



## Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 26 – 1st May 2026

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Dear parents, carers and parishioners,

Another action-packed week at Our Lady and St. Josephs. As always, our children have all been amazing!

David, Joanne and Steph

### Year 3/4 Football Competition

On Thursday, we were pleased to host our Year 3/4 football competition at Our Lady & St. Joseph's. Six schools took part in what was an enjoyable and competitive afternoon of football.

Our team represented the school well throughout the tournament, showing good teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Their efforts resulted in a well-earned 3rd place finish out of six teams.

We would like to thank all staff who helped run the event, as well as the parents who came along to support the children. Your encouragement made a real difference. **A special thank you also goes to our PTA for their continued backing and support of school sport.**

Congratulations to St. Cuthbert's CLS for winning the competition, and thank you to all participating schools for attending: St. Mary's Blackhill, St. Michael's Esh, St. Bede's Washington, St. Pius Xth and St. Cuthbert's (CLS).

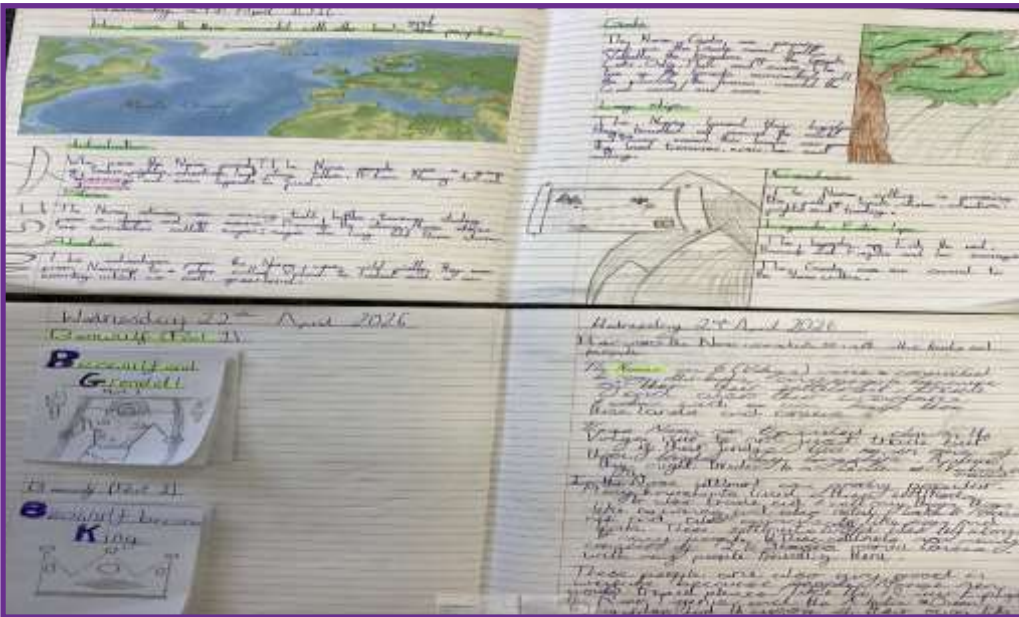
Within our team, well done to Alex, who was named our Player of the Tournament, and to George P, who received our Top Scorer award

Overall, the children should be proud of their efforts and the positive way in which they represented the school.



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**Spotlight Success**



Here are some wonderful examples of our Year 6 work this week. Beautiful composition and transcription skills. Well done to everyone in the class and a huge shout out to Lukas and Judah, your work here is exceptional!

Here is Lucy who received a goalkeeper jersey from the Sheffield Utd team. What a wonderful gift and an extra special memory. Hopefully, it'll be Lucy giving out her strip in the near future!

