

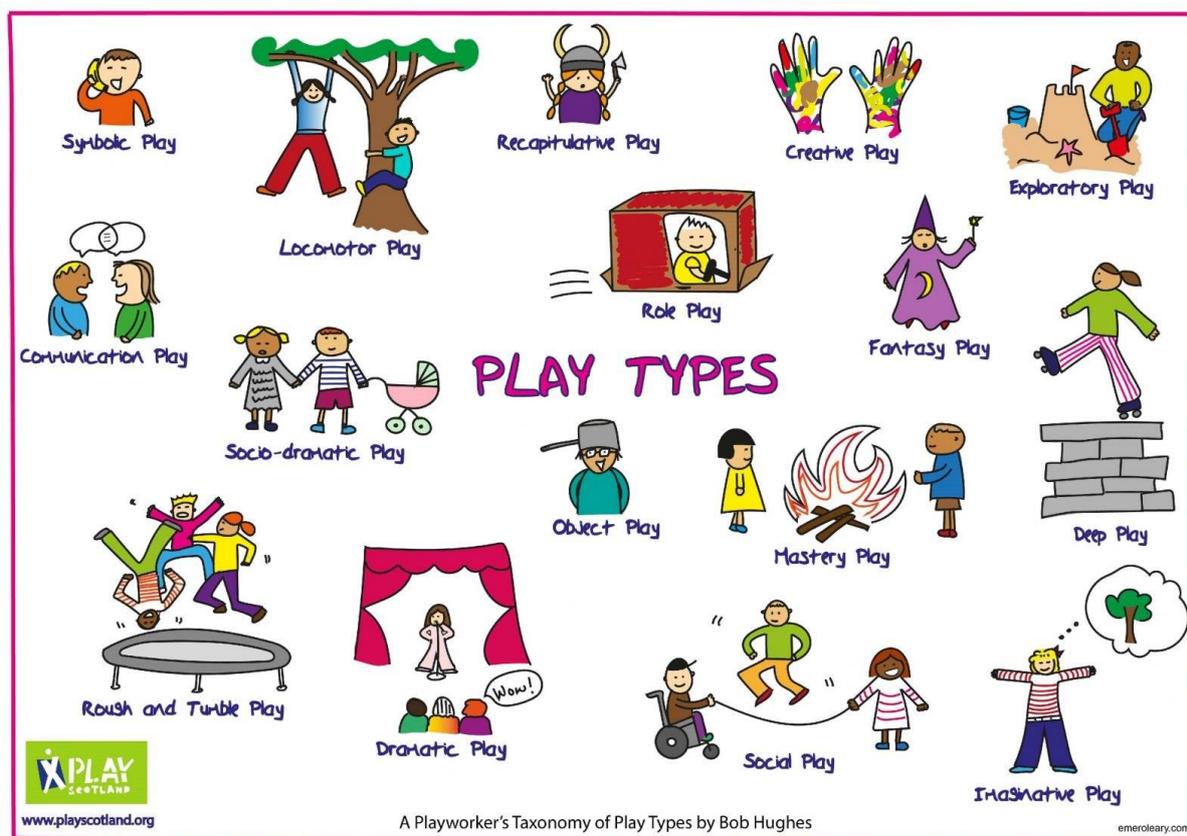
St. John's RC Primary School



NEWSLETTER 2nd February 2026



OPAL PLAY UPDATE



In last week's newsletter, we shared the exciting news that our school is beginning its journey with the OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) programme. Over the next 18 months, we will be working to transform playtimes so children can enjoy high-quality play that supports their physical, social and emotional development.

We are incredibly grateful to our PTA, who have kindly committed to donating towards new play resources.

As part of this work, we are forming a small parent (or grandparent) Working Party to help us get our play offer just right. If you can spare a couple of hours each half term, we would love to have you involved.

Please sign up using this form if you are interested in joining us and shaping this exciting new project! [OPAL PLAY – Fill in form](#)

PTA UPDATE



Valentines
DISCO

at
St kents
Parish
hall

XOX

THURSDAY 26th FEB

reception+Y1+Y2 6-7pm
years 3-6 7:30-8:30pm

1 - Valentine's disco

Tickets will be on sale via our events page soon.



Quiz

night

Martin
the host
invites you all to

FRIDAY

6th March

at the Parish Centre

PIES AND PEAS!

Tickets on sale soon

2 - Everyone is welcome to the quiz night, please invite family and friends along.

LONGFORD ROAD SAFETY



Reminder about safety on Longford Road

We've noticed an increase in cars attempting 3-point turns during the busy morning drop-off period, with some vehicles mounting the pavement. This is extremely dangerous for children, families and other pedestrians.

Please take extra care when driving near school. We know mornings can be busy and stressful, but a little patience goes a long way in keeping everyone safe

LET US PRAY



This week in assembly, the children will learn about Jesus' teaching on the Beatitudes and explore the inspiring life of St Pier Giorgio Frassati, known as "the Man of the Beatitudes." We will reflect on what it truly means to be "blessed" and how real happiness comes from kindness, courage and living God's way.

The Sermon on the Mount painting by Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568–1625), beautifully illustrates the moment Jesus shared these teachings.

THE WORD highlighted by **SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES**

Dear Parents and Carers, **Wednesday 28th January 2026**

Out of His great love for us, God created us to be happy with him forever. The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel, which promise true, lasting happiness, are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and are known as the Beatitudes.

To be gentle and to mourn means to share the sorrows of others and help them. To hunger and thirst for what is right, and to be prepared to be persecuted for it, needs courage and good judgement. 'Meek' really means un-pompous, genuine.

The merciful don't insist on their rights, but have strength to see the point of view of others and to think of the needs of others as well as their own needs.

Jesus' words would have turned upside down the thoughts that most of his listeners had about true happiness, and maybe they challenge our own ideas too.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HAPPINESS**. *Don Henry Walsbrough*

A Word from the Saints **"Whoever possesses God is happy!" St. Augustine**

"The Beatitudes are Jesus' way of life and they are the way of true happiness."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 1st February 2026

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: "How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people mistreat you and persecute you and speak all kinds of slander against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Adapted from Matthew 5:1-12
The 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful. Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church; all are very warmly invited.

Good News for Everyone we all want to be happy, to have a sense of well-being and inner joy. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teaches us how to discover the true happiness for which we were created. Living in the way that Jesus taught us, knowing that we are loved forever by God our Father and responding to that love by loving others, is the path to everlasting happiness - to the Kingdom with God.

SPREAD THE WORD and bring **GOOD NEWS** to your friends by sharing **THE WEDNESDAY WORD** ©2016/2017/2018

3 - WEDNESDAY WORD. Please click on the link to read.

<https://wednesday-word.paperturn-view.com/happiness?pid=MTA101634&v=200.6>



4 - For up to date photos and information, please head to our Instagram page at [st_johns_rc](https://www.instagram.com/st_johns_rc)

Please use the following contacts for any queries;

admin@stjohnsrc.net - any general queries, finance/vouchers, school dinners, enrichment and wraparound care. Monitored by the office team.

info@stjohnsrc.net – messages for teaching staff. This account is monitored by teaching staff and office staff. Please don't send any confidential material to this account.

pastoral@stjohnsrc.net – safeguarding or pastoral concerns. This email is only monitored by Mrs Marsden (Pastoral Manager & Deputy Safeguarding Lead) and Mrs O'Donoghue (Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead.)

head@stjohnsrc.net – messages for the headteacher