



Our Lady & St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 30 – 12th June 2026

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Dear parents, carers and parishioners,

This week, our Year 1 and Year 4 pupils have been doing an amazing job taking part in their Phonics and Multiplication Tables Check (MTC). It's been a wonderful opportunity for them to show just how much they've learned over the year—and they really have learned so much!

We're incredibly proud of every single child. They've approached the checks with such positivity and determination, and each one has truly given their very best. It's been lovely to celebrate the progress they've made.

As always, it's an absolute joy and privilege to work with such enthusiastic, hardworking, and happy children every day. Thank you for your continued support at home. It really does make a difference!

Best wishes,

David, Joanne and Steph

Reading Rewards



We are pleased to announce that our new 'Reading awards' have launched. Look at how happy the children are who have been chosen this week and have received a book to take home from the book nook. We hope that the children enjoy reading for pleasure at home.

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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.

Spotlight Success



Here is George, who is one of our swimming superstars!

Not only is George one of the nicest and most polite people you could hope to meet, he is also a gifted athlete.

George has been working hard outside of school to perfect his swimming technique, and we are very pleased to share with you all that he has recently passed his Stage 6 swimming assessment.

George, we are all exceptionally proud of you. Well done!

Please keep sending in your photos and success stories so we can celebrate together as a school family. Thank you for your continued support.

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Year 3 recently took part in Child Pedestrian Training, where they learned valuable road safety skills before heading out into the local community to put their learning into practice. The children explored how to stay safe near roads, use the Green Cross Code, identify potential hazards and make sensible decisions as pedestrians. They listened carefully, asked thoughtful questions and represented the school brilliantly throughout the visit. It was wonderful to see the children growing in confidence as they developed important life skills that will help them make safe and responsible choices when out and about in their community.



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Online Safety Tips

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

Reading for Pleasure

With reading for pleasure in decline, our back page poster this week offers ten thoughtful ways to reignite children's enthusiasm for books. From valuing all forms of reading to broadening access to diverse materials, it explores how adults can nurture positive reading habits both at home and in school. Digital tools, audiobooks and augmented reality are also considered as engaging ways to support today's readers.

It also highlights the power of social connection – recommending books, reading together and meeting authors – alongside the importance of modelling reading ourselves. With expert insight from literacy specialist Carl Pattison, this edition provides supportive, achievable ideas to help young people reconnect with reading and see it as a meaningful part of everyday life.

Storybooks and games from the BookTrust



BookTrust have a whole host of story books and games on their website. They have storybooks to read, story time videos to watch and kid's games to play.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games/>

Emoji meanings



Did you know that some children and young people maybe using emojis to mean something completely different? For example, a cap emoji may be used to represent a lie. It is important that you are aware of how emojis can be used and keep up to date with the way in which they can be used as their meanings are changeable. You can find out further information [here](#).

Omoggle



Omoggle is an online platform that is for adults only. However, you can simply lie and say you are over 18 to access it. The platform joins two strangers together and uses AI to rate their appearances in a "mog battle." As you are paired up with a stranger and can see and hear them, there are serious safeguarding concerns and young people should not be accessing this site. Find out more [here](#).



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	94.29%
Year 3	94.55%
Year 4	86.47%
Year 5	98.26%
Year 6	96.4%
Lighthouse	100%
Weekly overall attendance: 95.1%	
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.


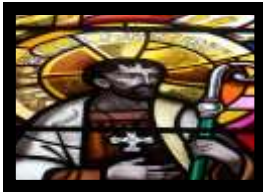




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Stars of the week

Elizabeth H	Year R	For amazing handwriting this week—super letter formation. Well done!
Gabo	Year 1/2	For excellent work in Maths! What a superstar!
Lily–Mae		For writing fantastic exclamation sentences!. Well done!
Lily	Year 3	For fantastic resilience and challenging herself. Brilliant!
Stephen		For brilliant problem solving in Maths. Marvelous job!
Ethan	Year 4	For fantastic enthusiasm in all lessons. What a star!
Lucas		For some fantastic writing. Great job!
Lucy L	Year 5	For wonderful work in Maths with multiplying and dividing. Well done!
Bridgette		For excellent work in English with writing a refrain. Great job!
Lukas	Year 6	For an excellent contribution to our class discussion about what metafiction is. What a star!
Jamie		For super writing and adapting text into metafiction. Well done!
Ashton	Lighthouse	For showing great focus and independence in Maths.

HOUSE POINTS

Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
25th May				
20th March				
17th November				
31st August				
Weekly total	327	337	396	387
Running total	5031	4503	4545	4928

Rainbow Rewards

Red	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Poppy –For always being kind and caring to everyone. Grayson —For being a kind and caring friend at playtime. Annie —for being kind and helping others.
Green	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Apollo - For helping to keep our school tidy.
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.	Aiden —For showing great determination with his handwriting. Lucy C —For playing fairly.

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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 how to plant a seed and make it grow?
Year 1/2	What can we do to look after our World?
Year 3	Which continents and oceans surround Europe?
Year 4	What are tectonic plates?
Year 5	What is it like to farm in the Amazon?
Year 6	What made Athelstan so powerful?
Lighthouse	In what ways were Athens and Sparta similar?

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

The Gospel in Church - Sunday 14th June 2026



When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his twelve disciples, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest." He then gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the, son of Zeb-edee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: "Go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge."

Adapted from Matthew 9:36-10:8

"Where Christ is, there is the kingdom of God." "Where Christ is, there is the kingdom of God." St Am-brose Pope Francis

(Pope from 2013-2025)

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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 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.

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polyling and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

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