St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

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

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

Friday 16th January

Happy New Year to all our children, families, and staff, and welcome back to the start of a new term. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the months ahead. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school and see them settling so positively into their routines. We're looking forward to another exciting term full of learning, events, and opportunities for everyone in our school community. Thank you, as always, for your continued support — we wish you all a happy and successful year ahead.



January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a new start. In Monday's assembly we celebrated a special feast – The Baptism of the Lord. John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community - to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be always ready to make a new start with you and with each other as we start this New Year. Amen

Support Our School – Join the Parentkind School Lottery!

We're encouraging all parents and carers to sign up to the Parentkind School Lottery**,** a simple way to support our school while being in with a chance to win cash prizes every week.



Great news – our school has already had a winning ticket!
This shows that it really can happen, and every ticket sold helps raise valuable funds for our children. Tickets cost just £1 per week, and a portion of every ticket goes directly back to our school to support resources, activities, and opportunities for pupils.

Please see link below to sign up.
https://www.theparentslottery.org/find-your-school
Thank you for your continued support — good luck!! 🍀

PTA Meeting – Call for Volunteers

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our next PTA meeting on **Thursday 22nd January**.The PTA plays an important role in supporting our school by fundraising, helping to organise events, and bringing our school community together. Being part of the PTA is a great way to get involved, share ideas, and make a real difference for our children — whether you can offer lots of time or just a little.

New members are always very welcome, and there's no pressure to commit to anything — just come along, listen, and see what it's all about.

We hope to see many of you there and look forward to working together to support our school.

Support Our School – Tesco Stronger Starts Appeal

We're pleased to let parents and carers know that our school is currently taking part in the **Tesco Stronger Starts appeal**. This is go towards our Outdoor Learning Spaces.

When shopping in Tesco, you will receive **blue tokens at the checkout**. Please consider adding your token to **our school's box** to help support our project. Every token counts and helps us to make a difference for our children. Thank you for your continued support — we really appreciate it!

Bring your tokens to school or take to the following stores

2104 Blackburn Superstore BB1 3HF
4437 Darwen Express Express BB3 1QX
5229 Blackburn Bank Top Express Express BB2 1TN
5788 Roe Lee Blackburn Express BB1 9AX
6051 Livesey Blackburn Express BB2 5AY

To find out more, please see the link below

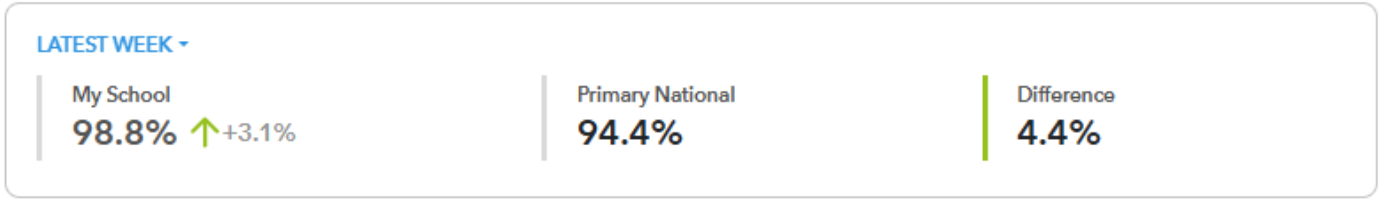
https://tescostrongerstarts.org.uk/

Attendance Matters

I am pleased to say that our attendance for the latest week is 98.8%, which is 4.4% higher than the national average for primary schools (94.4%).

Good attendance is vital for children's learning, confidence, and progress. Even a small number of missed days can make it harder for pupils to keep up with their work and routines.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to continue supporting us by ensuring children attend school every day, on time, unless they are genuinely unwell. Your support makes a real difference to their success and wellbeing.



