



Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 29 – 5th June 2026

Cluster Executive Headteacher: Mr D Miller

Acting Head of School: Mrs J Readshaw

Chair of Governors: Mr D Low

Telephone: 0191 373 0355

E-mail: olsju@olsju.bwcet.com

Website: ourladyandstjosephsushawmoor.bwcet.com

Dear parents, carers and parishioners,



This week, we were delighted to welcome two diocesan inspectors into school for our denominational inspection. While the final report remains confidential for now, we will be sure to share the outcome with you as soon as it is officially released. In the meantime, we are pleased to say that we are very happy with how the inspection went and with the result.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey. It was incredibly reassuring to hear that so many of you recognise and feel the rapid improvements taking place within our school. A special thank you also goes to the parents who generously gave their time to speak with the inspectors during their visit - **your support made a real difference.**

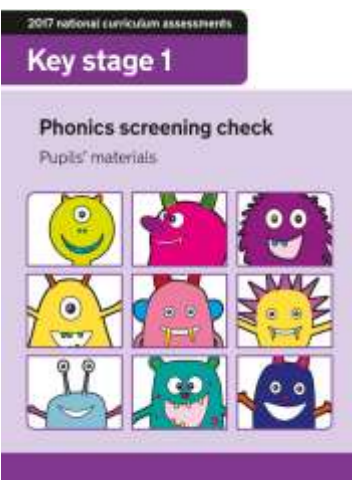
We are proud to be part of such a wonderful school community, truly blessed with amazing children and supportive families. Thank you for your continued encouragement and partnership.

This inspection has reaffirmed what we strive for every day: that we are truly *living, loving, and learning together, with our eyes firmly focused on Jesus.*

Best wishes,

David, Joanne and Steph

Phonics Screening Check



Just a reminder about the upcoming Phonics Screening Check that all Year 1 pupils across the country will be taking part in during next week.

The Phonics Screening Check is a short, statutory assessment designed to confirm whether your child has learned to decode words using phonics to an appropriate standard. It involves your child reading a selection of 40 words and non-words (also known as alien words) to a familiar adult in school.

The check is carefully designed to be age-appropriate and is conducted in a relaxed and supportive environment. Most children find it enjoyable and are proud to show off their reading skills. We have been working hard in school to prepare the children, and we encourage you to continue supporting your child

at home by reading regularly and practising phonics sounds.

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

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 12th June is a non-uniform day**. This day is to support the school in organising our Summer Fayre. Can we please request that any spare chocolates are brought into school in exchange for this non-uniform day. Please know that your support here is greatly appreciated.

Year 6 Residential Fundraising Success

We are delighted to share the impact of the fantastic fundraising efforts and generosity of our whole school community. Thanks to the support of families, staff and pupils, an incredible **£1,907** was raised towards the Year 6 residential visit. This means that the cost of the trip has been reduced by £95.35 per pupil, bringing the final cost down from **£299** to **£203.65**.

This is a wonderful example of our school community coming together to support our children and help make memorable experiences more accessible for all. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed, attended events, donated prizes, volunteered their time or supported our fundraising in any way. Thank you for helping to make this special opportunity even more affordable for our Year 6 pupils. **Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.**

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

YOUTH PILGRIMAGE



Parish Schools' Pilgrimage to Ushaw

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils recently joined children from St Michael's School for a special Parish Schools' Pilgrimage to Ushaw, walking in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.

The children spent the day reflecting on St Francis' message of caring for God's creation, living simply and being peacemakers. They enjoyed shared activities, time together outdoors and the opportunity to strengthen friendships within our parish community.

A highlight of the day was celebrating Mass in St Cuthbert's Chapel, where our pupils confidently took part in readings, prayers and the offertory procession.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils, who represented Our Lady & St Joseph's with reverence, respect and enthusiasm, truly living out our mission of living, loving and learning with our eyes focused on Jesus.



