

Newsletter 6th March 2026

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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

Dear parents, grandparents and parishioners,

What a wonderful week it has been at school!

The sunshine has finally appeared, Spring is in the air, and the children have returned brimming with energy and enthusiasm. It has been wonderful to see their smiles, their curiosity, and the way they have embraced every moment of the week.

We began the week together with a whole-school Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the Gospel story of The Transfiguration. We discussed about how Jesus took Peter, James and John up the mountain, where His appearance changed—His face shone like the sun and His clothes became dazzling white. This moment revealed His true glory and reminded the disciples (and us) that Jesus is both human and divine. It was a powerful reminder that God is with us in all things, guiding us and transforming our hearts during Lent.

The children continue their Lenten journey with real sincerity and commitment. Many have chosen to abstain from things they enjoy—such as YouTube, screen time, or chocolate.

Others have chosen to give more, donating books, toys, and other belongings to charity. We are incredibly proud of their maturity, kindness, and willingness to put others first. They truly are living out our Gospel values.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Ray from CAFOD, who spoke to the children about this year's Big Lent Walk and the vital projects their fundraising will support. He explained how our contributions can help communities in Bangladesh, where families are growing crops on *floating gardens*. These gardens rest on layers of water hyacinth and bamboo, allowing crops to grow even when land is flooded. This ingenious method helps families survive the devastating impacts of climate change, ensuring they can grow food all year round. Ray's visit helped the children understand the real difference they can make in the lives of others around the world. We can't wait for our BIG LENTEN WALK in the coming weeks.

Thursday brought one of the most exciting days of the school year—World Book Day! Our corridors were filled with colourful characters, creative costumes and an incredible buzz for reading. From story swaps and book-themed activities to the joy of simply sharing favourite stories, the day reminded us all how powerful reading can be in sparking imagination and bringing people together.

Thank you for your continued support with reading at home and across school. It truly makes such a difference to your child's learning and love of books.

Mass continues Sunday at 11am and some of our children will be reading. We thank them and their families for continuing to put their faith into action.

Change of Mass Time: Feast Day Mass on 19th March is now at the earlier time of 9 30am.

Reminders

Mother's Day Craft Activity Session – Friday 13th March 2026

The Friends of St Joseph's would like to invite mams, grandma, nana or a special aunty/person to a Mother's Day Craft activity session in school to celebrate **Mothering Sunday**. Due to the size of the hall and the number of tables, we must restrict this invite to **one adult per family**.

The sessions will consist of a craft activity with your child and refreshments will be provided (tea/coffee/juice/biscuit)

If you have a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 you are invited to attend on Friday 13th March from 9.30 am – 10.30 am.

If you have a child in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 you are invited to attend on Friday 13th March from 1:30 pm – 2.30 pm.

If you have siblings in both Key Stages, please book either the morning or afternoon only.

The cost of the activity including refreshments is £4.00 and must be booked and paid for via the School Shop in ARBOR by Tuesday 10th March at 12 noon.

If you have any special dietary requirements, can you please let us know by emailing stjs@stjs.bwcet.com

We will also be holding a raffle on the day and would be grateful for any donation of raffle prizes.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Mother's Day Celebration.



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 96.77%. Our target is 97%

Nursery: 94.81%

Reception: 97.27%

Year 1: 100%

Year 2: 97.33%

Year 3: 98.28%

Year 4: 97.27%

Year 5: 95.77%

Year 6: 93.57%

Well done to Year 1 who won this week's attendance award!

Head Teachers Award

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

Nursery: Tillie for being so kind and caring

Reception: Ewan for excellent behaviour around school

Year 1: Beau for always following the St Joseph's Way

Year 2: Joey for being so kind and polite around school

Year 4: Freddie R for excellent Spanish this week

Star of the Week

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

Nursery: Effie for developing her confidence and sharing lovely ideas during circle time

Reception: Cora for always being ready to learn and being an excellent role model

Year 1: Alice for her hard work across all subjects everyday! Keep it up!

