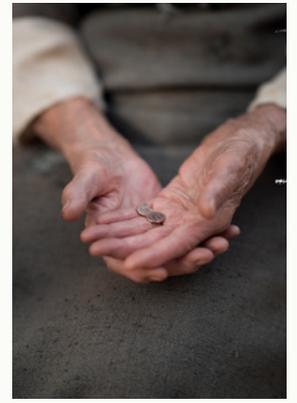




Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Joseph's,

Friday 27th February 2026

As we begin this new half term, the lighter mornings and first signs of spring bring a welcome sense of renewal. In this season of Lent, we are reminded of the widow in Mark 12:41–44, whose small offering was precious because it was given with her whole heart. Lent invites us to do the same—to offer what we can, with love, generosity and sincerity. It has been wonderful to see this spirit reflected in the life of our school this week.

Class Romero began the week with great excitement as three baby chicks arrived in their classroom. Watching the children care so attentively for them has been a joyful way to mark both the start of Lent and the coming of spring, showing their willingness to give time, patience and kindness to something so small.

Class Acutis and Class Kolbe also entered into the season with special Lent-themed Celebrations of the Word. The children burned palm leaves to create ashes that will be blessed by Father Mark and used in next year's Ash Wednesday Mass. They spent time in Sacred Silence around the fire pit, offering prayers and making thoughtful almsgiving promises to God.

Each lunchtime, we have now begun our Big Lent Walk, and the children have made a fantastic start—walking over 1km every day to raise money for CAFOD. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in sponsorship money; we will continue collecting donations throughout the term.

Following last year's success, we have relaunched our Easter Reflection Garden competition. Children are invited to create a garden and bring it into school before the last day of term (27th March). We kindly ask for a £1 donation per entry, with all proceeds going towards our CAFOD collection.

Our Food Bank donation trolley is also beginning to fill with your generous contributions. These will be delivered to the Living Church Foodbank in Chorley at the end of term, supporting families in our wider community.

On a final note, we were also incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who visited the Houses of Parliament on Thursday to deepen their understanding of British Values. Their behaviour, curiosity and maturity throughout the day were exemplary, and they were a real credit to the school.

As we continue our journey through Lent, may we, like the widow in the Gospel, offer the small but meaningful gifts we can—our time, our kindness, our prayers and our care for one another. Thank you for the many ways you support our school community. Have a wonderful weekend!

The St Joseph's Team.

St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.

Pray for Us...



Class Romero

It has been a wonderful, fluffy and joyful week in Class Romero! We welcomed some very cute, loud, and cheeky chicks into our classroom. They have filled our days with smiles, curiosity, and excitement. The children loved caring for them and learning all about the lifecycle of a chick. This week, we also began our new units across the curriculum. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring Pop Art, as well as learning about famous explorers in History. Next week, Year 1 will be planning and writing their very own adventure stories in English. Reception will be writing and drawing about adventure-themed questions inspired by 'Billy and The Pirates'. In Maths, Year 1 have begun exploring place value within 50, focusing on counting and grouping in tens. Reception have been exploring length, height, and time through hands-on practical activities. We have especially loved taking our learning outdoors, making the most of practical experiences to deepen understanding. I am looking forward to another exciting week ahead, starting with World Book Day, where we will be engaging in drama sessions and CAFOD workshops.

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Miss McEvoy

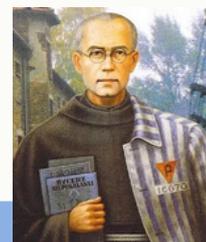


Class Acutis

I said to the children this week how much I look forward to seeing them each morning, it really is true, they are a credit to you all. This week in RE we have been looking closely at the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The children have enjoyed working out why I have put certain objects in the golden box. We have also started to study fables in English. Sometimes the morals can be tricky to work out, but the children are enjoying the simplicity of the genre. Year 2 have absolutely smashed their maths this week - they have done work on the ten times table and are very confident. Let them show you at home! I was amazed at how the children worked during DT this week. One adult with 31 children creating prototype automatons successfully requires a lot of teamwork and yet it worked!

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Mrs Lawman



Class Kolbe

Class Kolbe have had a lovely—though incredibly busy—first week back after the holidays! We have thrown ourselves straight into our new art unit, where the children have been studying Houghton Tower and exploring how mood and lighting can dramatically change the atmosphere of their artwork. In Maths, Year 5 have been working hard on multiplying fractions, while Year 6 have been developing their understanding of decimals. The highlight of the week for Year 6 was without doubt their exciting trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. The children even had the chance to meet Mr Speaker himself and enjoyed a fascinating tour around several parliamentary buildings. It has certainly been a memorable start to the term!

Miss Bottomley

Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

St Joseph's World Book Day: On Monday 2nd March, the children are invited to dress up in their favourite book character costumes. There are planned theatre workshops taking place during the afternoon for all classes. A special World Book Day lunch will be served for those wishing to have a school dinner and this is bookable on School Spider. See flyer attached.

CAFOD workshops: Monday 2nd March, Frances Fordyce will be leading CAFOD workshops with each of the classes during the morning.

Lent Mass: This will take place in school on Tuesday, 3rd March at 2.30pm, all are welcome to attend.

