

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 10.11.23

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: As we approach Remembrance Sunday this weekend, we find ourselves filled with mixed emotions. Sadness, at so many lives lost in so many wars across the decades and centuries. Wars that sadly continue today... We also remember with admiration the bravery and selflessness of all of those people who laid down their lives to defend their families, their country and their freedom. As a school and as a Catholic community, I think it is important now, more than ever, to remember the power of prayer and continue to pray for peace. It is also so important to support each other through kindness. As Pope Francis has said: "No one can be saved alone. We all need one another."



Award Winners

CI R/1:

Dojo Champion: **Fawn**

School Values/Mission: **Mattie** for resilience
"Spotted": **Riley** for demonstrating determination to write all of his letters perfectly

CI 2/3:

Dojo Champion: **Esmail**

School Values/Mission: **Tiffany** for resilience and respect
"Spotted": **Rowan** for his kind and helpful nature

CI 4/5:

Dojo Champion: **Henry**

School Values/Mission: **Peggy** for thankfulness
"Spotted": **Lois** for looking out for others in school and helping to keep children safe

CI 6:

Dojo Champion: **Olivia**

School Values/Mission: **Albie** for collaboration & friendship
"Spotted": **Emelia & Phoebe** for being dedicated to the dodgeball team, practising every lunchtime before the competition

Sunday Gospel: Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The Kingdom of heaven will be like this: ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, 'The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.' At this, all the bridesmaids woke up. The wise bridesmaids refilled and lit their lamps and went to the wedding hall with the bridegroom and the door was closed. But the lamps of the other bridesmaids had begun to run out of oil, so they had to go off to try and buy some more oil. They arrived much later but couldn't get in because the door was already locked. So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour." Matthew 25: 1-13

This week spotted:

Charlie

For being a perfect team player in football

Happy Birthday

Willow H, Fawn, Charlie & Eliza

Classroom Catch Up:

We've had another fantastic week in Class R/1! On Tuesday, the children enjoyed spending time with their parents in Forest School. Thank you to everybody who came along. In English, we have been busy sequencing and retelling events from the story 'Goldilocks and The Three Crocodiles'. This traditional tale with a twist has been very popular among the class. In geography, we are exploring our local area. The children identified the different types of houses that we can see in Hoghton. Continuing our work on seasonal change in science, we investigated the changes in daylight hours within the different months and seasons. To commemorate

Remembrance Day, the children have got creative by decorating poppies and designing medals of bravery.

In our R.E. lessons this week, Class 2/3 have been looking at Judaism, with a focus on the Jewish place of worship the synagogue. We looked in detail at the important items found inside a synagogue and the similarities and differences to the things we can find inside St. Joseph's church. Our English lessons continued this week by looking at how to save our planet and we have decided to write a formal letter to the Prime Minister to tell him how we feel. In maths, the Year 3 children have started to look at column addition, using manipulatives to aid their understanding. Our geography lessons this week continued to look at the continents and I am sure you are all familiar with 'The Continent Song' by now! Our focus this week was our own continent - Europe - and we enjoyed discovering the countries that can be found around the United Kingdom.

This week in Class 4/5, we have been devouring our new text in English 'Tyger'. The children used the text to gather key vocabulary linked with the mythical creature in order to then write a character description and they certainly didn't disappoint! It was lovely to see the children's enthusiasm for vocabulary and writing shine through. In science, the children started our new unit on forces with a discussion based on the question 'Why do unsupported objects fall to the ground?' In Picture News this week, we have been looking at the changes to the Remembrance Poppy over the years and the latest design.

In English this week, Class 6 have been diving into our new book, 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. We have all agreed it is fantastic so far! And we are now collecting some of the wonderful phrases and vocabulary, which we can then use in our own writing. Maths has moved onto multiplying and dividing fractions, and strangely, it is a lot easier than adding and subtracting them! We had a lovely Collective Worship on Wednesday, which linked to the Light of our Lord, and the Holy Spirit. In their 'Go Forth' the children drew their own image of the Holy Spirit, in the form of a cross, or dove.



Play Leaders: Our Year 6 pupils are doing an amazing job at lunchtime in leading a variety of different games and activities for other pupils. This week they looked super smart in their new "play leader" caps and jackets!



Dodgeball: Our Year 3 and 4 dodgeball team had great success in the tournament at Lostock Hall Academy on Tuesday. Of their eight games, they won six and lost two, finishing as runners-up. Mr Astle was delighted with their efforts and the practice they had put in beforehand.

Pope Francis: *God alone is Lord. Our lives, the church's pilgrim way, and the ultimate outcome of history all depend on the tenderness of His love. He gives meaning to our lives. He is the foundation of our joy, the reason for our hope, the guarantor of our freedom.*
(Taken from X)



Children's Liturgy: This Sunday is the 32nd of the year. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us a story about how it is important to be ready and prepared for whatever will happen.