	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W10	W11	W12	W13	W14	W15	W16	W19
Attendance breakdown							Year To Date						25 Aug 25	-	09 Jan 26
Pupil Groups	Pupils			All	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6				
All	All	93	School	97.49%	97.41%	97.62%	97.77%	98.01%	98.45%	94.28%	97.63%				
			FFT National	94.70%	93.70%	94.37%	94.85%	95.10%	95.05%	94.98%	94.66%				
			Difference	+2.79%	+3.71%	+3.25%	+2.93%	+2.91%	+3.40%	-0.69%	+2.97%				

Safer Parking Campaign – New Year Update

We kindly ask all parents and carers to support us in keeping our pupils safe by avoiding parking on the yellow lines outside school. We have recently received several reports of unsafe parking at drop-off and pick-up times, and this raises real concerns for the safety of our children and families.

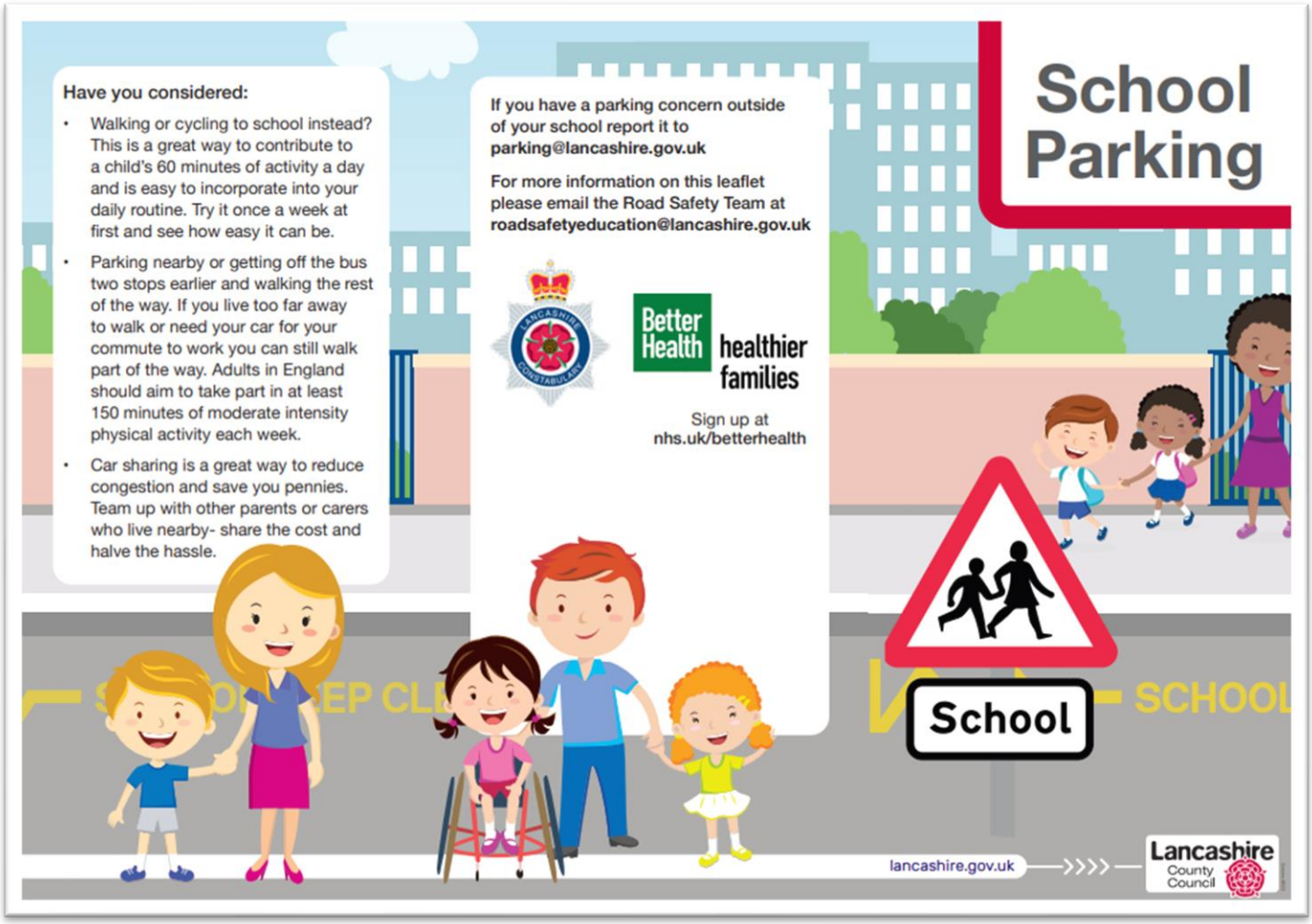
To help improve visibility and reduce congestion, we will now be placing Safer Parking cones along the yellow lines. These cones act as a reminder that these areas must remain clear to ensure everyone can cross safely.