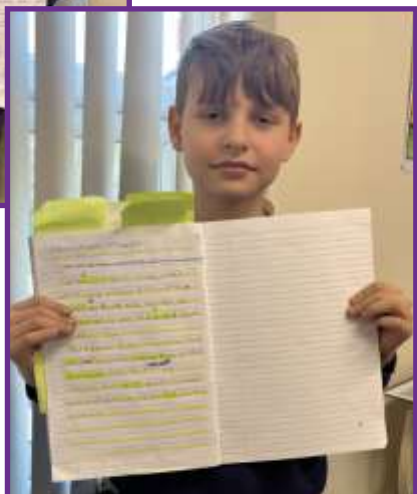


Well done, Caitlin, who passed all her dance exams for ballet, tap and theatre craft. What a superstar!!! Caitlin, we are all exceptionally proud of you!



Outstanding Geography, Afie. You are making exceptional progress.

Charlie, you are making great progress with your handwriting. STAR!



# Online Safety Tips

## Article 19: The right to be protected from all forms of harm

### Tik Tok



**You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok.**

TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security / privacy settings are applied.

### Account set up

It is important that your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode [here](#).

### Family Pairing

Family Pairing allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode or tailor your child's 'For You' feed by selecting keywords that TikTok will use to filter out posts. You can find out more [here](#).

### What do I need to be aware of?

**Inappropriate content and themes:** whilst against guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics/themes.

**Challenges:** We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be risky/dangerous. Sadly, there are reports that children have died whilst attempting online challenges. Children may not yet have developed the skills and ability to critically analyse that what they see online is not always safe for them to replicate.

**Stranger contact:** chat to your child about how people may not be who they say they are when online.

### Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "[For You](#)" feed to update the content recommended.

### Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>

<https://www.tiktok.com/safety/en/guardians-guide>



# 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	95.51%
Year 1/2	95.71%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	95.88%
Year 5	98.7%
Year 6	96.8%
Lighthouse	96.67%
<b>Weekly overall attendance: 97.15%</b>	
<b>Year to date attendance: 95.24%</b>	

## 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. However, we have noticed that the number of children arriving at school after the gates have closed at **8:55am** has increased in recent weeks.

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


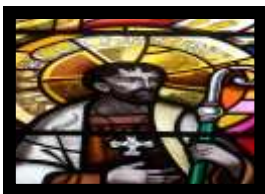


Our expectations on attendance must remain strong and, as the parent community know, we take this part of our job very seriously indeed. We will be contacting parents/carers of those children who are persistently absent, this means any child with an attendance percentage of 90% or less. Please understand 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.



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## Stars of the week

Zane S	<b>Year R</b>	For amazing letter formation. Well done!
Aiden S	<b>Year 1/2</b>	For some fantastic problem solving and reasoning skills in Maths.
Charlie S		For having a fantastic attitude towards his learning this week.
David S	<b>Year 3</b>	For your outstanding use of rich and exciting vocabulary in your work.
Lily C		For always trying your best, never giving up, and showing a great attitude.
Bella-Rose B	<b>Year 4</b>	For excellent focus and effort all week, well done!
Olivia H		For excellent use of correctly punctuated speech in English this week.
Bridgette T	<b>Year 5</b>	For a wonderful start in Year 5!
Phoebe D		For excellent work and progress in French. <i>bien joué</i>
Charlie S	<b>Year 6</b>	For clear handwriting and presentation in his History work.
Xander J		For super application to all areas of work in class.
Lucy C	<b>Lighthouse</b>	For outstanding work in phonics, this week!

HOUSE POINTS				
Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May				
20th March				
17th November				
31st August				
<b>Weekly total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Running total</b>	<b>3911</b>	<b>3327</b>	<b>3300</b>	<b>3839</b>

<u>Rainbow Rewards</u>		
<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	<b>Alfie and Gomez:</b> For always being thoughtful and being a good friend to others.
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
<b>Blue</b>	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high.	

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### 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	Can you tell me two different ways to make 6?
Year 1/2	How did our nomadic ancestors hunt and gather food?
Year 3	What happens when a volcano erupts?
Year 4	What can you remember about the rock-hewn church in Ethiopia?
Year 5	What happened when the warriors returned to Jorvik?
Year 6	What can we learn about history from reading and listening to the Norse sagas?
Lighthouse	What food do we need to eat?

