St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

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

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

Friday 12th December

Stay and Pray – Advent

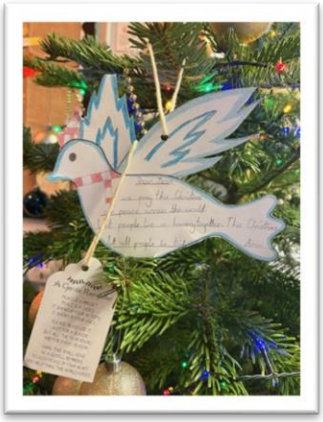
Thank you so much for joining us for Stay and Pray during this second week of Advent. Your presence, prayers, and willingness to pause amid the busyness of the season made it even more special.

Advent invites us to slow down, reflect, and prepare our hearts with hope—and having you pray alongside your children makes this journey even more meaningful. We are grateful for your continued support and for the faith-filled example you set for our school community.

Thank you again for taking the time to be with us.
Wishing you a peaceful and hope-filled Advent.







Rainbow Hub – Christmas Tree Appeal

Our Stewards of the Earth are excited to share that they have launched this year's Rainbow Hub Christmas Tree Appeal.

This wonderful initiative supports the work of Rainbow Hub while also helping families recycle their real Christmas trees in an environmentally friendly way. The appeal is simple:
You make a donation to Rainbow Hub, and in return, their team will collect and recycle your Christmas tree for you.

It's an easy, eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree after Christmas while supporting a local charity that provides vital services to children and young people with disabilities.

If you would like to take part, please look out for the information leaflet coming home with your child, or visit the link provided. Thank you, as always, for your generosity and for supporting our Stewards of the Earth in their mission to care for our community and our planet.



We have some lovely news.....



We're really excited to share some lovely news with you—Miss Saura is expecting a baby! We're all absolutely thrilled for her.

It feels extra special to share this happy news at this time of year. Advent and Christmas are all about hope, joy, and looking forward to new beginnings, so it couldn't be a more perfect moment.

I know you will join me in sending Miss Saura and her partner, lots of love and best wishes at this special time.

St. Joseph's Posada – Travelling Crib



What is Posada? Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people, dressed as Mary and Joseph, travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.

At St. Joseph's, we would like to invite you as families to share in this tradition. Each day, we will choose a different member of the class to take home our Posada. They will bring home a bag containing the nativity characters, a prayer, candle and a story book about the Christmas Story. We would like you to use the figures to retell the Christmas story and share a prayer together as a family to take a quiet moment in what can be such a busy time of year. Please take photographs of your time with the Posada and send it to your child's teacher on Dojo. The class teacher may then share this with the class the next day. Please then return the Posada so that the next family can share in this special tradition. Let's see if the Posada can make it to every family in school!

Father Peter has also asked for children to bring their figurines of Baby Jesus from their home nativity scenes to Mass on Sunday so that they can be blessed.

Tesco Stronger Starts Update



We are delighted to share that our school came third in the recent Tesco Stronger Starts competition for digital resources! A huge thank you to all our families and community members who supported us by voting. Your involvement has made a real difference, and we are grateful for your continued enthusiasm.

Although we did not secure the top spot this time, we are pleased with our achievement and the recognition it brings to our school. We are excited to let you know that a new campaign will be launched in the New Year, giving us another opportunity to gain valuable resources for our pupils.

We will share more information as soon as it becomes available. Thank you once again for your support!

Safer Parking Campaign

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.

