St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

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

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

Friday 22th May

As we come to the end of another busy and successful half term, we would like to wish all of our families a very happy and restful Whit Week half term holiday.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved and hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break filled with rest, fun, and special time together with family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the school year.

Congratulations Year 6!



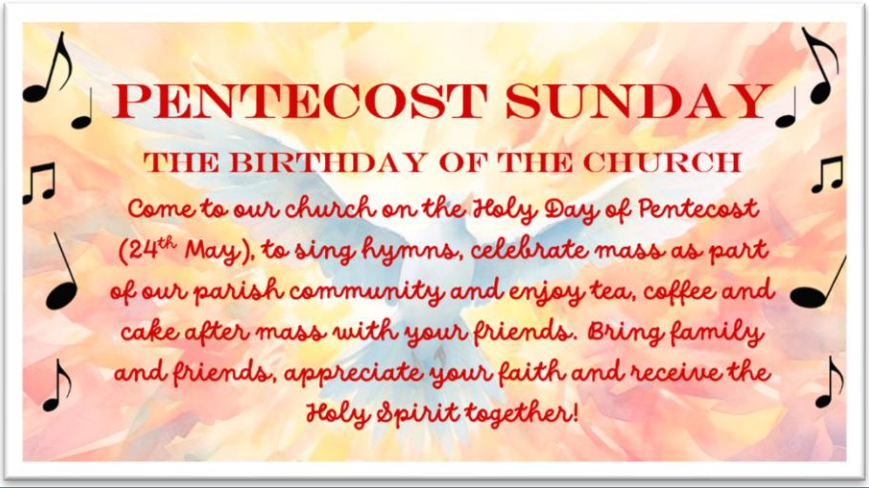
Congratulations to our wonderful Year 6 pupils as they reach the end of their primary school journey. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time at our school. Through hard work, kindness, resilience and friendship, they have grown into confident and caring young people who are ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

Year 6 have been excellent role models for the younger children, showing leadership, determination and a positive attitude throughout the year. From classroom achievements to sporting events, performances, trips and special memories, they have truly made their mark on our school community. Now time for our Key Stage Two Production!

Pentecost Sunday – Sunday 24th May

We warmly invite all families and parishioners to join us in celebrating Pentecost at Church on Sunday 24th May. Pentecost is a special time in the Church calendar when we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit and celebrate the birth of the Church.

We look forward to gathering together in prayer, joy, and community as we celebrate this important feast day. Everyone is very welcome, and we hope to see many of our school families there.



🎉St. Joseph's Summer Fair – Everyone Welcome! 🎉

We're excited to invite you to our School Summer Fair on Friday 12th June, 3:25–6:00pm

There's something for everyone, including:
🎈Bouncy castle
🍔BBQ & food stalls
🍦Ice cream & tuck shop
🎸Live band
🎯Axe throwing
✨Glitter tattoos
🦆Hook-a-Duck & Scoop-a-Duck
🐀Splat the Rat and more!
🎟️Entry tickets: £1 per adult / 50p per child (pay on entry)

🙏Raffle Prize Donations Needed 🙏

To help make the fair a success, we are appealing for raffle prize donations. If you can donate a prize (big or small), please drop it into the school office – every contribution is hugely appreciated and helps support our children.
Please share this post and help us spread the word.
We'd love to see you there for a fun-filled afternoon!



Sacrament of Reconciliation – Year 4

On Monday, our Year 4 children took a very special step in their faith journey as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. ✨🙏
We are so proud of each and every one of them for the reverence, courage and thoughtfulness they showed.

May God continue to guide and bless them as they grow in faith and love. 💙
A special thank you to Mrs Perkins for preparing our children so well for this.





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.

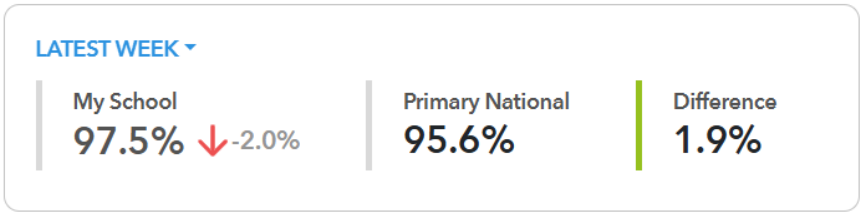
The purpose of the day is to celebrate our school family, to recognise how we learn together with love and faith in Jesus and to reflect on how we are growing to become the people God calls us to be. We very much hope you can join us for this special occasion and share in the joy of our St Joseph's family.

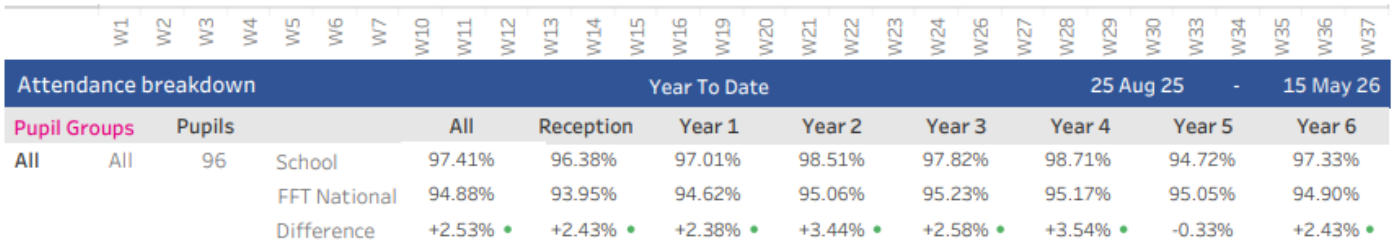


Dates For Diary

Friday 22nd May	**Non Uniform Day** (Chocolates)
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May	Half Term
Friday 5th June	**Non Uniform Day** – (Wrapped Children's Lucky Dip Gift)
Thursday 11th June	Sports Day 9.15am
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





Attendance breakdown				Year To Date							25 Aug 25 - 15 May 26
Pupil Groups		Pupils		All	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
All	All	96	School	97.41%	96.38%	97.01%	98.51%	97.82%	98.71%	94.72%	97.33%
			FFT National	94.88%	93.95%	94.62%	95.06%	95.23%	95.17%	95.05%	94.90%
			Difference	+2.53%	+2.43%	+2.38%	+3.44%	+2.58%	+3.54%	-0.33%	+2.43%

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly and on time. Last week, our attendance was 97.5%, which is above the national average of 95.6%—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 us.



Faith in The Community