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

#### The Gospel in Church - Sunday 3rd May 2026



*On the night before he died, Jesus spoke to his friends, the disciples. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," he said. "Trust in God and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going now to prepare a place for you. I will come again and take you with me so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Then Thomas, a disciple, said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself; they will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father."*

**Adapted from John 14:1-12**

#### CAFOD

Children raised **£125** for Big Lenten Walk!

This was raised from non-uniform day and raffle led by Year 6 as part of their Faith in Action Award.

This enabled Our Lady & St. Joseph's to pay to set up and care for one floating garden, to pay and train a floating garden farmer and to pay and train a farmer to care for seedlings in Bangladesh.

Well, done all! **Catholic Social Teaching Principles being lived out.**



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# SUMMER Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday	All Day	No
w/b 11th May	KS2 SATs Week	All week	No
Thursday 14th May	Year 5 Mass (St. Joseph's Church)	9.30am	Yes
Monday 18th May	World Day for Cultural Diversity	All Day	No
Tuesday 19th May	Show Racism the Red Card Y5/6	AM	No
Wednesday 19th May	Year 4 Mass (St. Joseph's Church)	10:30am	Yes
Tuesday 19th May	New Reception Parent Welcome Meeting	4:00pm	Yes
Wednesday 20th May	Year 1/2 and Year 3 Visit to Centre of Life	All day	No
Wednesday 20th May	Parental Meeting - Y5 Visit to London	3:30pm	Yes
Friday 22nd May	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Toys and Books)</b>	All day	No
Friday 22nd May	<b>Break up for half-term holiday</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	—
Monday 1st June	<b>Return to school for Summer Term 2</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	—
w/b Monday 1st June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	—	No
Wednesday 3rd June	Year Mass 1/2 (St. Joseph's Church)	10:30am	Yes
Thursday 4th & 11th June	Year 3 Road Safety	PM	No
Friday 5th June	Ushaw Pilgrimage Day	All Day	No
w/b 8th June	Phonics Screening Check	All day	No
Friday 12th June	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Chocolates)</b>	All day	No
Thursday 4th June	New to Reception - Stay and Play	1:30pm	Yes
Thursday 11th June	New to Reception - Stay and Play	1:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 17th June	Year 6 Transition Event STMB	All day	No
Thursday 18th June	Fathers Day / Someone Special Breakfast	8:30am - 9:00am	Yes
Friday 19th June	Year 5 Visit to London (Parliament)	All day	No
Monday 22nd June	School Photograph Day	All day	—
Tuesday 23rd June	'New to Year 1' - Transition Meeting	3:35pm	Yes
Wednesday 24th June	Sports Day	PM	Yes
Thursday 25th June	Year 6 Youth Ministry Festival	All day	No
Friday 26th June	<b>Non-Uniform Day (Bottles)</b>	All day	No
w/b 29th June	Art Week	All Week	No
Wednesday 1st July	Year 3 Mass (St. Joseph's Church)	10:30am	Yes
Friday 3rd July	St. Leonard's and Durham Academy Year 6 (Transition Day)	All Day	No
Friday 3rd July	Transition Day in School	All Day	No
6th—8th July	Year 6 Robinwood Residential	3 Days	No
Wednesday 8th July	Reception Graduation Mass (In school)	10:30am	Yes
Monday 13th July	Year 6 Leavers Production	2:00pm	Yes
Monday 13th July	Annual Reports sent out to parents	3:30pm	—
Tuesday 14th July	Summer Fayre	1:30pm	Yes
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass (St. Joseph's Church)	10:30pm	Yes
Thursday 16th July	<b>END of TERM</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	—

Friday 17th July has been allocated as the school's final teacher training day. The school will be closed to all pupils.

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

### DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app, it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

### TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

### LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.