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

Online Safety Tips

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

Online Scams



It is important to be aware that scammers can target your child whilst online through social media, messaging apps and games. These scams often look genuine, and children may not have the digital literacy skills to question their authenticity. This can happen across lots of platforms that your child is accessing, for example Roblox or TikTok. Scams can include:

- Offering in game currency.
- Befriending your child, which can then lead to requests for money or account details/personal information.
- Phishing links, with the intention of sharing malware or requesting account details/personal information.

What can I do?

It is important to have regular conversations with your child about what they are doing online and remind them to:

- Never share passwords or verification codes.
- Speak to you or another trusted adult if they are unsure about anything.
- Ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are in place.
- Talk to your child about the different scams that can appear online and remind your child to check links before clicking on them.

Remind your child that if they do think that they have been scammed, then to tell you straightaway.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/how-deal-online-scams-parent-guide>

Digital Footprints



When we go online, we create a digital footprint, which is a record of what we do online. This can be by visiting websites, sharing photos, liking or commenting on other people's posts or playing games. It is important that children are aware of the digital footprint that they are creating and the lasting effect it can have. Childline provides further information about digital footprints, including advice on how to protect our privacy online:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint/>

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	98.88%
Year 1/2	100%
Year 3	92.73%
Year 4	92.94%
Year 5	96.52%
Year 6	94%
Lighthouse	96.55%
Weekly overall attendance: 95.58%	
Year to date attendance: 95.1%	

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


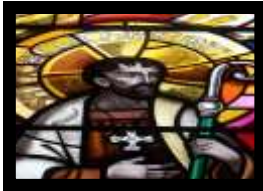


Our expectations on attendance must remain strong and, as the parent community know, we take this part of our job very seriously indeed. We will be contacting parents/carers of those children who are persistently absent, this means any child with an attendance percentage of 90% or less. Please understand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



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

Stars of the week

Oliver L	Year R	For super sitting and listening on the carpet. You have set a wonderful example to your friends - well done!
Noah W Ivy S	Year 1/2	For working hard this week with his handwriting and presentation! For fantastic independent work on Fractions this week!
Alex TD Rohan O	Year 3	For writing a fantastic descriptive story. Well done. For amazing effort with his handwriting this week. Well done
Apollo O Emmie B	Year 4	For fantastic focus and effort in RE this week. Superstar! For excellent effort and perseverance in your maths this week.
Lucy C Imogen	Year 5	For wonderful progress in English learning the Jabberwock poem. For wonderful progress in Maths with decimals.
Everyone - the whole class!	Year 6	For fantastic contributions on our pilgrimage to Ushaw College.
Oliver B	Lighthouse	For fantastic work with fractions. A Maths superstar!

HOUSE POINTS				
Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May				
20th March				
17th November				
31st August				
Weekly total	327	438	450	290
Running total	4704	4166	4151	4541

<u>Rainbow Rewards</u>		
Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Megan C & Abbie M: For always being thoughtful and kind when playing with the younger children. Lilly Mae G: For being a kind and helpful friend in the classroom.
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	
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.	Jessica W: For showing great determination with her handwriting.

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	Using two parts, what different ways can we make 5?
Year 1/2	Why do we think that Stonehenge was built?
Year 3	What might Plato and Aristotle talk about if they are philosophers?
Year 4	What are tremors and aftershocks?
Year 5	What is the scientific method?
Year 6	What is metafiction?
Lighthouse	What is Arable farming?

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

The Gospel in Church - Sunday 7th June 2026



Jesus said, "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Those who eat this bread will live forever. Now the bread which I will give is my flesh, and I will give my flesh for the life of the world. Those who eat the bread which is my flesh have eternal life now, and I will raise them up on the last day. My flesh is true food; my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I live in them. So my flesh is the bread which comes down from heaven. It is not like the bread which our ancestors once ate in the desert – they died, but those who eat this bread will live forever."

John 6:51-58

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?

"Prayer nourishes the friendship of the soul with God." St Teresa of Ávila

Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is NOURISH.



"Jesus is the Bread of Life for our families. Let us be united to Jesus, nourished by daily prayer, by listening to the Word of God"

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

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

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 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
Friday 10th July	Year 6 Leavers Mass (St. Joseph's Church)	10:30pm	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
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.

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

ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

