St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

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

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

Friday 10th July

Live Simply Award





We are delighted to share the wonderful news that our school was officially awarded the **LiveSimply Award** on Wednesday. This is a fantastic achievement and one that our whole school community can be incredibly proud of.

The **LiveSimply Award**, created by CAFOD in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, recognises Catholic schools that are committed to living simply, caring for God's creation and standing in solidarity with people living in poverty around the world. It celebrates schools that put their faith into action by making a positive difference to both their local and global communities.

To achieve the award, we completed a range of activities and initiatives across three key areas: living simply, living sustainably, and living in solidarity with others. Throughout our journey, pupils, staff and families have taken part in fundraising for charities, supported local community projects, reduced waste and increased recycling, developed our outdoor spaces, promoted environmental awareness, and found many ways to care for our common home while helping those most in need. Every member of our school community has played an important part in achieving this special recognition.

A very special thank you goes to Miss Brown, whose passion, dedication and leadership have been instrumental in guiding us through the LiveSimply journey. Her hard work, enthusiasm and commitment have inspired our school community and made this achievement possible. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done.

This award is not the end of our journey but a celebration of the values we strive to live every day. We look forward to continuing to care for our world, support those in need and live out our faith through our actions.

Swimming Success!

What an incredible evening at the @chorleyssp Swimming Gala! 🌟🏊
On Wednesday 1st July, our amazing swimming team represented the school brilliantly at the @chorleyssp Swimming Gala. It was a fantastic event filled with excellent competition, determination, and plenty of team spirit. Most importantly, the children had a wonderful time and made us all incredibly proud.

Every swimmer came away with medals from both individual and team events – a fantastic achievement that reflects their hard work, dedication, and outstanding swimming throughout the competition. 💪🏅
Our fantastic results included:

- 1st in the Canon Cup
- 2nd Overall
- 2nd in the Mixed Medley Relay
- 3rd in the Mixed Relay
- 1st in Girls' Breaststroke
- 2nd in Boys' Breaststroke
- 2nd in Boys' Butterfly
- 3rd in Boys' and Girls' Front Crawl

A huge well done to every member of the team for their fantastic performances, excellent sportsmanship, and determination. You were all outstanding ambassadors for our school! 🌟
Finally, a very big thank you to Mrs Millar for her dedication, support, and encouragement in preparing and accompanying the team. Your commitment is truly appreciated. 👏💙







Football Fever!

⚽🏆What a morning to remember! 🏆⚽
Thanks to the late and delayed kick-off, we had the fantastic opportunity to come together as a school community to watch the England 🏴vs Mexico 🇲🇽World Cup match!

The atmosphere was electric - lots of cheers, excitement and celebrations that were sure to rival being in the stadium itself! 🎉🙌As you can see (and hear! 📣), everyone was fully behind the team, making memories together along the way.

It was a wonderful way to bring our school community together, sharing in the excitement of an ENGLAND WIN! ❤️🤍



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S COMMISIONER – THE BIG SURVEY……

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at your school take part in my new survey, The Big Future. Your pupils can take part here:

http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture.

As many of your Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words. I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today. Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood. I'll publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Thank you very much for your support. Dame Rachel de Souza Children's Commissioner for England

School Uniform for September

Although the summer holidays are just around the corner, now is the perfect time to start thinking about school uniform for September. We kindly ask families not to leave orders until the last minute, as this can lead to delays and limited availability of some items.

School uniform can be ordered online through our supplier. Ordering early will help ensure that your child is fully prepared and ready for a smooth start to the new academic year.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

https://www.stitchdesign.co.uk/uniform/St_Josephs_Catholic_Primary_School_PR6_8SD/

Follow Us on Social Media!

Don't forget to take a look at our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages to see what has been happening in school. We regularly share photographs, celebrate our pupils' achievements, highlight special events, and keep you up to date with the exciting learning taking place across the school.

Be sure to follow us so you don't miss any of the wonderful moments from school life!

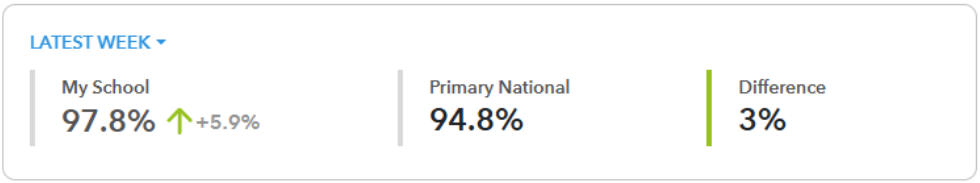
https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsWithnell?locale=en_GB

https://www.instagram.com/stjosephswithnell/

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 10th July	**Year 5 Holy Cross Science Morning**
Monday 13th July	**KS2 Production 6pm**
Tuesday 14th July	**KS2 Production 6pm**
Monday 20th July	**Year 6 Leavers Meal**
Tuesday 21st July	**Year 6 Leavers Mass in Church (2pm)**
Wednesday 22nd July	**End of Term – 2pm finish**

Attendance Matters



Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly and on time. Last week, our attendance was 97.8%, which is slightly above the national average. However, we have recently seen an increase in the number of requests for, and instances of, holidays being taken during term time. As a result, our whole-school attendance for last week fell to **91.9%**, which is significantly below our target.

Regular attendance is essential for children to achieve their full potential. Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities, and even a few days of absence can have an impact on a child's progress, confidence and friendships.

Attendance is also a key area that schools are judged on by Ofsted. It is assessed as a separate area of school performance, with inspectors carefully considering attendance figures, persistent absence and the actions schools take to ensure pupils attend regularly.

We understand that family holidays are important, but we ask all parents and carers to support us by booking holidays during the school holidays wherever possible. By working together, we can improve our attendance figures and ensure that every child has the best opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority.

Free School Meals – Eligibility is Changing

The Government has announced changes to the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals in England.

From September 2026, all children whose parent or carer receives Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals, regardless of household earnings. This removes the current annual income threshold of £7,400 (after tax and excluding benefits), meaning many more families will qualify for support.

If you think your child may now be eligible, or if your circumstances have changed, we encourage you to check as soon as possible using the Free School Meals Eligibility Checker:

https://fsm.lgfl.net/

Even if your child is currently receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2), registering for means-tested Free School Meals is important if you are eligible. It can provide additional funding for our school through the Pupil Premium, helping us to support children's learning and wellbeing.

Faith in the Community



