



Newsletter

30th January 2026

Follow me, follow me

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Josephs,

We have enjoyed another wonderful week of learning and growing together at St Joseph's.

We began the week with our Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the Gospel story of Jesus choosing his disciples. The children were reminded that each of us is called to be a follower and disciple of Jesus today. They were encouraged to live out this mission throughout the week by showing kindness to others and contributing to our whole-school chain of kindness.

This message feels especially meaningful as we celebrate the Year of Francis, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. This Jubilee Year, running from January 10, 2026 to January 10, 2027, invites all Catholics to reflect on the life and teachings of Saint Francis—his humility, his love for creation, and his deep commitment to peace. Throughout the year, the Church encourages us to rediscover the Franciscan values of simplicity, fraternity, and care for our common home. It is also a time when the faithful may participate in special spiritual activities, including opportunities for plenary indulgence through prayer, acts of charity, and pilgrimages to Franciscan churches.

In this spirit, our Planet Protectors welcomed Mark McGuire from Lancashire County Council, who shared practical ways we can continue to save energy and reduce waste as a school. The children were inspired by his visit and are eager to put new ideas into action—living out Saint Francis' call to cherish and protect God's creation.

Our Year 6 pupils have also embarked on a special mission: the CYMFed Faith in Action Award. Over the coming months, they will work towards earning 20 credits through acts of service in school, the parish and the wider community. This aligns beautifully with the Year of Francis, as the award encourages young people to deepen their faith through service, compassion, and responsibility. We look forward to seeing the many ways they will shine. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

The St Joseph's Team.

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

**Saturday is the last mass to be said at St Joseph's.
It would be lovely to see a lot of children there.
Please do try to attend at 4.30pm if you can**



Children's Liturgy:

This week is the 4th Sunday of the Year. In the Gospel Jesus teaches his disciples about the way he would like people to be treated and how he sees some types of people as extra special. He says that they will be happy or blessed.

When will this happen? Will this only happen in heaven or could it happen here on earth as well? We can try to help Jesus' words to come alive today. Let's think about how.

What could you do to help someone who is sad? What could you do to help someone who is hungry or thirsty? What could you do to help someone who is poor? What could you do to help someone who is being laughed at or picked on for standing up for what they believe in?

By doing these things we will also be following Jesus. We can help to make the words he spoke to his disciples a reality. God can work through us to bring comfort, mercy and happiness to others.

What will you do this week to help Jesus' words to come alive in our world?

World Book Day 2026

When we celebrate World Book Day on **Monday, 2nd March**, pupils can dress up as a character from any fairy tale in keeping with our theme "Fantastic Fairytales".

Each class will also be having a West End in Schools workshop during the day, as well as enjoying lots of other activities to mark this event.

We are asking for a contribution of £5 per pupil towards the workshops. This is payable via School Spider. Thank you to those who have already paid!

Parent Consultation: Monday, 9th March

Bookings for our next parent consultation meetings on Monday, 9th March are now open on School Spider.

If you are unable to make that date, please speak to Mrs Cox and we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

National Maths Competition

Well done to our team of four Year Six pupils who took part in an inter-school online maths competition today.

Congratulations to Henry, Penelope, Effie and Eliza for being such fantastic ambassadors for our school and taking the challenge in their stride!

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Class Romero

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting week in Class Romero. The children have been hard at work designing and building their own vehicles using junk modelling materials, complete with axles and chassis. Hands-on learning truly brings out the best in them, and it was fantastic to see every pair fully absorbed in their creations and working together so enthusiastically. This afternoon, the children produced beautiful, detailed artwork inspired by Ramadan and Eid. They were eager to learn about the celebration and showed great curiosity throughout the activity. In Jam Coding, Reception children have been developing their click-and-drag skills by completing tricky digital jigsaws. Year 1 have continued with their brilliant animations unit, learning how to add frames to make their characters move smoothly across the screen. In science, we carried on exploring the lifecycle of a frog, with a special focus on tadpoles. The children were amazed to discover how frogs hatch from their jelly-like eggs and gradually transform. In Maths, Year 1 have been practising addition and subtraction within 20 and have begun learning their doubles to 20. Reception have been exploring the numbers 6, 7, and 8 through a range of practical activities. It has been a week full of curiosity, creativity, and teamwork. We are very much looking forward to our final two weeks of this half term.

