



# Newsletter

13th March 2026

## The Headteacher's Weekly Round Up

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

In this week's Gospel, we find Jesus resting at a well, waiting to meet someone who feels utterly alone – the Samaritan woman. In just a few moments of conversation, her life is transformed. Across school, the children have been reflecting on how Jesus meets each of us with love, no matter our faults, and how we too can draw strength from the "living water" he offers whenever we need it.

On Monday evening, it was a joy to welcome so many families to Parents' Evening and to celebrate the children's progress and achievements so far. Thank you to our teachers for their time, dedication and care.

The children have also begun preparing for our Stations of the Cross event on Monday 16th March at 2pm. All are warmly invited to join us as we journey around the school in prayer and reflection.

Our Year 2 and Year 3 children have been invited to attend Mass at St Bede's on Friday 27th March at 9.30am. We will travel by coach and return in time for lunch. Families and friends are very welcome to meet us at St Bede's Church and join us for the celebration.

We have also begun collecting resources for our new outdoor play area. You may have spotted the first delivery of tyres and crates arriving this week, but we are still in need of more items. We are looking for: scaffolding boards, wooden logs, plastic crates, tyres, rope, cable drums and tarpaulin sheets. These 'loose part play' materials will allow children to build dens, pirate ships, castles, obstacle courses and countless other imaginative creations. If you have any of these items at home or through work, we would be extremely grateful for your support.

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

Have a lovely Mother's Day weekend with the special women in your life.

Mrs S Bridge.  
Headteacher.

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





### **Class Romero**

It has been a wonderful week in Class Romero! We began with Parents' Evening, and it was truly lovely meeting with you all. Thank you for your continued support. In RE, we learned about the special story of The Last Supper. The children were fully engaged and acted out the story beautifully. We even enjoyed trying a hot cross bun to help us remember this important moment in Holy Week. In art, the children have sketched the outlines for their popart self-portraits. Next week, they will begin adding bright, bold colours to bring their artwork to life! In geography, we explored the adventures of Christopher Columbus and created a personal timeline of the key events in his remarkable life. Next week, we will be heading out on our class trip to Martin Mere. I'm very much looking forward to an exciting and busy day out of school with the children!

Miss McEvoy



### **Class Acutis**

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parent's Evening on Monday night and have the opportunity to share with you the wonderful work the children have been producing. The class have been working hard on their assessments this week which can be quite a challenge, but they have approached them with a great attitude. There has been a flurry of excitement after I gave them their new ZPD ranges for Accelerated Reader, with lots of smiles as the children realised what great progress they have made. In RE the children have written some wonderful Lenten Promises. I really loved how different they all were. We have been busily preparing to welcome the local community into school to join us in the stations of the cross and are still really enjoying the daily Lent meditations from Open for Lent. In DT the children have evaluated their automaton prototypes in preparation for planning their final product later in the term. Don't forget to enter the Easter Garden competition or send in any spare change for the Lent Coin Battle - we have had lots of donations already so thank you, as always for your continued support.

Mrs Lawman



### **Class Kolbe**

What an incredible week it has been in Class Kolbe! The children have been working exceptionally hard, showcasing their learning and progress through a range of assessments. It has been truly wonderful to see just how much they are growing day by day, and assessment week has provided a real opportunity for their achievements to shine.

In English, we have been diving into the classic poem Macavity: The Mystery Cat. The children have thoroughly enjoyed uncovering the mischievous crimes of the notorious feline and exploring why he is known as the Napoleon of Crime. They each created a fantastic poster focusing on Macavity's character, making excellent use of figurative language to bring the poem to life.

In RE, we have been exploring the connections between the first Adam (from the story of Adam and Eve) and the new Adam (Jesus). The children have truly blown me away with their thoughtful reflections and their ability to interpret scripture with such depth and maturity.

It has been a joy to see their enthusiasm, hard work, and curiosity across all subjects this week. Well done,

Class Kolbe!

Miss Bottomley

# Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

**Easter Bingo ...** is taking place on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at the Parish Hall. If you would like to attend, please send your money to the school office. It costs £1 per adult and 50p per child.

**Easter Mass:** At St Bede's Church on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am. Please join us there with Y2 & Y3 children if you are able to. All are welcome.

**Stations of the Cross:** Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> 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, 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure you have completed the consent forms and made a contribution towards the cost of transport and the entrance fee. If you are providing a packed lunch from home, please make sure it is in a plastic bag and is entirely disposable.

