

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 23.06.23

Mission
Together we love, learn, follow Jesus
Vision
At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, through an open and generous heart, we learn together as a family in faith, following the gospel values of love.
Values
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect



A Message from Miss Dewhurst:

Summer is fast approaching with another busy week in school. Children enjoyed a visit from Robyn Love: a British wheelchair basketball player who represented Great Britain in the Paralympic Games. We talk to the children about their God given talents and how we are all given different ones. Children were so excited to work with Robyn and listen to her own inspirational story. A true example of resilience that demonstrates that there are no limits; when you are determined to achieve. Children have spent the week working on their own resilience as they completed assessments. We explain to the children that tests are there to show the teachers, and themselves, what they know and what we can do to help them improve on and learn more of... School is a hive of activity at the moment as we are racing towards the summer. We have so many fun and exciting activities to get through first though! Speaking of which, we all wish Year 6, Mr Astle and Mr Cox the best of times as they go off to The Anderton Centre for a few days next week. Have a wonderful adventure; stay safe and make wonderful memories that you will cherish forever! I look forward to coming up and seeing you over the few days.

This week's winners of our "Spotted" Award is:

Florence

For always being a good friend

Mindfulness Matters:

*In the end, some of your greatest pains
become your greatest strengths*

Drew Barrymore

Pope Francis: To sow goodness is good for us. It brings a breath of gratuitousness into our lives and makes us more and more like God.



Award Winners

CI R/1:

Writer of the Week: **Violet**
Mathematician of the Week: **Emily**
Reader of the Week: **Tommy**
Citizen of the Week: **Denis**
Dojo Champion: **Mary**

CI 2/3:

Writer of the Week: **Oscar**
Mathematician of the Week: **Sienna**
Reader of the Week: **Ava**
Citizen of the Week: **Thea**
Dojo Champion: **Bobby**

CI 4/5:

Writer of the Week: **Olivia**
Mathematician of the Week: **James**
Reader of the Week: **Dexter**
Citizen of the Week: **Samuel**
Dojo Champion: **Heidi**

CI 6:

Writer of the Week: **Max B**
Reader of the Week: **Marley**
Citizen of the Week: **Will**
Dojo Champion: **Destiny**

Mini Vinnies: To help make our local area a better place, the Mini Vinnies at school have decided to do a litter pick around our local community.

Happy Birthday to:

Conor & Emily H

Classroom Catch Up: What a fantastic week in Class R/1! We have been doing our assessments all week and I am so proud of all the children; it is amazing to see how far they have come! In RE we have been continuing our theme on Friendship which the children are loving; in our Journey in Love, we have been looking at what we want in a friend and what makes us unique. In geography, the children had the pleasure of Miss Bottomley teaching them all about how the differences between the sea and the ocean. In science we have been looking at different minibeasts and comparing them to each other.

This week in Class 2/3, we have explored the physical and human features of our local area using a range of maps. In computing, the children enjoyed developing their digital art skills. They used paint tools to click and drag to recreate the work of the artist Kandinsky. In English, the children have enjoyed writing a story about 'An Eventful Day at the Beach'. Maths wise, we are continuing our topic of time, focusing on am and pm, as well as years, months and days.

It has been assessment week in Class 4/5 and my goodness the children have been working hard! It is always lovely at this time of year to see how much progress the children have made and I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them. We have also started our new science topic this week 'Human Development'. The children have started the unit by sequencing the life cycle of a human. We will then be looking at each stage of the cycle in more depth over the coming weeks. We also started a new unit in RE this week based on reconciliation and the children created their own friendship recipes which was really enjoyable. We will be starting to look at the Sacramental Act of Reconciliation next week.

Excitement is running high this week in Class 6! We have got our Year 6 residential starting on Monday; we have nearly finished all 8 scenes of our production; and still we have managed to create an independent explanation text in English! In science, we have been looking at inheritance, adaptation and evolution, looking at different traits that an offspring inherits from its mother and father, and how thousands and thousands of years ago, a giraffe looked very similar to a horse!

Sunday Gospel: Jesus instructed the twelve as follows: "Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; think more about God who has power over both body and soul. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows. So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven."

Matthew 10: 26-33

Mass in School: on Thursday, Fr Raphael will be in school to lead a Mass for St Peter and St Paul. The whole school will be coming together for this. If you would like to join us, the Mass will start at 10am.

Author Visit: Next Friday we are looking forward to welcoming author MT Sanders and his dog Bandit into school. He will be talking to all the children about the books he writes which feature Bandit, his Great Uncle Monty and sister Cookie. More details about how you can order the books will be sent home with your child on Monday.



ActivKids UK: Many thanks to all those of you who sent in sponsor money for completing sporting challenges. We were able to present Paralympian Robyn £440.50. As well as talking to pupils about her achievements, Robyn then led each class in a circuit of different exercises.

Recent Correspondence: Please find below a list of information that has been sent out this week in addition to the Weekly School Newsletter:

School Meals: W/c 03.07.23

New Academic Year

Class 6 Reminders

Cl 4/5 Preston Magistrate Court visit

Anderton Centre: Various forms & reminders

Wednesday Word

Non-uniform day

After school tutoring

Girls football training

Water safety lesson

Please ensure you read all correspondence that is sent from school.

Children's Liturgy: On Sunday, 12th Sunday of the year, we hear how God takes care of us no matter who we are. We are reminded that God is with us in every part of our lives so we should not be afraid. God loves us all and so we are called to take care of one another, to love one another, no matter where in the world that we are. We are also called to protect and care for the earth, so that everyone can share in the good things that God has given us.

This can be hard sometimes. We might need to be brave and to speak out for what we know is right when we see others treating people or the earth badly.

Can you try to remember that God loves you this week? And can you be brave and try to share that love with others just like the disciples?

It would be lovely if you could join us at Mass on Sunday 9:30am.



Diary Dates: Just a quick reminder of some of the events taking place over coming weeks:

- ◆ Thursday, 29th June — 10am, Mass in school for St Peter & St Paul
- ◆ Saturday, 1st July — 2pm to 5pm, PTFA Summer Fun Day at the Parish Hall
- ◆ Monday, 3rd July — SRSP whole school "rackets" workshop
- ◆ Tuesday, 4th July at 9.15am — assembly for Year 6 parents
- ◆ Tuesday, 11th July at 6pm — Yr 6 production

School Attendance: Here are our weekly attendance figures.

Week commencing 19/06/23	
Yr R	100%
Yr 1	100%
Yr 2	95.5%
Yr 3	96.4%
Yr 4	98.7%
Yr 5	95.4%
Yr 6	98.9%
TOTAL	97.8%

British Values: On Tuesday, Rachael Dodgson visited school to talk to pupils in Class 4/5 and Class 6 about the UK Parliament and how it is formed. She explained the differences between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Pupils also learnt about the importance of petition and using this way to get views across even if they are too young to



Beginners Guitar: If your child is in Year 2, 3, 4 or 5, there is an opportunity for them to start learning to play the guitar next year. Miss Galea has sent letters home with pupils this week however, further copies are available in the school office and will be sent out via School Spider next week. If you would like your child to start lessons, please complete the reply slip and return it to school by Monday the 17th July.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 1st July
2pm to 5pm

FREE ENTRY



- fun & games •
- BBQ, bar & refreshments •
- Shetland pony rides •
- raffle •
- entertainment •
- bouncy castle & rides •
- market stalls •
- face painting •
- and much more!



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FAMILY CAMP

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SATURDAY 1ST JULY FROM 6PM
EMAIL: BRINDLESTJOSEPHSPTFA@GMAIL.COM