	Year 6: Advent Celebration of the Word	2:30pm	Yes
Tuesday 9th December	Whole School Mass in Church—TBC	10am	Yes
Thursday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day	No
Tuesday 16th December	EYFS and KS1 Christmas Production	2:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 17th December	EYFS & KS1 Party Day	PM	No
Wednesday 17th December	KS2 Carol Service	2:30pm	Yes
Thursday 18th December	KS2 Christmas Party Day	PM	No
Friday 19th December	Christmas Fair Events TBC	TBC	Yes
Friday 19.12.25	End of Term	15:30	-

Living, Loving and learning together with our eyes focused on Jesus

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 850 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often 'gone when they're gone'.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025



Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Holiday and Term Dates: 2025—2026



	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026
Monday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Tuesday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Wednesday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Thursday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Friday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Saturday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Sunday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25

	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026
Monday	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Tuesday	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Wednesday	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29
Thursday	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Friday	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Saturday	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Sunday	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26

AUTUMN TERM: 74 days	SPRING TERM: 58 days	SUMMER TERM: 59 days	School Holidays
TOTAL: 190 days (5 days for in-service training of teachers). Additional training to be taken as twilight sessions.			Training Days
TRAINING DAYS: Monday 1 st September 2025, Monday 5 th January 2026, Monday 20 th July 2026, Tuesday 21 st July 2026, Final Training Day TBC			Bank Holidays
<i>The school will be open to pupils for 190 days</i>			Year 6 SATs