Miss McEvoy



Class Acutis

There have been so many success stories in Class Acutis this week! Every morning begins with children asking me if they can quiz and change their reading book and Year 4 children often complete a lesson on Reading Plus too. This is in addition to the children writing out their weekly spellings and all before 9am! In preparation for our class liturgy, the children have thought about the blessings they have in their lives making links with the Beatitudes. They have learned a beautiful hymn which they were looking forward to sharing with parents. They have developed this by making links with our RE topic and learning more about the work of HCPT and are looking forward to welcoming a special visitor next week to find out more about this charity. In Maths, Year 4 have started to do mock Times Tables Tests on the iPads and are showing excellent rapid retrieval skills! Year 2 loved learning how to use number lines to solve problems involving subtraction. Year 3 have had to grapple with the tricky skill of multiplying a 2 digit number by a 1 digit number and are making huge strides with their understanding. In English we are getting deeper into our class novel and the children wrote some excellent setting descriptions including noun phrase, similes and time adverbials. They are all working their socks off! Well done everyone.

Mrs Lawman



Class Kolbe

This week in Class Kolbe, the children have been busy across the curriculum. In RE, we have continued exploring Jesus' miracles: comparing the key messages and symbols found in different stories. In Maths, Year 5 have finally completed their work on fractions and have moved on to multiplication, while Year 6 have been focusing on scale and proportion. In English, we have been learning about different sentence structures—simple, compound and complex—and will be applying this knowledge in our shared write next week. In science, the children investigated how nutrients travel around the body and were particularly interested to learn that fish are the only vertebrates to have a single closed circulatory system. Finally, in worship, we reflected on this week's Gospel, where Jesus asked his disciples to leave their own lives behind and follow him; a difficult decision, yet one they were all called to make. This led us to think about how God calls each of us in our own lives.

Miss Bottomley

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Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

Don't forget, on **Monday (February 2nd)** 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 to the Anderton Centre in June. Please let us know if you are not able to make the meeting.

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/V5edP7Zv1DgJuS5V7>

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](#).

Celebration of the Word

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

6th February – Class Kolbe

13th February – Class Romero

Faith In Action Award

This week, we launched our Faith in Action Award. Our Year 6 children will be joining over 1,800 young people from across the Archdiocese of Liverpool as they work towards achieving their Pin Badge.

The CYMFed Faith in Action Award celebrates young people who actively serve others and help build the Kingdom of God on Earth. Many already follow Jesus' example through the ways they support their school and parish communities. This award encourages them to take that service even further—into the wider community—while deepening their sense of responsibility for living out their faith.

More information about the award can be found here:

<https://faithinactionaward.co.uk/>

To achieve their Pin Badge, children will need to earn 20 credits, which represent 20 hours of service to their school, parish, or local community. Those who successfully complete the award will be invited to attend a special celebration ceremony on Tuesday 23rd June 2026 or Wednesday 24th June 2026.

Attendance

Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	100%	93.5%
Year One	94.6%	94.6%
Year Two	95.8%	97.3%
Year Three	97.3%	96.1%
Year Four	98.7%	95.3%
Year Five	94.5%	93.7%
Year Six	90.6%	95.3%
School Total	95.2%	95.2%

School Trips

In March, Class Romero and Class Acutis will be going on school trips. On Tuesday, 17th March, Miss McEvoy is taking her class to Martin Mere and the following week, Mrs Lawman will be taking Class Acutis to Houghton Tower. Consent forms for both these trips are now on School Spider. Could we ask that you complete the forms and pay for the transport and admission costs. Thank you.

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
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This Week in Pictures



*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father,
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Creating the Challenge - 2016-2017 - All Rights Reserved







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



FEBRUARY

Multi Sports & LEGO Holi day Camp



Activities include: Glow In The Dark Games,
Lego, Football, Dance, Tri - Golf,
Plus so much more

St Joesph's Brindle Primary School
Bourne's Row, Hoghton
Preston PR5 0DQ



AbsoluteFutbol



What to bring:
Packed Lunch, Snacks & Still Drinks
Appropriate Clothing & Footwear For Indoor &
Outdoor Activities



absolutefutbol ltd



LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE
To book: Scan the QR code or visit
absolute.classforkids.io/camp/127
For any assistance with booking email
admin@absolute-futbol.org



16th - 19th
Feb



4-11
(Reception to Year 6)



11am - 3pm



£15

FREE PLACES INCLUDING LUNCH

EMAIL: DANIELLE@ABSOLUTE-FUTBOL.ORG

TO FIND OUT MORE

Mustbereceiptofa16DigitSummerHAFCode





WOODWIND DAY 2026

SIGN UP!



FREE TO ATTEND

VENUE

ST MICHAELS CE HIGH SCHOOL
ASTLEY RD, CHORLEY PR7 1RS

WHEN

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2026

TIME

10AM-3:30PM



#WHEREWILLMUSICTAKEYOU



LANCASHIRE
MUSIC SERVICE

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake 'facts'. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo-chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College