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 June

Year 4 First Holy Communion

On Saturday, our Year 4 children celebrated their First Holy Communion and what a truly special and memorable day it was. The children behaved beautifully throughout the Mass, showing great reverence and understanding of the importance of this sacrament. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for the commitment they have shown during their preparation. It was wonderful to see them, alongside their families, sharing in such a meaningful occasion within our parish community.

Thank you to Mrs Perkins, staff and parents who supported the children on their journey – it made the day even more special. Thank you to Father Graeme also for a beautiful Mass.





Wonderful News!

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Ms Saura has welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Olivia. Both mum and baby are doing well and we are sure you will all join us in sending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Ms Saura and her family at this very special time.





What a fantastic Wednesday afternoon at Quad Kids!

We had an amazing time competing against some very strong schools and couldn't be prouder of our children.

- Our Year 3/4 team finished an impressive 5th place out of 14 schools.
- Our Year 5/6 team achieved a fantastic 3rd place finish.
- To top it all off, two of our girls secured individual 2nd and 3rd place medals, an incredible achievement!

The determination, sportsmanship, and teamwork shown by every child was outstanding. They represented our school brilliantly and should all be very proud of themselves.
Well done, everyone, you were amazing!











Do you know anyone who may be looking for the perfect venue for a holiday club?

Would you like to use our premises to host your next summer or holiday club?

We're pleased to offer a fantastic space that includes:

✅A spacious school hall – ideal for indoor activities
✅Access to a beautiful forest area – perfect for outdoor adventures
✅A large school field – great for games, sports, and group activities
Our grounds provide a safe, versatile, and inspiring environment for children to learn, play, and explore.

📩Get in touch to find out more or to book a visit – we'd love to hear from you!

With Love and Faith in Jesus: A Celebration of Our St Joseph's Family – Thursday 18th June 9.15am

We are delighted to invite all parents and carers to join us for our special summer celebration: *With Love and Faith in Jesus: A Celebration of Our St Joseph's Family*. This event has been created to bring our school mission statement to life and celebrate all that makes St Joseph's such a caring and faith-filled community. It will be a lovely morning where children, families and staff come together to share in fun, reflection and fellowship.

Throughout the morning, there will be a range of craft activities and creative stalls for children and families to enjoy together. These will link to our values of learning, love, and faith, giving everyone the chance to take part in hands-on experiences. We will also have prayer spaces set up around the school, offering quiet, peaceful areas for reflection. These will provide an opportunity to pause, give thanks and reflect on our faith journey as a community.

The purpose of the day is to celebrate our school family, to recognise how we learn together with love and faith in Jesus and to reflect on how we are growing to become the people God calls us to be. We very much hope you can join us for this special occasion and share in the joy of our St Joseph's family.



Dates For Diary

Friday 12th June	Summer Fair
Friday 12th June	**Non Uniform Day** Reception–Year 3: Bring cakes (manageable quantity; cakes sold on refreshment stall). Years 4–6: Donate one good-quality second-hand reading book for a book stall.
Tuesday 16th June	Class 3 Trip Cuerden Park
Thursday 18th June	With Love and Faith in Jesus Celebration 9.15am
Thursday 25th June	Year 6 Catholic Retreat Day
Friday 26th June	Year 4 and 5 Trip to Liverpool Cathedral
Tuesday 30th June	Other Faiths Day – Islam and Judaism Workshops
Monday 13th July	KS2 Production 6pm
Tuesday 14th July	KS2 Production 6pm
Monday 20th July	Year 6 Leavers Meal/Bowling
Wednesday 22nd July	End of Term – 2pm finish

Attendance Matters

LATEST WEEK

My School	Primary National	Difference
97.3% ↑ +5.8%	94.4%	2.9%

W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W10 W11 W12 W13 W14 W15 W16 W19 W20 W21 W22 W23 W24 W26 W27 W28 W29 W30 W33 W34 W35 W36 W37 W38 W40

Attendance breakdown			Year To Date							25 Aug 25 - 05 Jun 26
Pupil Groups	Pupils		All	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
All	All	98	School	97.21%	96.40%	97.10%	98.23%	97.70%	98.71%	93.69%	96.99%
			FFT National	94.82%	93.91%	94.58%	95.01%	95.18%	95.13%	95.01%	94.82%
			Difference	+2.38%	+2.49%	+2.52%	+3.22%	+2.52%	+3.58%	-1.31%	+2.17%

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly and on time. Last week, our attendance was 97.3%, which is above the national average of 954.4%—a fantastic achievement for our school community.

I would like to make families aware that we have recently received a large number of requests for holidays during term time that exceed 5 school days.

Under current government attendance regulations, schools are required to issue a penalty notice when a child has 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period. This includes holidays taken during term time without authorisation. The national framework introduced by the Government means that these rules apply consistently across schools in England.

The current penalty notice is:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days
- Increasing to £160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days

A second penalty notice within a three-year period is charged at £160 with no reduced rate.

I appreciate that family holidays and special occasions are important; however, I would like to stress that this is not a decision made by the school. These regulations are set by the Government and Local Authority and schools are expected to follow them. The school does not benefit financially from any penalty notices issued and does not receive any of the money from these fines.

Our priority will always be to support excellent attendance so that every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed in school. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Every day in school counts. Good attendance not only supports children's learning and progress, but also helps them build strong friendships, routines, and a sense of belonging. Even small amounts of missed time can quickly add up and impact a child's confidence and attainment. We kindly ask for your ongoing support in making sure children attend school every day unless they are unwell. Together, we can continue to build positive habits and give every child the very best opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for working in partnership with you