**Let's Go Sing:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Your child will need to wear an extra layer under their school uniform and will need to bring a fully disposable packed tea to eat - please ensure this is nut free, thank you.

**Hoghton Tower trip:** The Class Acutis trip is taking place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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:** Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**CAFOD Coin Battle:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	<b>100%</b>	94.5%
Year One	<b>100%</b>	95%
Year Two	98.3%	97.4%
Year Three	96.4%	96.3%
Year Four	<b>100%</b>	95.9%
Year Five	92.7%	93.7%
Year Six	99.4%	95.7%
School Total	98.1%	95.5%

### **Important Reminder about 'The Ark':**

The block booking has opened on School Spider for the Summer Term. It will close on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, after which point the price will increase for ad-hoc places before and after school.

### **Children's Liturgy St Bede's & St Joseph's Parish**

This week is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent. In the Gospel we hear how Jesus helped a blind man to see again. Jesus makes a paste, puts it on the blind man's eyes and tells him to wash in a pool. When the blind man does this, he can see. How do you think the man felt at being able to see for the first time?

The Pharisees (some of the religious leaders of the time) question the man and his parents to find out how Jesus gave him his sight. The man tells them but they do not believe it and grow angry.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are blind because they cannot see that he is the Son of God. While there is nothing wrong with their eyes, the Pharisees do not open their hearts to see the truth of who Jesus is. While the blind man is able to see and to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

We need to open our hearts, so that we can feel God's love for us and see the truth about the world around us.

Sometimes there are problems or things that are not right in this world. We can take notice of these problems and try to make them better.

But we can also see what is possible when people work together to solve problems.

A better world needs all of us to play our part. So this week, look out for all the good things that you can see. If you see anything that is wrong or unfair, think about what you could do to help change it.

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

Little Church 11am St Bede's. We would love to see you.  
Children's Liturgy Team

# 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 <sup>nd</sup> March - 27 <sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> February~~

~~Session Two 5<sup>th</sup> March~~

~~Session Three 12<sup>th</sup> March~~

Service of First Reconciliation 19<sup>th</sup> March  
6.30pm

Session Four 18<sup>th</sup> June

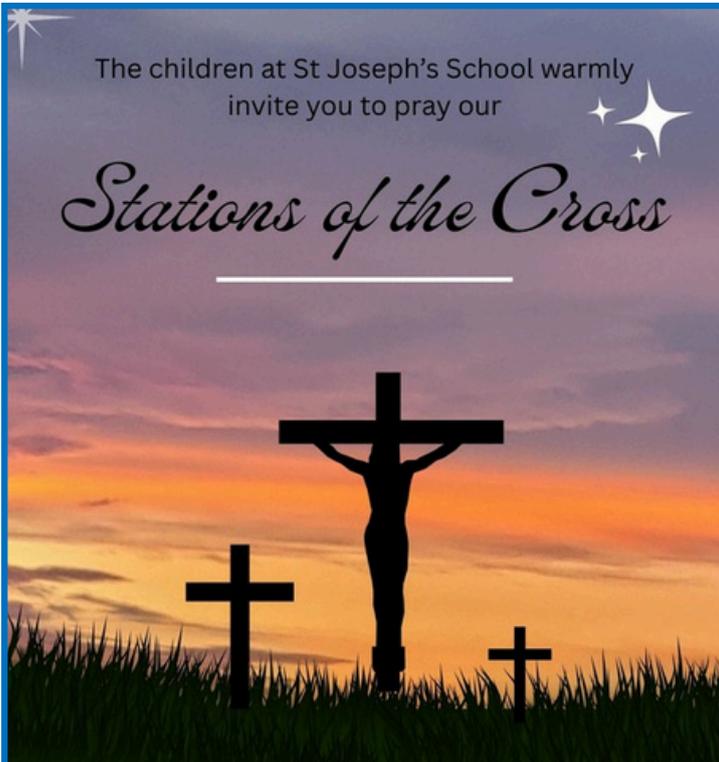
Session Five 25<sup>th</sup> June

Session Six 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Celebration of First Holy Communion  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 11am

The children at St Joseph's School warmly invite you to pray our

*Stations of the Cross*



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2pm**  
**All are welcome.**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School,  
Bournes Row, Gregson Lane, Preston, PR5 0DQ.

**School Meals ...** please note, the cost of school meals will increase to £2.90 from Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Hot snacks ...** from next week you will be able to pre-order toast for your child for the Summer 1 term. The cost will remain at 20p per slice.