Sometimes things happen that we don't expect and we realise that we are not ready for them. Can you think of a time when this has happened to you? What happened? How did you feel?

Jesus also asks us to be ready and prepared to be kind and loving to others whenever we have the chance. Are you ready to try and help people when they need some support?

Let's try our best to be prepared in this coming week to be loving, kind and generous. Let's do our best to be ready to help others at home, at school, in the local community and around the world.

This Sunday is also Remembrance Sunday when we remember all the people who have lost their lives in conflicts with others.

We do hope you can join us - it would be lovely to see you .

School Attendance: Here are our weekly attendance figures for this week

Week commencing 06.11.23

	This Week	School Year
Yr R	97.5%	97.2%
Yr 1	96.7%	99.3%
Yr 2	97.8%	97.4%
Yr 3	98.2%	96.4%
Yr 4	100%	95.6%
Yr 5	100%	98.4%
Yr 6	96.7%	95.7%
Total	98.2%	97.1%



Individual Liberty

We can take responsibility for our money and make choices about how to spend or save it.

Lost Property: Please can we remind you to make sure your child's name is in their cardigan, sweatshirt and coat. Already this week we have collected a number of coats that don't have names in them. If you write your child's name, or initials, on the labels, please remember to check them regularly as they do fade over time. Thank you.



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School Autumn Diary Dates



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Values	
Hope Thankfulness Collaboration Compassion Friendship Resilience Empathy Creativity Justice Respect	
October	
31 st	Open Morning 9.30am to 11.30am
November	
1 st	All Saints Day Mass at 10.45am
2 nd	Tag Rugby League at Withy Grove
3 rd	Bonfire Theme Lunch
6 th	Start of new Autumn/Winter menu
	Individual and family photographs
7 th	CI R/1 Forest School Stay and Play at 2.15pm
	Dodgeball competition at Lostock Hall Academy
	PTFA AGM at 7pm
9 th	Tag Rugby League at Withy Grove
10 th	Vision Screening for Reception pupils
13 th	M&M Production of Aladdin
14 th	Parents Evening from 3.30pm
15 th	Lunch for CI R/1 & CL 2/3 family member
16 th	Tag Rugby League at Withy Grove
20 th	NSPCC Workshops for Yr 2, Yr 5 & Yr 6
22 nd	Lunch for CI 4/5 & CI 6 family member
24 th	Non-uniform day – donations of bottle for the PTFA Christmas hampers
27 th	Doodle-Bug Resilience Workshops for Yr 2 to Yr 6
December	
1 st	Non-uniform day – coloured items for the PTFA Christmas hampers (more details to follow)
	Class 6 Advent Mass at 10.45am
4 th	Class R/1 Nativity dress rehearsal at 2.30pm
6 th	Nasal flu vaccine catch-up
	Class R/1 Nativity performance at 2.30pm
13 th	Rock Steady concert at 10am
15 th	Whole school Christmas film – come in your PJs for the day & bring a donation for Cafod
18 th	PTFA Santa Dash – more details to follow
	Christmas Jumpers Day – donations for the local food bank
	Christmas Lunch
19 th	Class Christmas parties – non-uniform day
20 th	A celebration of Christmas in school at 10.45am
	School closes at 1.15pm
January	
8 th	School re-opens at 8.50am

**Please note, these dates may be subject to change with as much notice given as possible*

St Joseph's Christmas Art Competition

Let us spread the jolliness of Christmas through Art!

Children are invited to create a piece of artwork based on the theme 'An Eco-Friendly Christmas'.

This year's theme is inspired by the letter 'Laudato Si' by Pope Francis which remains a profound invitation for everyone on the planet to care for, respect and value our common home.

All entries must be handed into Miss Ollerton by Monday 18th December. Your child's name and class should be clearly labelled on their entry.

A **Bronze**, Silver and **Gold** prize will be awarded. All entries will receive a certificate of participation.



**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2024

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school, or the school is linked to your child's nursery.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

School transport

Need transport to school?
Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport.
Search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk

CLOSING DATE
15 JANUARY 2024

lancashire.gov.uk



Cover: 8/20

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

THE BIG

UNIFORM

EXCHANGE

**WEAR IT, LOVE IT, THEN
SHARE IT AND SAVE IT
FROM GOING TO
LANDFILL!**

**10AM-1PM
SATURDAY 2ND
DECEMBER**

**PRE-LOVED SCHOOL
UNIFORM FREE TO TAKE
AWAY**

**CLINTON CARDS, MARKET
WALK, CHORLEY TOWN
CENTRE**

Everyone welcome!



SVP Chorley Buddies
We're Helping
01257 542 367



**St Vincent
de Paul Society**
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action