As part of our commitment to road safety, the school is also delivering the Right Start Pedestrian Training, which teaches children how to cross roads safely and make sensible choices near traffic. Your support in modelling safe behaviour around the school gates is an important part of this learning.

We would also like to make families aware that Lancashire County Council currently has a vacancy for a School Crossing Patrol. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in this role, please contact the council for further information.

In the new year, we are working with Lancashire's Safer Parking Team to ensure that our school crossings are safe for all.

Thank you for working with us to keep our school community safe. Your cooperation makes a big difference.



Wildwood Days, Lodge Bank, Brinscall, PR6 8QU



FAMILY FOREST FITNESS EVENT!

Challenges to put your strength, stamina and skills to the test, all while having fun together outdoors!

Tug of war, hang tough, hill-sprint and much more!

SCAN FOR TICKETS

Refreshments included

Parent and child (8+) teams

Date: Saturday 31st January 2026

Time: 10am-12pm

£15 per team

For more information visit: https://wildwooddays.co.uk/event/wildwood-warriors/

Questions and queries to: info@wildwooddays.co.uk

Chorley Buddies SVP – Faith in Action

Information from SVP Chorley Buddies - Our friends at **Chorley Women's Centre** have got some great activities coming up in January and February..

Month/ Day	Monday AM: 10am – 12.30pm	Tuesday AM: 10am – 12.30pm	Tuesday PM: 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Wednesday PM 1.15 – 2.45 pm	Friday AM: 10am – 12.30pm	Friday Lunchtime: 12.30pm – 1.00pm	Friday PM: 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Friday PM: 5 – 7 pm
January		10 -10.30 Guided Relaxation 10.30 - 11.30 Positive Journalling 10.30 – 12.30 Knit and Natter 11.30 - 1.30 ESOL Class	1.30– 3.00 Weekly Winter Craft Workshop	1.15 – 2.45 Creative Drama Workshops The Studio Theatre – Dole Lane, Chorley.	10 – 11.00 Adult Literacy 11.00 – 12.30 Board Game fun	12.40 – 1.00 Guided Relaxation	1.30– 3.00 Week1 – An Afternoon... 'All About Crystals' Week2 – Neuro-Kind Support Group Week3 – Carer's Peer Support Group Last Week Every Month – Bereavement Support Group	5 – 6 pm Kundalini Yoga 23rd Jan 6 – 8 pm Book Club
February	10.30 – 12.30 Walk N Talk N Coffee (Coffee N Cake if weather too bad for walking)	10 -10.30 Positive Journalling 10.30 – 12.30 Knit and Natter	1.30– 3.00 Phoenix Course (10 Week Course)	3.00 – 4.30 Creative Drama Workshops The Studio Theatre – Dole Lane, Chorley.	10 – 11.00 Adult Literacy 11.00 – 12.30 Board Game fun	12.30 – 1.00 Guided relaxation	1.30– 3.00 Week1 – An Afternoon... 'Line Dancing' Week2 – Neuro-Kind Support Group Week3 – Carer's Peer Support Group	5 – 6 pm Kundalini Yoga 27th Feb 6 – 8 pm Book Club
							Last Week Every Month – Bereavement Support Group	



