ST JOHN THE BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

Headteacher's Note

Friday 24th January 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back to the Spring term and Happy New Year to you all.

Weather



We have certainly been blessed with some interesting weather over the past 2 weeks and I believe we have some more challenges to come. As a school we endeavour to remain open in all weathers. Our biggest challenge in snowy weather is getting the staff in safely. Our staff don't all live locally , so we need to ensure they can get in to school so that we can open with appropriate ratios of staff to children.

If, as a last resort, we needed to close school, you would be notified by the school app, it would be announced on the radio, it would feature in the school closure list on the LCC website and it would be on our school website too.

Year 5 staffing changes



Miss Armstrong has been off school since October half term. Miss Armstrong managed to break both of her bones in her lower leg by her ankle. This required complex surgery but she is now making good progress towards her recovery. She will now beginning to start physio and we are hoping that Miss Armstrong will be back with us for the second half of this term.

Mrs Peachy, Mrs Miskell and Mrs Townley have been doing an admirable job of looking after Year 5, who have coped really well with these changes. Sadly Mrs Peachy has found a new, permanent position in a school nearer to home therefore Mrs Miskell will be taking over full time teaching in year 5 until Miss Armstrong returns.

We wish Mrs Peachy all the very best in her new role and are very grateful for her dedication and care she has shown Year 5 since October.



Please note that the Year 5 assembly will take place as planned on **Friday 31st January** at 2.30pm.

KS1 Film Night



Thank you to the PTA for supporting our KS1 film night. This was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Welcome

We have 3 new nursery children joining our school. We hope they will be very happy at St John's.



KS1 Boiler

We have been awaiting project work to begin on our KS1 boiler for nearly a whole year and this has finally begun after many unforeseeable delays.

The boiler has come to the end of it's life and was becoming more unreliable and inefficient each day. It has now been removed and a new replacement will be installed by the end of this half term.

At this time of year it is less than ideal to have 3 classrooms without central heating and we are running on electric heaters. In order to maintain heat levels and not overload our electricity, we are changing our entry and exit routes to school so that doors by classrooms are not staying wide open.

You will have also noticed that we have a new compound at the very front of the building for our contractors. Please be extra vigilant with supervising the children at the beginning and end of the day.

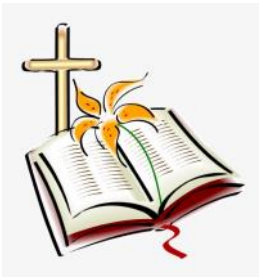
Parking



Please can I ask for parents to refrain from parking on the Fennyfold carpark at the side of the building. Recently we have not had enough space for all our staff to park each day. The designated car park for the school children and visitors is the church car park.

SEND

Mrs McKeating has been overseeing all SEND needs during Miss Armstrong's absence. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns.



EYFS Liturgy

On Thursday morning, 23rd January 9.15am, EYFS children welcomed parents and friends to celebrate this with them. This took place in the school hall and was a wonderful event.

Caritas Behaviour Awards

Our behaviour focus for this half term is to be 'Helpful and Giving'.

Our Caritas behaviour awards for the Autumn term are;

Autumn 1 - Being a Good Friend
Nursery - Covie-Leigh
Reception - Freddie
Year 1 - Francesca
Year 2 - Lola
Year 3 - Karol
Year 4 - Pippa B
Year 5 - Alastair
Year 6 - Daisy
Overall winner - Lola



Autumn 2 - Being Kind and Loving
Nursery - Ada
Reception - Zenaya
Year 1 - Kayla
Year 2 - Jamie
Year 3 - Nola
Year 4 - Mason
Year 5 - Amelia
Year 6 - Faith
Overall winner - Jamie



Well done children and thank you for being wonderful role models to your friends and for modelling our school behaviour attributes so very well.

Nursery Places

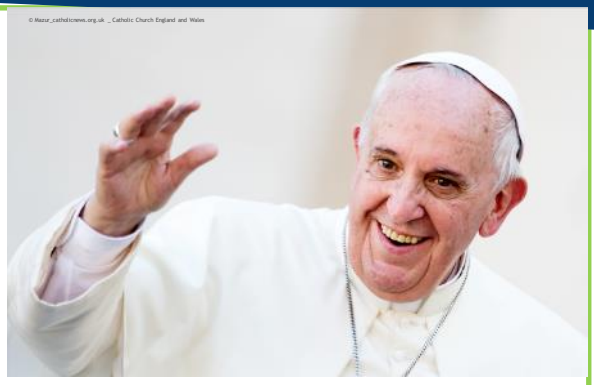


We are now accepting applications to our school nursery for ;

- **April 2025**
- **September 2025**
- **January 2026**

Please spread the word to friends and family. Children may start nursery from the term after they turn 3. We also accept 'rising three' year olds from the date of their 3rd birthday.

Pilgrims of Hope



Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church - an event that takes place once every 25 years.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

Year 6 Visit to Accrington Mosque

On Tuesday 21st January our Year 6 Children visited The Bunker Museum at Accrington train station and Raza Jamia Masjid Mosque. We thank Shahiesta for facilitating this free trip for our children and providing our children with this opportunity to visit a place of worship and to develop their understanding of the beliefs and practices of the Muslim faith. I was incredibly proud of how reverent the children were and their behaviour was outstanding.

Shahiesta from Lancs CR accompanies many school children from across Lancashire Schools, yet she was so extremely impressed by the behaviour of our Year 6 children. Well done Year 6, you were fabulous ambassadors for our school.

