



# Newsletter

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Josephs,

We've had another wonderful week here at St Joseph's. This morning Class Kolbe had a beautiful Celebration of the Word for the school community, which was linked to this week's Gospel. We were reminded of Jesus' call to follow Him with trust, courage, and an open heart. The disciples left behind what was familiar so they could walk with Christ into something new. It is a powerful reminder that faith often asks us to step forward even when the path ahead feels uncertain.

This message felt especially meaningful this week as our parish gathered for the final Mass led by Father Graeme last Sunday at St Joseph's, Brindle. We thank him sincerely for his kindness and service since the departure of Father Raphael.

We are delighted to welcome Father Mark into our community. As you know, he will be supporting the pastoral needs of our school and parish, and we look forward to the journey ahead with him.

Father Mark warmly invites all families, parishioners, and friends to join us for a Lent Mass on **Tuesday, 3rd March at 2.30pm in the school hall**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather together in prayer as we reflect upon our Lenten preparations.

Letters for this year's Sacramental Programme have been sent out this evening. These include details of the upcoming meetings at St Bede's later this month. We ask families to read the information carefully and note the key dates. If your child is in Year 4, 5 or 6 and would like to take part, and you have not already notified us, please get in touch with the school office before we finish for half term.

We have received a letter from the Archbishop regarding the ongoing consultation about St Joseph's, Brindle. He has shared that the process is still underway and will be presented at the Council of Priests meeting in mid-February. We appreciate that this period brings uncertainty and concern for many. As a school community, we continue to pray for our whole parish—asking for peace, clarity, and unity during this difficult time. Have a wonderful and blessed weekend. Thank you for your continued support as we love, learn and follow Jesus every step of the way.

*The St Joseph's Team.*  
*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.*  
*Pray for Us...*



### **Class Romero**

It has been another fun and busy week in Class Romero! We've enjoyed lots of hands-on learning, from decorating our vehicles in DT to creating Sukkot tents in History. The children always throw themselves into these activities and work brilliantly together. In Maths, both Year 1 and Reception have been exploring doubles, using songs and rhymes to help us remember them. Year 1 have turned into real bookworms in English, focusing on a poem inspired by a Chinese dragon. Next week, they will begin writing their own poems, including some fantastic rhyming words. Reception have been writing and learning all about carnivals, inspired by their English book Carnival Queen. In Science, we have learnt about the next stage of a frog's life cycle—froglets! Next week, we will be bringing all of our learning together to create a frog life-cycle wheel.

I am really looking forward to our final week before half-term. We will be focusing on St Valentine and enjoying lots of Valentine's-themed provision ❤️

Miss McEvoy



### **Class Acutis**

Another fantastic week in Class Acutis! The highlight has been a visit from Mr Singleton, who talked to the children all about the charity HCPT and his experiences making the pilgrimage to Lourdes. The children were fascinated and especially loved the song at the end. They are excited about sending some work to Mr Singleton's school and sharing learning between schools. We also shared our weekly class Celebration of the Word with Mrs Bridge in the chapel. The children enjoyed reflecting on how we could shine out light to the world and follow in Jesus' footsteps. They marked out a pathway of light to different crosses in the chapel using tealights to focus on following God's path in all they do. In Maths this week Year 2 have been getting to grips with concept of multiplication and will be hot on the heels of Year 3 and 4 with rapid recall of times tables facts. In English we have come to a very exciting part of our class novel The Firework-Makers Daughter which has inspired some great ideas for direct speech in the children's writing. In PE we are focusing on Boccia and the children are having great fun learning about the rules of the sport and developing sportsmanship. Last Friday we had a hugely enjoyable lesson and I can't wait to see what this week brings.

