Newsletter

Excellence Learn · Laugh Happiness · Respect Listen · Live Resilience · Compassion Love · FAITH

Friday 11th September 2026

Whole School Attendance

98.5%

Welcome to St Winefride's Catholic Primary School where we 'Learn, Laugh, Listen, Live and Love' in the presence of Jesus.'

'Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16

A message from Mrs Davies to all our families…. A wonderful first full week back!

What a wonderful first full week back at St Winefride's it has been! There is a real buzz around school, with **learning, laughter and a strong sense of belonging** filling our classrooms and corridors. It has been a joy to see the children return with such enthusiasm and energy, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that a new school year brings. Our core values of **Excellence, Happiness, Respect, Compassion and Resilience** have been evident throughout the week, as children have supported one another, challenged themselves, celebrated successes and shown such pride in being part of our school community.

The children are clearly glad to have the routine of school back — and I think us adults are too! There is something reassuring about the rhythm and structure of the school day, and it has been wonderful to see the children quickly re-establishing positive routines and expectations. They have immersed themselves in their learning, demonstrating **excellence** through their effort and attitude, **resilience** when faced with something challenging and **respect** in the way they have listened to their teachers and to one another. These are the habits that enable children not only to succeed academically, but to flourish as confident, thoughtful and kind young people.

I will be teaching Year 6 for a weekly session again this year and my first session this week was both a privilege and a joy. The children impressed me with the depth of their knowledge and, perhaps more importantly, with the quality of the questions they asked. Their curiosity, thoughtfulness and willingness to explore ideas demonstrated a real commitment to **excellence in learning**. It was wonderful to see them thinking deeply, listening respectfully to different perspectives and having the confidence to ask questions that moved their learning forward. I left the session feeling incredibly excited about the year ahead and all that this wonderful group of children can achieve.

We also welcomed back Mr Parker this week for our first Forest School session of the academic year. Year 4 embraced their time outdoors with enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful lesson in our natural environment. Forest School provides such valuable opportunities for children to develop **resilience**, work collaboratively and learn to respect and care for the world around them. It was lovely to see the children encouraging one another, taking on new challenges and experiencing the happiness that comes from learning, exploring and discovering together. These experiences are an important part of developing the whole child and reflect so strongly the values we hold at the heart of St Winefride's.



Swimming also resumed this week for Year 6, and the children worked incredibly hard during their session. Swimming requires determination, perseverance and a willingness to keep trying, even when something feels difficult — a wonderful demonstration of **resilience** in action. The children showed real commitment to improving their skills and supporting one another, and I was very proud of their efforts. Well done, Year 6! Your hard work and positive attitude are a fantastic example of our commitment to **excellence**.

I am extremely proud of our new starters for completing their very first full week in school. What an achievement! Starting school is such a significant milestone, and our youngest children have shown tremendous resilience and courage as they have navigated new routines, new experiences and lots of new faces. We have seen so many moments of happiness already — smiles, friendships, laughter and growing confidence — and it has been wonderful to watch them begin to feel that St Winefride's is their school and their place to belong. Mr Shipton and I met this week to talk carefully about each of our new starters and the journey ahead of them at St Winefride's. We are absolutely committed to giving every child the very best start to their primary education. This means knowing each child as an individual, understanding their strengths and needs, nurturing their confidence and ensuring that they feel valued, respected and cared for. Our commitment to compassion means that we will always take the time to listen, support and encourage; our commitment to excellence means that we will have the highest aspirations for every child; and our commitment to happiness means that we want every child to love coming to school and feel a genuine sense of belonging.

As we look ahead to the year, our five core values will continue to guide all that we do: **Excellence in everything we strive to achieve, Happiness in the joy of learning and belonging, Respect for ourselves, each other and our world, Compassion for those around us, and Resilience when faced with challenge or difficulty.** These values are not simply words on a page; they are the principles we want our children to live by every day. They are at the heart of the education we provide and the community we are so proud to build together.

It has been a fantastic first full week, and I could not be more proud of the way our children have begun the new academic year. Thank you to our families for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will ensure that every child at St Winefride's is given the opportunity to **flourish, achieve, feel happy and become the very best version of themselves**.

Well done everyone on a wonderful first week back in school. There is lots to be grateful for. Here's to a wonderful year ahead!

Wishing all of our children and families an enjoyable and restful weekend ahead. Mrs Davies

Newsletter

Excellence Learn · Laugh Happiness · Respect Listen · Live Resilience · Compassion Love · FAITH

Welcome to St Winefride's Catholic Primary School where we 'Learn, Laugh, Listen, Live and Love' in the presence of Jesus.'

'Let Your Light Shine.' Matthew 5:16

RSHE Curriculum Consultation with parents and carers...

Following updates to the statutory guidance for Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE), we are currently consulting with parents and carers about the teaching and learning of RSHE in school. As part of this consultation, next week, I will be sending home a letter, a booklet and questionnaire to give you the opportunity to find out more about what your child will be learning and to share your views with us. Our RSHE curriculum is delivered through the Ten Ten—Life to the Full programme, which provides age-appropriate lessons and resources to support children in developing their knowledge, understanding and personal skills. We have taught using this platform, recommended by our Diocese, since 2022. It is very important that parents and carers access the teaching and learning materials through the Ten Ten Parent Portal which will allow you to see the content your child will be exploring in school and help you to have conversations at home that support and reinforce their learning. Parents have access to this all year round. Often, teachers will share what area of RSHE they are teaching and ask parents to view the materials.

We would really value your engagement with the consultation and encourage you to complete the questionnaire and explore the resources available on the Parent Portal. Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a thoughtful, appropriate and effective RSHE education for all our children.

Forest School session—Thursday 10th September 2025

What an exciting start to the year at Forest School with Mr Parker, Miss Healey and Year Four!



Year 4 have been exploring different aspects of Ancient Greek life while practising some of the fantastic skills they have previously learned with Mr Parker. The children got stuck into making their very own wooden yo-yos, practising their sawing and drilling skills along the way. Once finished, they let their creativity shine by decorating their yo-yos as colourful Ancient Greek shields!

The children and staff then stepped back in time and had a go at Ancient Greek pottery. The children quickly discovered that shaping and moulding clay is much trickier than it looks, but they showed great patience and perseverance as they created their own pots.

The final challenge was to use natural resources from the Forest School area to create imaginative displays of Ancient Greek gods and goddesses. It was fantastic to see the children exploring their surroundings and turning natural materials into creative works of art.

Of course, no Forest School session would be complete without some well-earned treats! We enjoyed delicious biscuits and toasted marshmallows, along with warm hot chocolate from Soo, which was especially welcome as we battled the rainy weather!

What a brilliant, busy and creative Forest School session to kick-start the year! We can't wait to see what Forest School adventures lie ahead for this Autumn term!

Thursday 17th September—Forest School Session for children in Year Two.









Important Dates

Meet the Teacher Sessions

Just a reminder about the **Meet the Teacher Sessions** which will be held next week and the week after. I strongly encourage you to attend if you are able.

Monday 14th September 2025

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Reception**

4.15pm—Parents of children in **Year 6**

4.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 4**

Tuesday 15th September—staff led clubs start for all children.

Tuesday 15th September at 9.30am—swimming for children in Year 6.

Thursday 17th September

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Year 3**

Monday 21st September

3.45pm—Parents of children in **Years 1 and 2**

4.15pm—Parents of children in **Year 5**

Celebration of Mass—Please note that I will be sharing the date and time of our welcome mass when I have confirmed this with Father Tom.