ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Note

Friday 5th September 2025



Welcome Back – New School Year



Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed a delightful summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking smart and ready for the exciting year ahead. Their enthusiasm and positive attitudes have already instilled a sense of energy and purpose within our classrooms. This promising start is a testament to the ongoing support you provide, so a heartfelt thank you for your involvement and encouragement. Together, let us foster a nurturing environment where every child can thrive. We look forward to a successful and memorable year as we embark on this journey together.

Important Parking and Safety Notice for Parents

I am writing to address a pressing matter regarding parking arrangements and safety on our school premises, particularly in the Fenny Fold car park as we have an agreement with the council to use this for space for staff parking.

Over the past term the Fenny Fold car park is being increasingly used by parents dropping off their children in the mornings. As our staff numbers have grown, many of our team members are now struggling to find suitable parking spaces. This congestion is becoming problematic and could pose safety risks.

Furthermore, we have observed a rising number of our older children congregating on the field to play football prior to the start of the school day. While we value the importance of physical activity, this has led to increased foot traffic in an already crowded area. Last term, we experienced several near misses involving children riding bikes and walking across the car park while cars were manoeuvring, which is concerning.

We kindly ask that you refrain from parking in the Fenny Fold car park and encourage you to use the Church car park designated for parents. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and will help ensure a safer environment for all our children and staff.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

FOREST SCHOOL

We are delighted to announce the return of Hedgehog from Woodland Adventures, who will be leading our Forest School sessions once again. These engaging outdoor experiences are invaluable for the development of our children's resilience, teamwork, and appreciation for nature. We kindly ask parents to retain a copy of the Forest School timetable to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for all weather conditions. While we do have school waterproofs available, please note that we may not have spare wellies for those who forget their Forest School kit. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love for the outdoors in our students.

PARISH UPDATE

We would like to inform our parish community of some recent changes within our clergy. Fr Chris has now moved out of the Presbytery to embrace his new role as Hospital Chaplain at Blackburn Hospital. Fr Samson has also moved from the hospital and has been assigned a parish. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to both Fr Chris and Fr Samson as they begin their new roles.

Meanwhile, Fr Joseph remains our dedicated Parish Priest, continuing to guide and nurture our community with his pastoral care and commitment. We encourage everyone to extend their appreciation to Fr Chris and Fr Samson and to support Fr Joseph in his ongoing ministry.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

If any children completed the Lancashire Library Summer Reading Challenge over the holidays please can they bring their completed certificates into school as we have a special reward for all children who participated.



CHARITY WORK

We are pleased to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Sophia Weaver from Year 2 for her remarkable charity work undertaken during the summer holidays. Sophia has astoundingly raised £233 for Young Lives vs Cancer through her dedicated efforts. Throughout the month of August, she committed to walking a mile each day, showcasing not only her tenacity but also her compassion for those in need. Her initiative has made a significant impact, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement. Well done, Sophia! You are an inspiration to us all and a wonderful example of the positive change we can effect on the lives of others.



OFFICE VACANCY

We are currently in the process of recruiting a new School Business Manager. Sadly, Mrs Melvin will be leaving us at the end of September to pursue an exciting opportunity within Lancashire County Council. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mrs Melvin for her dedication and support over the past six years, during which she has made a significant impact on our school community. As we navigate this transition, we are committed to finding a capable successor who will continue to enhance our school's administrative efficiency and effectiveness. We wish Mrs Melvin all the best in her new role.

STAFF CHANGES



We are pleased to announce several staff changes as we continue to enhance our team at St John's. We have welcomed Mrs Mulcock to our Year 6 teaching staff to cover the final few weeks of Mrs Sethi's maternity leave, with Mrs Sethi returning for the second half of the autumn term. Additionally, this week we extend a warm welcome to Mrs Bleasdale and Mrs Greenall, who join our support staff team. Furthermore, we are delighted to have welcomed Miss Ingham and Miss O'Callaghan during the summer term. We hope all our new staff settle quickly into their roles as they become valued members of our St John's family.

Nursery—Mrs Barker, Mrs Dowson, Miss Barnes and Mrs Bleasdale

Reception—Mrs Collins, Mrs Hall and Mrs Bleasdale

Year 1—Mrs Clough, Miss McBreen, Miss Ingham, Miss O'Callaghan and Mrs Glynn

Year 2—Mr Steele, Mrs Coan and Mrs Cumming

Year 3—Miss Dewhurst and Mrs Taylor

Year 4 –Miss Hartley and Mrs Greenall

Year 5—Miss Armstrong, Mrs Townley, Mrs Miskell (also y1-y6 French and Music teacher)

Year 6—Mrs Baird, Mrs Sethi (Mrs Mulcock covering) and Miss Earnshaw

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS



Choir on return of Mrs Sethi

Gardening Club Year 2—Year 6—Wednesday – Mrs Taylor, Mrs Cumming and Mrs Bleasdale

Lego Club Year 1 – Thursday – Mrs Bleasdale

Multi-sports Year 3 and 4 – Tuesday – Mr Parkinson and Mrs Bleasdale

Football Club – Year 5 and 6 – Wednesday – Mr Parkinson

For more information or to book a place for your child, please visit www.ParentPay.com.