Year 5 visit to Brownedge St Mary's: Our Year 5 pupils have been invited for a taster morning next Friday (March 6th). More details are available on School Spider with the consent form that needs to be completed.

Parents Evening: Monday 9th March 2026. Appointments bookable via School Spider.

Stations of the Cross: Monday, 16th March 2026 at 2pm in school. All are welcome to attend.

Martin Mere trip: This is taking place for pupils in Class Romero on Tuesday, 17th March. Please make sure you have completed the consent forms and made a contribution towards the cost of transport and the entrance fee.

Let's Go Sing: Thursday, 19th March at Blackburn Ice Arena. Let us know who will be collecting your child at the end of the concert by completing the form on School Spider.

Easter Bingo: The next PTFA fund-raiser will be taking place on Friday, 20th March. There will be a non-uniform day on Friday, 13th March when we would like donations of chocolate eggs for prizes please!

Hoghton Tower trip: The Class Acutis trip is taking place on Tuesday, 24th March. Please make sure you have completed the consent forms and made a contribution towards the cost of transport and the entrance fee.

Easter Garden Competition closes: 27th March 2026

CAFOD Coin Battle: 2nd March - 27th March 2026

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	97.8%	94.1%
Year One	96.9%	95.1%
Year Two	98.3%	97.6%
Year Three	96.4%	96.1%
Year Four	96.3%	95.6%
Year Five	92.7%	93.5%
Year Six	98.2%	95.7%
School Total	96.8%	95.4%

Class Acutis: PE Days

Just a reminder that pupils in Class Acutis have PE on **Thursday and Friday**.

On Thursday, all pupils should come to school in their Forest School kit but bring their PE kit with them to get changed into.

Children in Year 2 and Year 3 have a further PE session in school on a Friday morning. They need to make sure they have their full PE kit with them in school if they have taken it home after Forest School.

Pupils in Year 4 go swimming on Friday mornin. They need to come to school in their uniform and bring their swimming kit with them.

ST. JOSEPH'S COIN BATTLE 2026

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHY?	WHO WILL WIN?
Bring in coins to school to help your class to collect the most points.	Lent 2026 2 nd March - 27 th March 2026	To raise money for our Lenten Charity, CAFOD.	The class with the most points at the end of the period will win a class prize!
POSITIVE POINTS	NEGATIVE POINTS	YOUR CHOICE	HOW?
Bring in the following coins to add positive points to your class jar. 1p = 1 point 2p = 2 points 5p = 5 points 10p = 10 points	Bring in the following coins to add negative points to another class's jar. 20p = -20 points 50p = -50 points £1 = -100 points	You can choose to bring in coins to add to your classes jar and/or bring in coins to take points from the class of your choosing's jar.	Bring in all coins and add them to the jar of your choosing! Think carefully!

The Sacramental Programme Information

St Bede's Sacramental Preparation 2026
All preparation sessions are held in St Bede's Church at 6.30pm and will be over before 7.30pm.

~~Session One 26th February~~

Session Two 5th March

Session Three 12th March

Service of First Reconciliation 19th March
6.30pm

Session Four 18th June

Session Five 25th June

Session Six 2nd July

Celebration of First Holy Communion
Saturday 4th July 11am

Children's Liturgy

This week is the 2nd Sunday of Lent. In the Gospel Jesus goes to the top of a mountain with Peter, James and John. When he gets there his appearance changes – his face and clothes shine with light. How do you think the disciples feel when they see this?

A voice comes from a cloud, saying: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Whose voice do you think this is? How do you think the disciples feel when they hear God's voice?

The disciples are very afraid, but Jesus tells them not to be. Then everything looks normal again.

How do you think we can listen to God? Do we need to climb a mountain?

We can hear God's voice when we stop and pray. When we make time for God in our lives. And when we make the right choices in how we treat others.

The disciples' lives are changed by what happened on the mountain. They now know just how special Jesus is – that he is God's Son. They have seen his face shine like the sun and they have heard God speak to them. Our lives are changed by Jesus too. Jesus lives in all of us. He asks us to always try to do what is right, to stand up for what we believe in and to help other people. Jesus calls us to show God's love to others.

How will you make sure your love for other people shines out like the sun?

Mass is no longer being said at St Joseph's Brindle – come along to St Bede's Sunday 11am.

It was lovely to see some of Year 4 children at St Bede's on Thursday as they start their Sacramental Journey.

Children's Liturgy Team

Brindle St. Joseph's Easter Reflection Garden Competition

On Friday 27th March,
we are going to hold a
competition for the
finest Easter Reflection
Garden



PRIZE
for each
class
winner!

to enter with all
money going to
our charity,
CAFOD.

£1



Anyone from
EYFS to Year 6
can enter.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Monday
2nd
March
2026



Treasure Island Tortilla Wraps

*Mild Chilli Chicken or Quorn
with Cheese & Cannon Ball
Potato Puffs Golden Corn &
Ruby Pepper Medley or*

Hogwarts House Pasta

*Pasta Spirals & Tomato Sauce
with
Gryffindor Garlic Bread*

~

Charlie's Chocolate Factory Cake

*Chocolate Sprinkle Cupcake
or*

Matilda's Magical Jelly

*Strawberry Jelly
with Cream & Sprinkles*

(Choice of filled Jacket Potatoes also available)



This Week in Pictures



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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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)**