# 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

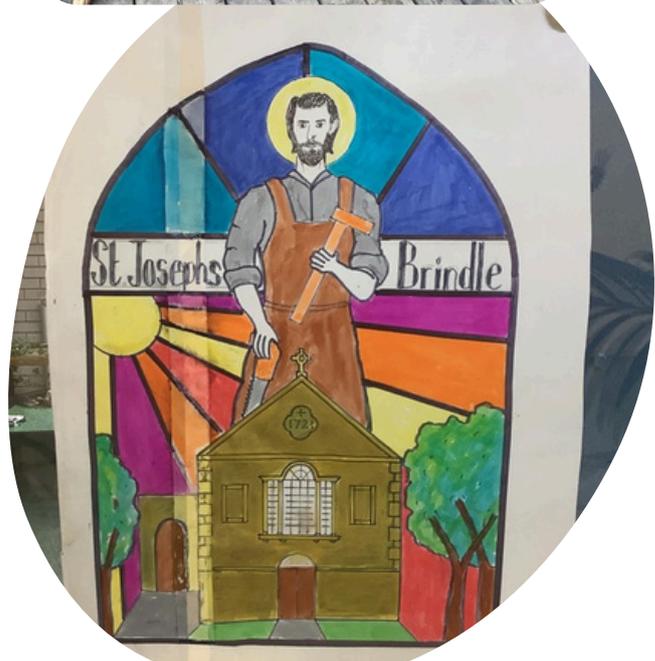


Anyone from  
EYFS to Year 6  
can enter.





# This Week in Pictures



Art Competition Designs

Easter Gardens are arriving in school...

*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)**

# LANCASTER YOUTH FOLK ENSEMBLE



**FOLK DAY OPEN REHEARSAL**

**SATURDAY 21ST MARCH**

**2026**

**10:30-3:30PM**

**VENUE:**

LANCASTER METHODIST CHURCH  
SCOTFORTH ROAD,  
LANCASTER, LA1 4TE

SIGN UP!



**#WHEREWILLMUSICTAKEYOU**



LANCASHIRE  
MUSIC SERVICE





Hop on over for the  
**Gregson Lane W.I.**

# *Easter Fair*

*Sunday 22nd March*

*2pm - 4pm*

Crafts, Cakes, Chocolate Tombola,  
Refreshments,  
Easter Hamper Raffle,  
Decorate an Egg Competition,  
Easter Bonnet Competition  
and much more

**Gregson Lane  
Community Centre**

A share of the proceeds will go to support  
Let's Grow Preston

## YouTube Safety Update: New Parental Controls

YouTube have published their latest update on how parents can support their child on YouTube. YouTube will now allow parents to set the amount of time viewing Shorts – this can even be set to zero. YouTube Shorts are short videos, usually less than 60 seconds long, which when continuously watched, can lead to excessive screentime. Furthermore, parents will also be able to set bedtime and 'take a break' reminders. You can find out more here:

<https://blog.youtube/news-and-events/updates-youtube-supervised-accounts-teens/>

If you would like to find out more about supervised accounts on YouTube, then this article explains the different settings available:

[https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref\\_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU](https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420?hl=en-GB&ref_topic=15279060&sjid=15225282118002181205-EU)

**Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language?** You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/march-2026/>

## Mobile phones: do you know the risks?

We know that children having access to a smartphone can expose children to risks including:

- Viewing inappropriate content
- Excessive screen time/use, which in turn can affect their mental health and sleep pattern.
- Contact from inappropriate people/grooming
- Cyberbullying
- Spending money on in-app purchases/scams

### What effects do mobile phones have on children's mental health?

Compass discuss the research around this important topic, outlining the positive and negative effects that mobile phones have:

<https://compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/online-resources/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

### EE Online Safety Hub

EE has published age guidance for smartphone usage to improve children's digital wellbeing. In summary, they recommend that children under 11 should use non-smart devices, for children aged 11-13, they advise that if a smartphone is used, then parental controls should be enabled and access to social media restricted. Finally, for 13-16-year-olds they still recommend that parental controls are implemented and appropriate restrictions set up. You can read the full guidance here:

<https://ee.co.uk/internet-online-safety>

### Could you delay when your child is given a smartphone with Smartphone Free Childhood?

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>

### What device?

When you think it is the right time for your child to have a phone, then 'Which?' provide an overview of some options available:

<https://www.which.co.uk/reviews/mobile-phones/article/buying-a-first-mobile-phone-best-dumb-phones-and-smartphones-for-kids-aA03C3Y8aTzr>