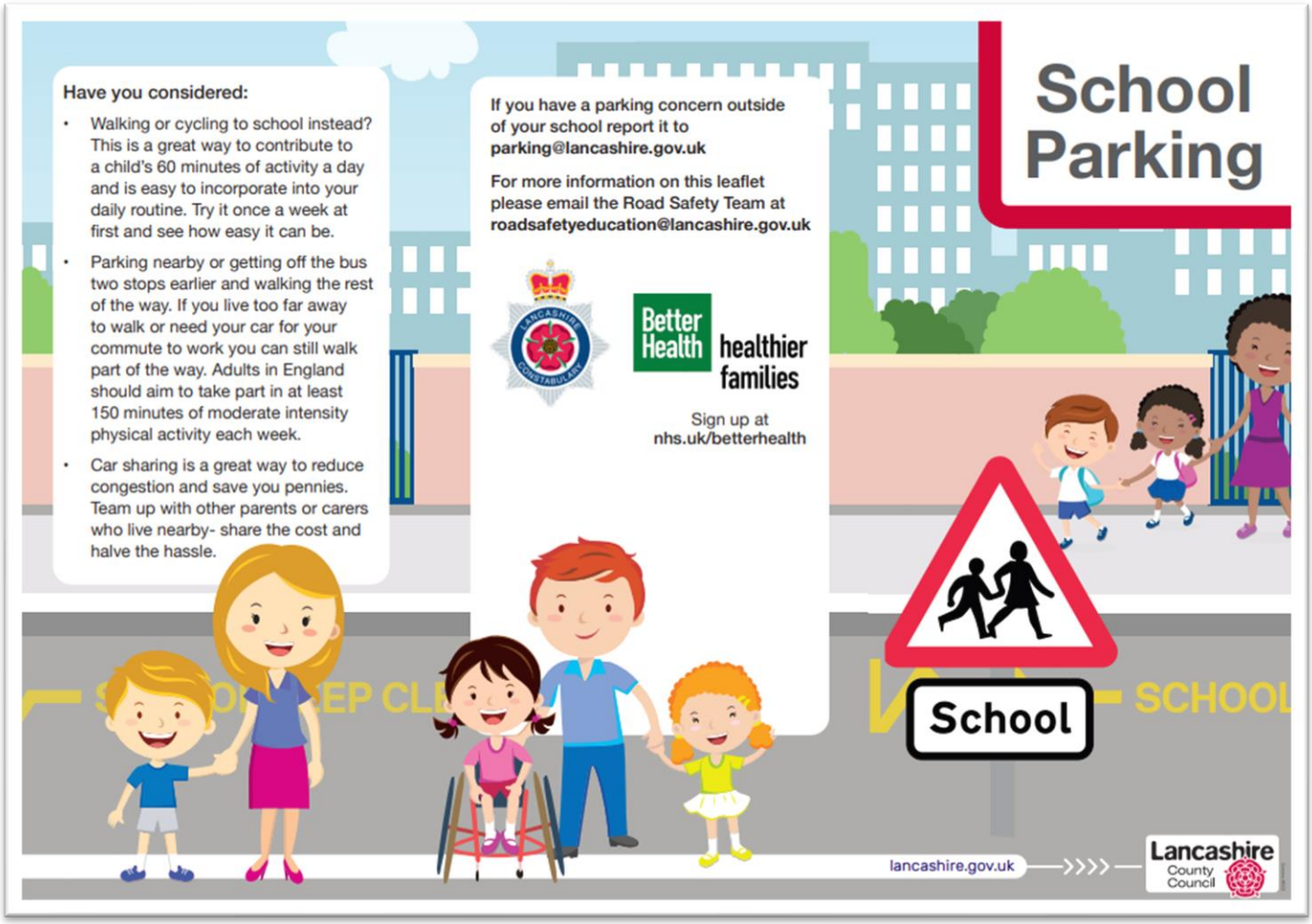
To help improve visibility and reduce congestion, we will now be placing Safer Parking cones along the yellow lines. These cones act as a reminder that these areas must remain clear to ensure everyone can cross safely.

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.



Attendance Matters

Our attendance for the latest week is 96.5%, which is 3% higher than the national average for primary schools (93.5%). Although this is a positive result, our attendance has dropped slightly by 2.3% compared with previous weeks.

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

Attendance breakdown			Year To Date							25 Aug 25 - 05 Dec 25	
Pupil Groups		Pupils		All	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
All	All	93	School	97.6%	97.5%	98.0%	97.2%	98.0%	98.1%	95.2%	98.0%
			FFT National	95.0%	94.0%	94.7%	95.1%	95.4%	95.3%	95.2%	94.9%
			Difference	+2.6%	+3.5%	+3.3%	+2.0%	+2.6%	+2.8%	-0.1%	+3.0%

LATEST WEEK

My School	Primary National	Difference
96.5% ↓-2.3%	93.5%	3%

Advent Prayer

Loving God,
As we light the candles of Advent,
help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, Jesus.
Fill our school and our homes with hope, peace, joy, and love.
Guide us to be kind to one another,
to share with those in need,
and to walk in your light each day.
May this Advent season draw us closer to you
as we wait with faith and gratitude for the birth of Christ.
Amen.



