



Newsletter

23rd January 2026

'Behold, Jesus The Lamb of God'

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Josephs,

This week's Gospel invites us to pause and recognise Jesus as the Lamb of God—the one who brings peace, hope, and guidance into our lives. In school, we reflected on what it means to notice His presence in the everyday moments and to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

Our children were encouraged to listen carefully to that quiet inner voice that helps them choose what is right, especially when faced with uncertainty or difficult decisions. Across the week, we saw so many examples of kindness, patience, and thoughtful choices. Our Mini Vinnies have started the 'Chain of Kindness' (paperchain) that we hope will soon stretch the length of the whole school. It has been inspiring to watch the children grow in confidence as they learn to trust the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to support one another with gentleness and compassion.

'Thanks a Brunch!'

Today, our staff were surprised with a special "Thanks a Brunch" event in the staffroom. It was a simple but heartfelt way to acknowledge the dedication, care, and hard work that every member of our team brings to St Joseph's each day. We extend our thanks to Chef Lynne for preparing our delicious bacon butties – what a treat! The whole staff commitment to our children and families is the foundation of our school community, and it was wonderful to take a moment to celebrate them.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we love, learn, and follow Jesus every step of the way.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

The St Joseph's Team.

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*



Children's Liturgy

This week is the 3rd Sunday of the Year. In the Gospel we will hear about people who lived in darkness seeing a great light. Who do you think the people living in darkness were? Where do you think the light came from? One way of thinking about this is that when we are sad or lonely, everything feels dark and gloomy. This is the dark. But then when someone does something nice for us, like including us in their game, or making us laugh, everything seems brighter again. This is the light. This is the light that Jesus brings into the world. It is the light of God's love for each one of us.

Can you think of a time when someone did something that helped to light up your world and make you smile? What did they do?

We can try to share this light by loving our neighbours, near and far. By helping to make the world a fairer place so that every person has what they need to live a healthy and happy life. Because we know that at the moment some people in our world do not have enough food to eat, safe houses to live in or enough water to drink. And this is not what God wants for his children. What will you do to share the light of God's love for us all this week?

We do hope you can join us - it would be lovely to see you - **don't forget Mass is now on a Saturday afternoon - 4:30pm**

Children's Liturgy Team

School Trips

We are in the process of booking class trips this term.

Next month, Year 6 are travelling to London for the day to visit Westminster.

In March we are planning to take Class Romero to Martin Mere and Class Acutis to Houghton Tower. For both of these trips, we will need to transport children to and from the venues.

Over the next few weeks we will be asking via School Spider for payment for these trips to cover the entrance fee and coach fare. So that we can secure the booking, payment will need to be made in advance and if we do not receive a contribution your child may not be able to go on the trip. Please speak to Mrs Bridge if you would like to discuss the payment schedules. Thank you.

World Book Day 2026

Our World Book Day events will be taking place on **Monday, 2nd March** on the theme "Fantastic Fairytales".

We are looking forward to Story Explorer Drama Workshops for all classes.

There will be a charge of £5 per pupil payable via School Spider next week.



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Class Romero

It's been a wonderfully busy week of learning in Class Romero. Year 1 have been hard at work creating their very own China fact files in English, and they've taken such pride in showcasing what they've discovered. Continuing our China theme, our History lessons have focused on Chinese New Year, and the children were thrilled to try a prawn cracker as part of the celebration. In Science, we explored the next stage of a frog's life cycle: frogspawn. The children were fascinated—especially when they got to investigate some pretend frogspawn in class, which was delightfully gooey and messy! In DT, we've been designing our own moving vehicles, thinking carefully about how they will work. Next week, we will begin building them, complete with an axle and chassis. All in all, it's been a packed week full of curiosity, creativity, and hands-on learning. The children have embraced every moment.

Miss McEvoy



Class Acutis

Another fantastic week has come to an end in Class Acutis. A highlight for me has been seeing the beautiful artwork the children have created in RE whilst learning about the healing miracles of Jesus. Many people have commented on how beautiful the work is and also how meaningful the titles are that each individual piece has been given. In maths we have continued embedding times table knowledge and Year 2 are roaring ahead with the 5x table. Year 3 and Year 4 have had some difficult concepts to grapple with and have realised how useful it is to have rapid recall of key number facts. We have started our new text in English - The Firework-Maker's Daughter. The setting from a different culture has really grabbed the children's interest and they have produced some very descriptive writing of the main character Lila. In science I set the children a challenge to find out about what is inside a lightbulb after learning about Thomas Edison's work on inventing a lightbulb - is bamboo still used?

In spellings, we are a week behind the grid that has been sent out via School Spider.

