St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

'We Work, We Care, We Pray, We Share'

Web: www.st-josephs-withnell.lancs.sch.uk

Friday 27th March

As we reach the end of a busy and rewarding Spring term, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your patience and understanding during the recent pause in newsletters and assemblies while I returned to the classroom to teach. This term has been especially meaningful as we journeyed through Lent, and I have been continually inspired by the kindness, generosity, and compassion our pupils have shown through their Catholic good works and reflections. We are also delighted to welcome Miss Fiddler back from her maternity leave and look forward to having her rejoin us as we move into the Summer term.

LENTEN CHARITY FUNDRAISING – NUGENT CARE (GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL)

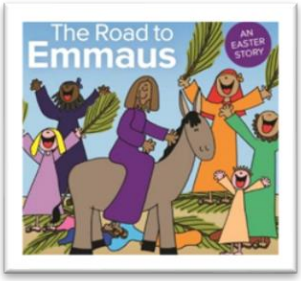
One of our Christian duties during Lent is to 'give alms', and we are incredibly proud of the way our school community has embraced this through our Lenten fundraising efforts. Mrs Wilkinson, alongside our dedicated Pupil Chaplains, organised a range of thoughtful and engaging activities including *Plant a Seed of Love*, *Wear Something Green*, a *Toy Swap*, and our *Growing Acts of Love and Kindness Challenge*. Please see the photos of our children in action! Thanks to your generosity and continued support, it looks as though we have raised over £350 so far—an amazing achievement that truly reflects the caring spirit of our pupils and families.

For more information about Nugent Care, please visit: https://wearenugent.org/

Acts of Kindness in Action



Class 2 Easter Assembly – The Road to Emmaus



Class 2 will be presenting their Easter Assembly on Friday 27th March at 1:15pm, titled *The Road to Emmaus*. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and support the children as they share this special part of the Easter story. Through their assembly, the children will help us to reflect on the true meaning of Easter—Jesus' resurrection and the hope, joy, and new life it brings to us all. Class assemblies are a wonderful opportunity for pupils to grow in confidence, share their learning, and bring the Gospel message to life for our school community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Goodbye and Good Luck

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mrs Miller in Class 1 and Madam McCormick. Mrs Miller has been a wonderful member of the Class 1 team, and we thank her for her dedication and care for the children. She leaves us to begin an exciting new teaching adventure as a Year 5/6 teacher. We wish her the very best of luck—she will be a fabulous teacher!



We also say *au revoir* to Madam McCormick and would like to thank her for the engaging and enjoyable French lessons she has provided for our pupils. She has inspired a love of language learning across the school, and we are very grateful for her contribution. We wish her all the very best for the future. She has sent you all a message…

Bonjour dear parents!
*After 19 years teaching French at St Joseph's, time has come for me to say "**Au revoir**" to all at the end of March (before Easter break).*
I have many fond memories of all these years at school, and am really grateful for the time working with all of your children.
I wish you all the best for the future, Keep Learning French !
Au revoir,

Six years in a row… COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

We are beyond proud to share that our athletics team won the Small School County Final for Sports Hall Athletics for the 6th consecutive year! This incredible achievement is a true testament to the dedication, determination, and teamwork of our amazing children.

A huge well done to every pupil who gave their all, and a special thank you to Mrs Millar, whose hard work, commitment and passion make moments like this possible.

We couldn't be prouder - you're all incredible!





Extra-Curricular Trips



This term, our pupils have enjoyed some truly memorable extra-curricular experiences. Year 6 were incredibly fortunate to be invited to London to visit the Houses of Parliament by Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House. During their visit, they explored both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and even had the unique opportunity to visit the Speaker's House for a special Q&A session—an unforgettable experience. The trip also included a ride on the London Eye, a visit to Buckingham Palace, and a walk around London taking in many of the capital's famous sights. Although it was a long and tiring day, it was filled with excitement, learning, and lots of fun.

Meanwhile, Class 1 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Smithills Farm, where they learned all about life on a farm, met a range of animals, and even had the chance to go on donkey rides. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Looking ahead, Class 2 are excited to be visiting Houghton Tower in the Summer term as part of their local history unit. Class 3 may also have a visit linked to their Geography topic on rivers—more details to follow.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our staff who work so hard to organise and support these trips. Their time, care, and commitment make these brilliant opportunities possible and create lasting memories for our pupils.













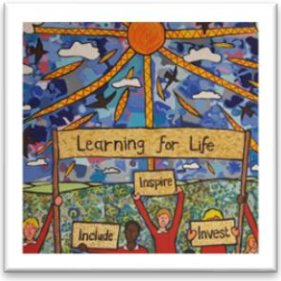
School Mission Statement Art Project

Over the coming weeks, the children will be taking part in a special art and craft project inspired by our school mission statement. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to reflect on what our mission means to them and to express this creatively.

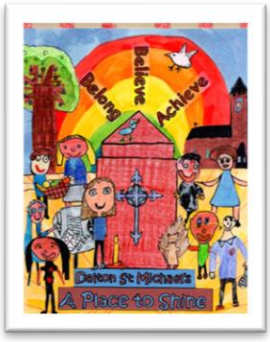
Children are free to create anything they wish—this could include drawings, paintings, models, collages, or other creative pieces. The only requirement is that their work clearly links to and represents our school mission statement.

We encourage you to talk with your child at home about what the mission statement means and how they might show this through their artwork. We look forward to seeing the thoughtful and imaginative creations they produce. I have attached a document which explains our school mission statement along with some examples of art work.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing your entries. **Closing Date - Friday 17th April.**



'St. Joseph's Family
Learn together,
With love and faith in Jesus,
To become the people
God calls us to be.'



Attendance Matters

YEAR TO DATE

My School	Primary National	Difference
97.4%	94.8%	2.6%

Attendance breakdown			Year To Date					25 Aug 25 - 20 Mar 26		
Pupil Groups	Pupils		All	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
All	95	School	97.32%	96.43%	97.54%	98.34%	97.48%	98.61%	94.05%	97.22%
		FFT National	94.76%	93.78%	94.48%	94.95%	95.15%	95.10%	95.00%	94.70%
		Difference	+2.56%	+2.66%	+3.06%	+3.40%	+2.33%	+3.51%	-0.95%	+2.52%

We are delighted to share that our school's attendance remains strong this year, currently at 97.4%, which is significantly above the national average of 94.8%. This positive difference of +2.6% reflects the commitment of our families and pupils in ensuring children attend school regularly and on time. High attendance is vital for children's learning, progress, and overall wellbeing, and we thank you for your continued support in making school attendance a priority. Let's keep up the excellent work as we move into the Summer term!

What A Brilliant Term We Have Had!





































A Last Note…

As we come to the end of the Spring term, I would like to take a moment to thank our parents and carers for your continued support—it is greatly appreciated. I am also incredibly proud of our children, who continue to work hard, try their best, and show each day what brilliant young people they are.

I would especially like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank all of the adults in our school. So much of what they do happens behind the scenes, long before the children arrive each morning and well beyond the end of the school day. From careful planning and preparation to the extra time and care given to ensure every child has the very best learning experiences, their dedication never goes unnoticed. Teaching and working in schools is not just a job—it is a vocation—and our staff give so much of themselves to support, nurture, and inspire our children.

They truly are the superheroes of our school community, and we are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed, caring, and hardworking team. They really are wonderful human beings so please always be kind to them.

I hope everyone has a lovely and restful Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming you back for the Summer term.

Mrs C x

