

Newsletter 5th September 2025

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly: trusting in God

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week – full of smiles, energy, and ready to learn! The atmosphere around school has been fantastic, and we are already settling into our routines beautifully. I hope you all had a wonderful Summer with your loved ones.

We began the week with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, where we reflected on the Gospel message of Jesus' invitation to love generously and without expecting anything in return.

We read from Luke 14:13:

"But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you."

This powerful passage reminds us of the importance of giving with open hearts and without seeking reward. Our celebration encouraged the children to encounter Jesus' generous love at the start of this new school year, and to share that love with others in their daily lives.

The children's understanding and thoughtful responses were truly inspiring, and they've set the tone for what promises to be a fantastic year ahead, as we live out our mission statement daily:

"Work hard, love tenderly, walk humbly, trusting in God" and living out the St Joseph's Way in all that we do.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as building work continues on site. We're doing our best to minimise disruption, and your support makes a huge difference.

We will continue to keep you informed via Arbor, Facebook, and our school newsletters. If you ever have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to come and see me – my door is always open.

Attendance has been excellent this week – we've already exceeded our target with over 97% of children in school and on time. A huge well done and thank you – let's keep it up!

Please see below what your children have been getting up to in their first week back! Finally, a reminder that Mass continues this Sunday at 11am. For children wishing to make their First Holy Communion, please continue to check the parish newsletter for updates and reminders.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,

Mrs Urwin

Headteacher

Birthday invitations: We kindly ask that these are handed out outside of school. However, children are very welcome to bring in sweets to share with their class on their special day.

Clubs: Clubs will restart next week. Please book your child's place on Arbor.

Reminders

School Meals If your child is in Nursery or KS2 and having a school meal these must be paid for at the beginning of each week. You can also pay weekly, monthly or termly. If your child wishes to change from school meals to packed lunch or vice versa then we require 2 weeks' notice - please contact the school office to make any changes

Breakfast club and/or After School Wrap Around Care A reminder that if you child attends Breakfast Club and/or Wraparound Care, **the place must be booked, via ARBOR at least 24 hours in advance, and paid for before your child attends.** You can top up your account daily, weekly, monthly etc however you must ensure that your child is booked into the relevant sessions.

The number of children attending these clubs is increasing and we must ensure, for staffing ratios, ordering of provisions, and to comply with health and safety guidelines (including insurance purposes), that we do not exceed our numbers. We do not want to find ourselves in a position where we have to refuse entry to a child as a booking has not been made. If your child has not been booked onto the club staff will ask you to make and pay for the booking before access is granted. If for any reason the account is in arrears then access will be denied until the account is brought up to date.

If you pay by Childcare Vouchers, please pay a term in advance, you will then be able to book your child in as attending and the funds will be drawn down once they have attended. Please advise us when you have made a payment by emailing (stjs@stjs.bwcet.com) the amount paid & the reference number. Once this has been confirmed by the Trust as being in our bank account (please note that this may take a while to show in the Trust Bank account), we will make the necessary adjustments on ARBOR.



As you know, attendance is hugely important, and we report attendance on a weekly/ monthly/ termly basis. We monitor attendance/lateness very closely in school and will raise any concerns with parents/carers on an individual basis. If you have any concerns with regards to your child's attendance/lateness, please contact us as soon as possible so we can work together to resolve any issues.

This week's attendance is 97.85%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 100%

Reception: 95.83%

Year 1: 95%

Year 2: 96.25%

Year 3: 99.11%

Year 4: 100%

Year 5: 100%

Year 6: 98.21%

Head Teachers Award

The following children have received a Head Teachers Award this week:

Nursery: Maeve for settling in so well to St Joseph's and following the St Joseph's Way

Year 2: Joey for settling in so well into Year 2 and following the St Joseph's Way

Year 2: Emily for being a fantastic role-model and a wonderful friend to others

Year 5: for showing a really positive attitude to school

Star of the Week

The following children have received a Star of the Week certificate this week:

Nursery: All of Nursery for having such a wonderful first week in school and settling into our routines so well! Well done, Nursery!

Reception: Marco for always being ready to learn and being a wonderful role model

Year 1: Lakelon for settling into Year 1 so well!

Year 2: Ruby for her excellent work in RE

Year 3: Reid for excellent attitude towards work and behaviour. A great start to Y3

Year 4: Harvey for excellent contributions to lessons this week

Year 5: Bradley for a very positive start to Year 5

Year 6: Sophie for her excellent contributions in class discussions this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Jensen, Alfie S, Kaliah, Savannah, AJ, Charlotte, Molly, Zander

Mission Statement: Maeve, Cora, Jak, Emily, Jayden, Elena, Thomas, Matthew

British Values: Rudy, Ewan, Ruby, Cobey, Emie, Wealth, Tega, Emie

Writer of the week: Charlotte, Freya, Ollie, Isabella, Harriet, Ella C

Please see below what our children have been getting up to this week in school

The boys and girls in **Nursery and Reception** have settled in so well this week! We have been busy sharing stories, singing songs, exploring our new environment and meeting lots of new friends! The EYFS staff are all so impressed with how well they have settled and can't wait to see what the year ahead has in store!







Year 1 have had an amazing first week back. We have enjoyed reading *The Frog Prince* in English and have role played parts of the story brilliantly. We have been grouping objects in maths and have impressed with all the different ways of sorting objects into groups. We have settled into lots of new routines and changes in our classroom. Well done Year 1, keep up this hard work !





Year 2 have settled in brilliantly this week! In RE, they discussed new beginnings and explored the Creation Story from the Book of Genesis. They were also introduced to their exciting new history topic, The Great Fire of London. In geography, they used Google Earth to locate Keswick as part of their new unit. The children revised punctuation in English and worked on number facts in maths. It's been a very busy week, but Year 2 have been absolute superstars – well done!





Year 3 have made an excellent start to the school year! The children have settled into their new class and are adjusting well to the rules and expectations in Year 3. We have already been impressed with their addition and subtraction skills in maths, as well as their neat handwriting and enthusiasm for reading. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing the children grow in confidence, build new skills and enjoy all the exciting learning opportunities to come.



What a fantastic first week in **Year 4**! The children have settled back into school really well and have been working hard throughout the week. In Maths we have focused on times tables, recapping on some of the facts we have already learned. In English we have looked

at sentence structure and punctuation. In RE we began our new topic on family, we looked at family trees and how they can help us learn about our ancestors. In History we started our new topic on the Roman republic and we looked at the legend of Romulus and Remus.



What great start we have made to our new academic year. The children have been superb - polite, kind and ready to learn new things. I have been most impressed with the way they work as a class family so I know they will really embrace November's YMT residential. They have worked hard all week revising place value, grammar and punctuation, Spanish vocabulary and prepared for our art project next week (perhaps they can try some conversation with our visiting Spanish artist, Eduardo!) They have impressed me with the amount of reading they have completed already. It is going to be a really positive year. Well done, **Year 5!**



Year 6 have had a great first week back. They have set fantastic examples to the other children in school in both behaviour and their attitude to their work. In English, they have started their new class book 'The Girl who Stole an Elephant' and have been exploring the first few chapters. In Geography, they have looked at the state of California and studied how

they manage the lack of rainfall. They are looking forward to all the roles and responsibilities which Year 6 has to offer!