Thank you as always for your support.

Mrs Lawman



Class Kolbe

We've had a fun and productive week in Class Kolbe, with lots of exciting learning taking place across the curriculum. In RE, the children have been learning about Jesus' miracles, exploring the stories in detail and discussing the important messages and meanings behind them. In science, we investigated the impact of exercise on the circulatory system. The children were very engaged and enjoyed learning how physical activity affects the heart and blood flow. In maths, Year 6 have been focusing on ratio, working hard to develop their understanding through a range of problem-solving activities. Year 5 have continued their learning on fractions, showing great perseverance and progress. In English, the children have been thoroughly enjoying our class text Beowulf. They produced some fantastic diary entries, writing from the perspective of Beowulf whilst demonstrating creativity and thoughtful language choices. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and effort this week.

Miss Bottomley

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Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

On **Monday, 2nd February** at 3.20pm there will be a meeting in Class Kolbe for the parents of pupils in Year 6. Miss Bottomley will be talking about the upcoming trip to the Houses of Parliament on Thursday, 26th February; SATs and the residential in June.

Parent Survey of Interest to extend the wraparound provision to include 3 and 4 year olds from September 2026: Please complete this survey if you feel you would use this service from next September. Please share this survey with others in the community too: <https://forms.gle/V5edP7ZvIDgJuS5V7>

Annual Plan of Provision: In line with the new Prayer & Liturgy Directory requirements, all schools are now asked to produce an Annual Plan of Provision (APOP). Our APOP for 2025–2026 is now available to view on the school website. You can also access it directly by clicking the following link: [APOP 2025–2026](#).

Let's Go Sing 2026

If your child is taking part in the concert at Blackburn Arena on Thursday, 19th March, here is a link so that they can practice our songs at home:
<https://www.whoopsadaisymusic.co.uk/>
Once you are on the website, find the Kidszone and use the password: Sing26 to access the songs and music.

Celebration of the Word

Celebration of the Word: All are welcome to join our Class Worship at 9am on the following dates:

30th January – Class Acutis
6th February – Class Kolbe
13th February – Class Romero

Help Needed:

If you have any plastic milk bottle tops, please don't throw them away – Class Romero need them for their DT project. Please speak to Miss McEvoy if you can help.

We would also be grateful for donations of pine cones, conkers and bamboo for the bug hotel that pupils will be building with Ben from Stanley Grange!

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	99%	93.3%
Year One	88.5%	94.6%
Year Two	98.3%	97.4%
Year Three	94.5%	96%
Year Four	100%	95.2%
Year Five	91.8%	93.7%
Year Six	97.1%	95.6%
School Total	95.4%	95.2%

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This Week in Pictures



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ART COMPETITION

Design a Picture to Celebrate An Historic Year for St' Josephs

This year marks a truly significant moment in the life of our school and parish community. We invite all children and families to take part in a special art competition. We are looking for a design that captures the spirit, memories, and hope of this historic year—something that reflects who we are, where we have come from, and the legacy we will carry forward. This competition is open to both children and adults. Entries must be on A4 paper or card (Portrait or landscape) and sent into school before the closing date: 27th March 2026

Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and the winning design will be made into a large, permanent mural displayed at the heart of our school. We look forward to seeing your fantastic creations. Good luck!

Entries must be sent to:
Main Office at St Joseph's Catholic
Primary, Brindle, PR5 0DQ
or email a photograph/copy of your
design to [secretary@st-josephs-
houghton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-josephs-houghton.lancs.sch.uk)



ST JOSEPH'S PTFA
SCHOOL DISCO

GET YOUR FUNK ON

Thursday 12th February
6pm-7.30pm



**£5 PER CHILD & £3 FOR SIBLINGS
INCLUDES DRINKS, SWEETS, SNACK AND GLOWSTICK
BRACELETS**

PLEASE BUY TICKETS FROM THE OFFICE FROM MONDAY

Active Camps

Venues:

CuerdenChurch Primary School, PR5 6ED
and Kingsfold Primary School, PR1 9HJ

Monday 16th to Thursday 19th February

Football, Tennis, Scooting, Archery, UV
Sports, Dodgeball, and so so much more....

Cost per day: £14.00

Cost per block: £56.00

For booking Visit:

southribble.gov.uk/activecamps

Drop off 8.30am - 9am

Pick up 4.30pm - 5pm

Funded places available through HA



Dodgeball,
dance, scooting,
cycling, glow sport,
soft axe throwing,
archery and much
more!

All staff
enhanced DBS
cleared, also
safeguarding
and first aid
trained



With highly
qualified sports
coaches and
teachers



All children
provided with a
healthy lunch

