

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Newsletter 25.04.25

## 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

### Headteacher's Weekly Round Up:

Our church and indeed the wider world lost an inspirational leader this week with the passing of Pope Francis after a period of ill health. His leadership was not one of riches, greatness and opulence. Pope Francis used public transport, he refused to take a salary and he lived in a simple Vatican guesthouse, refusing to live in the usual papal apartments.

Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis was an advocate for social justice, climate change awareness, and inclusivity. He consistently addressed global issues such as poverty, inequality and migration. He cared deeply about the poor and marginalised.

We must hold on to his teachings. What better way to honour his legacy than to continue to do whatever we can to help the poor, to welcome the stranger and to stand up for those whose voices are rarely heard.

We will plan an event with the children in school that celebrates the life of Pope Francis this term.

RIP Pope Francis

Mrs Brownsey

**Sunday Gospel:** The disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" and he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there when Jesus came and he refused to believe what had happened. One week later, they were in the room again, and Thomas was also there. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Here, touch the marks on my hands and feel the wound in my side. Doubt no longer, but believe." Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe."

Wednesday Word: John 20: 19-31

### Prayer on the death

#### of Pope Francis:

Gracious God,  
You know our needs even  
before we ask  
and heed our faltering  
prayers, spoken and un-  
spoken.  
Hear our voice above the  
murmurs of sorrow  
for it is the voice of confusion  
seeking your still small voice of calm.  
Hear our voice as we give thanks for your faithful serv-  
ant  
for it is the voice of praise  
joining with sadness and joy.  
Hear our voice as we pray for the future  
for it is a voice of hope  
longing to see your Church made whole.  
Hear our voice as we watch with those who deliberate  
for it is the voice of humility  
asking for their wisdom and discernment.  
Hear our voice as we pray in solidarity with the poor  
for it is the voice of peace  
searching for justice.  
O God, hear the voice of the voiceless  
for it is the voice of silence  
crying out from the cross  
through whom your Spirit may be heard  
and your will be recognised.  
For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.



Words by Annabel Shilson-Thomas

### Competition Time!

As you know, we will soon be launching our St Joseph's wraparound club, but what should we call it? We would like to pupils to decide its' name!

This should reflect this new and exciting extension to life at St Joseph's, as well as our ethos.

Suggestions should be sent in writing to Mrs Brownsey via the school office. Please remember to put your child's name on as there will be a prize for the one that is selected.

### School Attendance:

	This Week	This Year
Yr R	99%	95.8%
Yr 1	96.9%	97.2%
Yr 2	98.9%	96.3%
Yr 3	<b>100%</b>	94.9%
Yr 4	86.4%	95%
Yr 5	95.6%	94.7%
Yr 6	<b>100%</b>	97.7%
Total	96.7%	96%

**School Levy:** As you will have seen on School Spider, we are asking for a contribution of £10 per child, or per family, for the Archdiocese of Liverpool School Building Fund.

Payments can be made online via School Spider. If you log into your account, go to "Bookings and Payments" you will be able to find the School Levy link or use the tab at the top of the page to navigate to that area. Alternatively, cash payments can be sent to the office. Thank you in advance for your support.



**Stanley Grange:** After learning how to stay safe in Forest School, CI R/1 enjoyed the afternoon sunshine working outside. A group of pupils helped Ben, Paul and Adam to weed the flower beds, while other children started to identify paths using logs and sticks as markers.



**Classroom Round Up:** Wow! What an amazing first week at St Joseph's. It has been so lovely to get to know the children in CI R/1 and their parents, thank you for making me feel so welcome. We have had such a busy week in and out of class. Both year groups have thoroughly enjoyed learning outdoors with Stanley Grange. Reception have been super sporty this week on the balance bikes, learning how to be safe and ride their bike. We have started our new units in science, history and art! Looking at space, animals including humans and making print using our hands. The children have worked so hard this week, especially with the change of teacher and the first week back! I am looking forward to the rest of my time in Class R/1, we have so many exciting things planned. **Miss McEvoy** What a super first week back in CI 2/3/4! In English, we have continued reading our book, 'Ottoline and the Yellow Cat', using this as a stimulus to write our own newspaper articles about the mysteries. We continued to explore Italy in geography, creating our own non-chronological reports on the human and physical features. Through our RE lessons, we began to explore the story 'The Road to Emmaus', reflecting on what we wonder about the story and how it is similar to Mass today. We ended this week with our Easter Reflection, we hope that you all enjoyed it and took time to reflect on the true meaning of Easter. **Mrs Shaw**

