



Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 28 – 15th May 2026

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Dear parents, carers and parishioners,

What a fantastic week it's been at school! A special shoutout to Year 6, who truly stole the show. Their dedication and hard work throughout the year have really shone through—well done to all of them!

Best wishes,

David, Joanne and Steph

Year 6



We are so proud of each and every one of you! You have shown determination and resilience! You have supported each other and laughed together. It has been brilliant to see you look after each other! Well done. You are ALL amazing!

Spotlight Success



Well done, Ella, who has recently achieved a **Merit** in her theatre craft dance exam with the Joanne Banks Dancers. Ella, we are all exceptionally proud of your talent and determination to succeed. Well done!

Well done, Noah, who could very well be a future boxing champion. Despite only starting boxing 3 weeks ago, he has recently won rookie of the week for his amazing skills. Noah, we are all exceptionally proud of you! You clearly have the eye of the tiger!



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Allergy Reminder

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive and understanding about the letter we sent out this week regarding nuts and strawberries. If you missed the email, please see below for the content.



Some of our children and staff have severe allergies to nuts and strawberries. In certain cases, anaphylaxis (a serious and potentially life threatening allergic reaction) can occur not only through eating these foods, but also through inhalation or skin contact with them or related food products.



With immediate effect, we are therefore requesting that no nuts, nut products, strawberries, or strawberry containing foods are brought onto the school site. This includes items sent in for packed lunches, snacks, or birthday and special occasion treats.

In addition, if your child has consumed nuts or strawberries before coming to school, we kindly ask that they wash their hands thoroughly.

We appreciate that these measures may seem strict; however, the allergies we are managing are severe enough that even minimal contact could result in a serious medical emergency. Our priority must be to ensure that all pupils and staff are able to attend school safely.

Due to the severity of the risk, any prohibited items found in school after this letter has been issued will be confiscated, and parents or carers will be contacted immediately.

Thank you in advance for your understanding, support, and cooperation in helping us provide a safe environment for every child in our care. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Non-uniform Day



Just a reminder that **Friday 22nd May is a non-uniform day**. This day is to support the school in organising our Summer Fayre. Can we please request that any spare and unwanted toys / games / DVDs etc are brought into school in exchange for this non-uniform day. Please know that your support here is greatly appreciated.

Gentle reminders for next week

Tuesday 19th: New to reception parents meeting, **4:00pm**

Wednesday 20th: Year 5 London trip parental information session, **3:30pm**

Wednesday 20th: Centre for Life trip, Year 1, 2, 3 and Lighthouse. We are already looking forward to posting pictures of this exciting trip.

Wednesday 20th: St. Leonards will be coming into school to work with Year 6 as part of the transition package to support pupils moving from Year 6 into Year 7.



WELLDONE!



Extreme sarnie making! These look delicious



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WELLDONE!



**Task Master under way in Year 6.
Teams building the tallest tower with spaghetti and marshmallows.
Points were available for the best designs!**

#buddingarchitects



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Online Safety Tips

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

Roblox Update

What is Roblox?



Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. **As a lot of the content is user generated, not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, **it is important to monitor what your child is accessing** as well as set up appropriate parental controls. PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance recommended label, this is because it is a platform of individual, user generated games.

New Age-Based Accounts

From next month, Roblox will introduce two new age-based accounts: Roblox Kids for users ages 5 to 8 and Roblox Select for users ages 9 to 15. Roblox Kids Accounts (ages 5–8) will be limited to games with a ‘Minimal or Mild’ content maturity label and all communication is disabled by default. Roblox Select accounts (ages 9 to 15) will be limited to games with content maturity labels up to and including ‘Moderate’. By default, Experience Chat is ON and Direct Experience Chat is OFF. The differences in chat are outlined here: <https://about.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

Parental Controls

As part of parental controls, you can manage content ratings, communication, screen-time, and spending limits as well as see which games your child is playing on and who their friends are. Roblox are extending these controls to allow you to:

- Block specific individual games (to age 15).
- Manage direct chat settings (to age 15).

Approve access to specific games.

It is important to regularly monitor what your child is playing on Roblox and who they are interacting with, even if you have parental controls set up. You can find out more about the new accounts and parental controls here:

<https://about.roblox.com/newsroom/2026/04/introducing-roblox-kids-and-select-accounts>

Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-releases-updated-parental-controls-and-age-appropriate-experiences/>

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	100%
Year 1/2	90%
Year 3	100%
Year 4	97.65%
Year 5	97.39%
Year 6	100%
Lighthouse	100%
Weekly overall attendance: 97.65%	
Year to date attendance: 95.2%	

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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Awesome Attendance



Following a recent suggestion from a parent, we will now be sharing attendance winners each week in the newsletter. Each week there will be a photograph celebrating children who have achieved 100% attendance. All children will be awarded a certificate to bring home.

At the end of each half-term we will also be celebrating children who have 100% attendance and also children who have shown improved attendance.


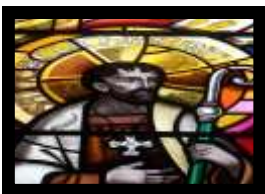


All children have a chance to win a certificate. We want to recognise and celebrate the dedication and effort that all children and families are making to improve school attendance. **Thank you for your continued support**



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Stars of the week

Finley H	Year R	For amazing number bonds to 10. A great week!
Grayson P	Year 1/2	For fantastic imaginative writing in English this week!
Mia H		For fantastic independent work in Maths this week!
George P	Year 3	For working hard to make your writing clear and exciting.
Rohan O		For fantastic effort and showing great progress in writing sentences.
Olivia H	Year 4	For fantastic listening and super attitude to learning all week.
Ethan L		For excellent focus on editing and improving your descriptive writing.
Maisie C	Year 5	For wonderful work on understanding the Holy Spirit in RE.
Ella F		For wonderful progress in maths with coordinates.
Everyone - the whole class!	Year 6	For fantastic effort, super resilience and determination during their SAT's.
Oliver B	Lighthouse	For being a shining star and setting a wonderful example!

HOUSE POINTS				
Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May				
20th March				
17th November				
31st August				
Weekly total	315	226	234	244
Running total	4377	3728	3701	4251

<u>Rainbow Rewards</u>		
Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Esme G & Abbie M: For always being thoughtful and being good friend to others.
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Gracie M: For always being a kind and caring friend to others.
Yellow	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	
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)	
Blue	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high.	Caitlin B: For not giving up when things were tough. Adam S: For showing great determination with his handwriting.

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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	If you have 10 cubes and I take a part of 5, how many is in your part?
Year 1/2	How did our ancestors build their homes in Skara Brae?
Year 3	How are volcanoes dangerous?
Year 4	How can tourism impact the environment?
Year 5	How is the Amazon Rainforest changing?
Year 6	What does it mean to put your faith before everything else?
Lighthouse	How was the Persian Empire ruled?

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

The Gospel in Church - Sunday 15th May 2026



Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. I have made your name known to those you gave me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted it. They know that I came from you and believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; for those you have given me, because they belong to you.

Adapted from John 17:1-11

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why?



"If Jesus calls us to be friends, let us not leave this call unheeded. Let us welcome it, let us take care of this relationship."

Pope Leo XIV

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SUMMER Diary Dates

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
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	Non-Uniform Day (Toys and Books)	All day	No
Friday 22nd May	Break up for half-term holiday	3:30pm	—
Monday 1st June	Return to school for Summer Term 2	8:45am	—
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	Non-Uniform Day (Chocolates)	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	Non-Uniform Day (Bottles)	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	END of TERM	3:30pm	—

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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Looking After Your **WELLBEING ONLINE**

We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.



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