Year 2: Seb for his excellent participation in class

Year 3: Harriet for an excellent attitude to work and for completing tasks to the best of her ability

Year 4: Isabella for always having such a positive and enthusiastic attitude to all aspects of school life

Year 5: Emily R for an excellent attitude in maths this week

Year 6: Ella C for some great work on percentages in maths lessons this week

Awards of the week

Captain's Table: Tillie, Ewan, Max, Emily, Emie, Clementine, Aidan, Jacob

Mission Statement: Lewi, Oslo, Charlotte, Daisy, Frank, India, Esme, Sophie

British Values: Isabella, Faith, Armina, Sienna, Mila, Harvey, Kamran, Ella B

Writer of the week: Joshua, Ruby, Edith, Emelia, Ella, Dominic, Emmanuel

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

The children in **EYFS** have loved taking part in World Book Day activities this week, including listening to the author Tom Percival read one of his books as part of our Bishop Wilkinson Trust World Book Day. We also enjoyed sharing our favourite stories with our Year 6 buddies who came and read some lovely books to us!





We've had another fantastic and busy week in **Year 1**, filled with exciting learning and lots of creativity! Here's a look at what we've been up to across the curriculum: This week we celebrated World Book Day, and what a joyful, book-filled day it was! The children looked wonderful in their costumes and enjoyed sharing their favourite stories with friends. We spent time exploring different books, talking about why we love them, and taking part in special reading activities. Thank you for helping make the day so magical! In English, we have been reading the beautiful story *Pip and Egg*. The children have been working hard on writing clear sentences to describe the characters, using Capital letters, Finger spaces, Full stops and adjectives to make their writing more interesting. We discussed how Pip and Egg look and how they behave, and the children produced some lovely descriptive sentences. In Maths, our focus has been on number facts within 20. The children have been learning to spot related addition and subtraction facts. We explored how number families are connected and practised using part-whole models and number sentences. This understanding helps build strong mental calculation skills. In Science, we have begun our next topic all about **birds**. The children have enjoyed learning how to identify different types of birds, what makes a bird a bird (feathers, beaks, eggs, wings), and where birds live. Some children even came back to school the next day with more facts about birds! Thank you for your continued support with reading at home, practising number bonds, and encouraging curiosity about the world. Well done Year 1 for a brilliant first week back.





Year 2 have made a brilliant start to the new half term! In PE, the children have been developing their ball skills through fun games such as 'noughts and crosses' and 'duck duck goose', experimenting with different types of balls and learning how to hold and control them effectively. In RE, they explored the Eucharistic Prayer, learning how the priest uses Jesus' words from the Last Supper. Our maths lessons have focused on multiplying and dividing by 2 and looking at odd and even numbers. In English the children proudly completed their fact files on Rosa Parks and began their new text, 'The Owl Who Was Afraid

of the Dark'. In history, we looked at what life was like for Victorian children working in factories and the many challenges they faced. Well done, Year 2, for another great week of learning!





Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the half term this week! In Maths, they have continued their learning on fractions and have been exploring equivalent fractions with growing confidence. They also took part in a reflective Celebration of the Word and we were so impressed by how thoughtfully they responded. The children chose to pick up litter on the yard to show their willingness to care for and look after their environment. On Thursday, the children had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day in school. They enjoyed participating in a range of book-related activities, including talking about their favourite

stories, making up their own, designing front covers, and writing character descriptions based on the very funny *Worst Class in the World* story, which had everyone laughing!



In **Year 4** this week, we have looked at unit and non unit fractions in maths. In history, we have looked at how Hadrian's wall was built and it's purpose. We took part in an amazing world book day celebration where we carried out lots of activities linked to stories and developing our love of reading. In Science we looked at how the human ear works to enable us to hear sounds and in PE we had our first swimming lesson of the term.







We had a lovely World Book Day celebrating our love of reading - the children thoroughly enjoyed dressing as their favourite characters and talking about their favourite books. They can talk with confidence about a story - why they enjoy it; how it inspires them; why they would recommend it to others. This is great to see. We also explored lesson subjects in Spanish and how to talk using a range of pronouns. In Maths we looked at rounding whole numbers and decimals - so we used this for some World Book Day maths where they had to calculate costs of buying books from Waterstones. They loved this! In English, we explored plot and author techniques to Engage the reader - describing how a chapter can lead to tension and suspense. We also started our new class reader, *The Chessmen Thief*. On Wednesday, they enjoyed learning about the Sikhism festival of Holla Mohalla. A busy week!





Year 6 have had a great first week of the half term. Their attitudes have been excellent in what is one of the busiest half terms they will have this year. In English, they have started the new half term with a new book- Cogheart by Peter Bunzl. They've loved meeting the new characters and making predictions about the story. In maths, they have been working on percentages- solving arithmetic and reasoning problems. In History, they have been learning about Freddie from Norse mythology, learning about how she scared off enemy attackers single-handedly. They had a great world book day on Thursday, enjoying discussing their favourite books and characters.