It has been a very jam-packed first week back after Easter (squeezing 5 days into 4) however, it has been lovely to see the children in CI 5/6 settle straight back into school life. Year 6 have continued to work incredibly hard in preparation for SATs and I am very proud of them. Year 5 have been busy producing a piece independent writing and really showcasing their grammar skills - well done! Maths wise, Year 6 have been focusing on mean and statistics, whilst Year 5 have been looking at angles and using a protractor for the first time. All of the children enjoyed their art lesson on Wednesday afternoon where they finished their zines. **Miss Bottomley**

### Correspondence sent this week:

CI 2/3/4 Scootsafe on 01.05.25  
Residential Trip—Year 5  
Dr Bike: 24.04.25  
PE & Forest School days  
CI 2/3/4 Multiskills Club  
CI 2/3/4 Easter Reflection on 25.04.25  
School Meals: Week Commencing 28.04.25  
Archdiocese of Liverpool School Building Fund  
Before and After School Club

### Happy Birthday to:

Flynn & Peggy who birthdays over the  
Easter holiday

### Happy Birthday this week to:

Ginny, Oscar & Eve

**Children's Liturgy:** Sunday is 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter. After Jesus had risen the disciples were frightened and lonely and so they have locked themselves away. Jesus suddenly appeared in the room. Jesus says: "Peace be with you." How did the disciples feel when they heard this? Why? The disciples were filled with joy that Jesus had risen from the dead and was with them again. Thomas wasn't there with the rest of the disciples when Jesus appeared. He refused to believe Jesus had been there until he saw for himself. Jesus did appear to Thomas and Thomas believed. We all have times when we can be a bit like Thomas. When we find it hard to believe in God and his love for us. Times when we are not really sure if God really is here with us. But God is always with us, even though we can't see him. Let us remember that this week. We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy Room. The children who are making their First Holy Communion will be joining us. Children's Liturgy Team



### **Democracy**

Ed Sheeran and other musicians are using their voices to speak up for music education. In our democracy, we can stand up for what we believe in, share ideas, and try to make positive changes.

### PTFA—dates for your diary

Our PTFA Committee is busy organising some dates for the coming months. More information will follow, but these are some of the exciting fund-raising activities they are planning:

- Hanging baskets will be available for collection on May 22nd and May 23rd
- Dare to be different day on Friday, 23rd May
- Scarecrow Festival from June 6th to 15th
- Baking competition and afternoon tea on Friday, 27th June
- Big School uniform swap on Friday, 11th July

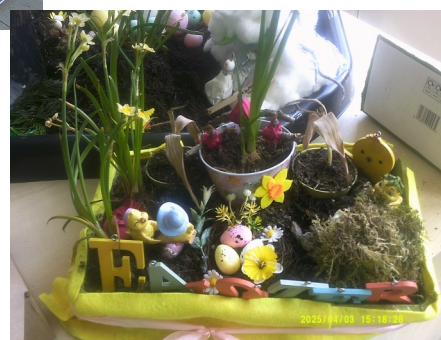
### Reminders:

If your child is in **CI 2/3/4**, please remember to return the consent form to school before Thursday to enable them to take part in the Scootsafe session that afternoon. If you need a copy of the form, please speak to Mrs Cox.

For pupils in **Year 5**, information has been sent out about next year's residential visit to the Anderton Centre. To secure a place, a deposit of £45 must be paid by Friday, 9th May.



**Easter Garden Competition:** Wow! Well done to everyone who entered our competition—we were amazed by the creativity, interpretation and attention to detail. Staff certainly had a difficult job choosing which ones should win!





# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

### PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

### COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sextortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

### LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

### KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

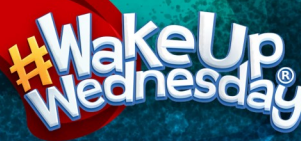
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



The National College