Mrs Lawman

### **Class Kolbe**

We've had a wonderfully full and exciting week in Class Kolbe, with the children showing fantastic effort and enthusiasm across all areas of learning. This week, our English focus was a shared write based on retelling the legendary battle Beowulf vs. Grendel. The children truly impressed me with their powerful descriptive language, vivid imagery and careful attention to sentence structure. Their ability to build suspense and bring scenes to life has been outstanding. Maths wise, Year 5 have been working on long multiplication, developing confidence in using written methods and checking their answers with accuracy, whilst Year 6 have been exploring algebra, particularly function machines. Both year groups have worked brilliantly and shown great determination. In RE, we have been reflecting on the passage from John's Gospel: "I am the Bread of Life." The children showed deep understanding and were able to discuss the meaning of Jesus' words with sensitivity and insight. In addition to this, on Tuesday morning, we were delighted to be joined by Mrs Bridge as we held our class Celebration of the Word. Our prayer leaders carefully and thoughtfully wrote their own bidding prayers, helping to guide the class in a reflective and meaningful worship. In History, we took a closer look at Alfred the Great, exploring why he was given the title "the Great." The children enjoyed learning about his achievements and considering what makes a leader truly worthy of such recognition. From legendary battles to algebra, gospel reflections to great kings, Class Kolbe have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm. I am are incredibly proud of them all.

Miss Bottomley



# Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

**The Ark Updates for Parents:** Please take a moment to read the Parent Handbook, now available on both School Spider and the school website. It includes key information about changes to the booking system that will come into effect from Easter 2026. From next half term, parents will be asked to book the sessions they require one term in advance (so from Easter onwards). A small number of ad-hoc places will still be available for emergencies, though these will be charged at a higher rate. This advance-booking system will help us plan staffing and provision more effectively for the future. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

**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](#).

## Celebration of the Word

Celebration of the Word: All are welcome to join our Class Worship at 9am on the following date:  
13<sup>th</sup> 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	95%	93.6%
Year One	<b>100%</b>	94.9%
Year Two	<b>100%</b>	97.4%
Year Three	98.2%	96.2%
Year Four	97.5%	95.4%
Year Five	89.1%	93.5%
Year Six	97.6%	95.5%
School Total	97%	95.2%

**School Meals:** The cost of school meals across Lancashire is increasing from £2.86 to £2.90. This will come into effect from Easter 2026.

## Birthdays

From now on, children are invited to attend school in non-uniform when it is their birthday. This can be either the Friday before or the following Monday if their birthday falls over a weekend or during a holiday season.

Unfortunately, we can no longer permit cakes, chocolates or sweets to be brought into school to give out. This is because we must comply with Natasha's law. We have two children with nut allergies in school and we must take every precaution to protect them from harm. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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



# This Week in Pictures



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





# 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: 27<sup>th</sup> 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](https://absolute.classforkids.io/camp/127)**  
For any assistance with booking email  
[admin@absolute-futbol.org](mailto: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](mailto:DANIELLE@ABSOLUTE-FUTBOL.ORG)**

**TO FIND OUT MORE**

\*Mustbereceiptofa16DigitSummerHAFCode\*



## **February Half Term at South Ribble Leisure**

### **FREE Gymnastics and Tennis Camps**

For children eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals.

No HAF code needed – just book and go!

- Gymnastics Camp: 16, 17 or 18 February – 12–2pm
- Tennis Camp: 16 or 17 February – 12–2pm

Location: South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre

Book: [southribble.gov.uk/activecamps](https://southribble.gov.uk/activecamps)

### **Intensive Half-Term Swimming Lessons**

Boost confidence and water skills with 5 x 30-minute lessons!

16–20 February • £33.25

Leyland Leisure Centre:

- 8.30am Stage 1 • 9.00am Stage 2 • 9.30am Stage 3
- 10.00am Stage 4 • 10.30am Stage 5

Book: [tinyurl.com/28nwpsw5](https://tinyurl.com/28nwpsw5)

Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre:

- 8.30am Stage 1 • 9.00am Stage 2 • 9.30am Stage 3
- 10.00am Stage 4

Book: [tinyurl.com/32wmr8m5](https://tinyurl.com/32wmr8m5)



**CHORLEY**  
SCHOOL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

# FEBRUARY SPORTS CAMP

16<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

Ages  
5-11

BOOK ONLINE AT:  
[www.chorleyssp.co.uk](http://www.chorleyssp.co.uk)

£22 A DAY OR  
£60 ALL THREE DAYS

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-2PM  
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2PM  
HAF

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happen in  
Chorley

CHORLEY ST PETER'S  
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Eaves Lane PR6 0DX

01257 824798  
[j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk](mailto:j.milner@chorleyssp.co.uk)



FREE HAF PLACES FOR ELIGIBLE FAMILIES  
PLEASE USE SCHOOL ISSUED CODE ON BOOKING