



Newsletter

12th September 2025

The Season of Creation

Dear Parents and Carers,

We began this week with a beautiful Celebration of the Word, reflecting on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. It was a powerful reminder of Jesus' unconditional love for us, and how the cross stands as a universal symbol of that love. In class, the children have been thoughtfully designing their own Romero crosses, which will soon form a stunning display in our school.

We're also delighted to share that our classes have now chosen their names:

- EYFS/Y1 will be known as Class Romero
- Y2/3/4 as Class Acutis
- Y5/6 as Class Kolbe

These names reflect inspiring figures whose values we hope to embody throughout the year.

This week marked the launch of our Pupil Leadership Teams, and the energy has been fantastic:

- On Monday, our Prayer Leaders met to plan and gather resources for our class-based worship.
- On Tuesday, the Planet Protectors shared brilliant ideas for our Climate Change Action Plan, which will soon be available on the school website. As stewards of creation, we are committed to supporting the Government's ambition—and our own—to reach net zero by 2030.

Looking ahead:

- The Mini Vinnies will meet on Wednesday to begin shaping their action plan for the year and consider ways that we can care for the most vulnerable in our region.
- The School Council will gather on Friday to share ideas and represent the voices of their peers and consider how to make St Joseph's grow from strength to strength.

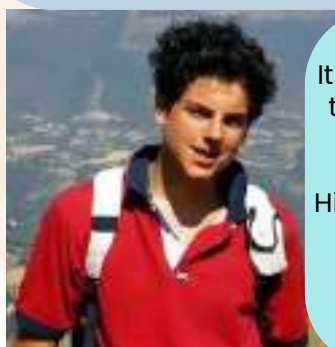
We're incredibly proud of the children's enthusiasm and leadership. Their ideas and compassion continue to inspire us as we work together to serve our community and show love to one another in ever more meaningful ways.

Class Romero - Weekly Update

What a fantastic first full week back in school. It is lovely to have our new Reception children in wonderful class. The children have been super busy getting to know each other and exploring the classroom environment.

Reception have learnt their first four new sounds! They have all done amazingly well at writing and recognising these initial sounds. In Year 1 we have been practising last years' sounds and have begun to learn some new ones. We have started all of our new units across the curriculum, which the children have really enjoyed. I am looking forward to another busy week.

Miss McEvoy.



Class Acutis - Weekly Update

It has been a fantastic first full week in Class Acutis. The children have settled into the routines brilliantly and have been kind and considerate towards each other.

We have enjoyed finding out about Carlo Acutis and creating display work to reflect his personality and virtues. We have started our exciting new topics in History and Science and enjoyed apple pressing with Stanley Grange. Year 2 have enjoyed lots of practical work in maths to get to grips with tens and ones, meanwhile Year 3 and Year 4 are working with hundreds and thousands.

Mrs Lawman.



Class Kolbe – Weekly Updates

Well, what a gorgeous first full week back it has been! Class Kolbe have settled in incredibly well and have made a brilliant start to the new academic year. Despite only being back for 8 days, we have been incredibly productive. RE wise, we have been looking at significant individuals within the Catholic Church such as Pope Leo XIV, Archbishop John Sherrington and Maximilian Kolbe. We have also been exploring our school mission statement and linking this to what it means to be a pupil at St Joseph's. In Maths, we started by focusing on Roman Numerals – often an area that the children enjoy. History wise, we launched our Ancient Egyptian unit by completing an archeological dig in order to find out key information about the time period. And finally, lots of PSHE and discussions on how we want our class to feel this academic year and the children's responses fill me with great hope for another amazing year at St Joseph's.

Miss Bottomley



Parish News: Children's Liturgy Team

The cross is a very special symbol of our faith because it reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection and on Sunday we celebrate the cross and remember how much God loves the world and all of us. God sent us his Son, even though he knew that Jesus would be put to death on the cross. God knew that Jesus Christ would rise again three days later.

How does it make you feel to know that God loves us all so much that he was willing to send his only son, Jesus, to be with us here on earth, and to die for us?

When we love someone, we want what is best for them. We help them, we care for them, we try to make them happy. We support them when things are difficult and we celebrate with them when they are joyful.

God loves everybody. God loves all people whether they are rich or poor, no matter where they live or where they come from. No matter whether they are healthy or ill, no matter the colour of their skin. We are all God's children. We are part of one global family.

We were made by God to love God and one another. God intended for us all to live our lives the best way that we can, but sometimes we do not make the right choices. Together we can build a better world where God's love for all shines through and all people have what they need to flourish.

We can share God's love by working together with all the people in our global family to build a better world. A world where all people have enough food to eat, clean water to drink, and somewhere safe to live, learn and grow.

How will you share God's love with others over the coming week? We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass – Children's Liturgy Room.

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*

Upcoming Events

Whole school Mass at church on Wednesday, 17th September at 10.30am. All welcome to join us.

Whole School Celebration Assembly - Everyone is invited to attend on Friday 19th September at 2.50pm

Class photographs will be taken on Monday, 22nd September

Meet the Teacher: There will be an opportunity for you to have a short drop-in with your child's teacher from 3.30pm on Monday, 22nd September

Macmillan Coffee Morning in school on Friday, 26th September starting at 9am.

Class Kolbe's Celebration of the Word: Friday 7th November, 9am. All invited to participate.

Class Acutis' Celebration of the Word: Friday 14th November, 9am. All invited to participate.

Class Romero's Celebration of the Word: Friday 21st November, 9am. All invited to participate.

This Term's After School Activities

- *Ella Holt Drama - all year groups*
- *Jam Coding - Open to Class Acutis and Class Kolbe - places are still available*
- *Mixed Football - Thursdays 3.45-5pm - children selected for the team will receive further details of the location of the matches.*
- *Let's Go Sing - Choir rehearsals will begin later this term in preparation for their performance at King George's Hall in Blackburn. Dates will soon be announced...*

This Week in Pictures



Uniform Reminders

Earrings: For reasons of safety, our school uniform policy is that children should not be wearing earrings. However, if your child has had their ears pierced recently, and is unable to remove them, they must be covered at all times with plasters. By the beginning of October, we would expect all pupils to be wearing see-through plastic retainers.

PE Kit: If your child forgets to bring their PE kit, they will be given a spare set of clothes from school to wear for the lesson.

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.
Pray for Us...*

In other news...

50th Birthday Celebrations: On 23rd October 2025, St Joseph's will celebrate its 50th Birthday with a special Mass and a party. We are in the process of planning our special event and invitations will soon be sent to parents, parishioners and members of the community. If you have any photographs or memories of St Joseph's that you would like to contribute to our exhibition, please send them into school for the attention of Mrs Bridge. Thank you.

The New EHC Dashboard: On 1st September, Lancashire County Council launched a new live dashboard for parents to use to monitor their child's EHCP application. If you are in the process of an Education Health Care Plan you can watch the following video to find out more:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=E4iohPOqNx0

Annual Consent Form: Please access School Spider and complete the consent form if you have not already done so. This information is part of an important safeguarding process. Thank you.

Handball: On Monday 15th September, all classes will take part in an exciting and high-energy handball session organised by the South Ribble Sports Partnership here in our school hall. Pupils can wear their usual uniform, but please send their trainers / PE footwear. Look out for the social media post for photographs.

Contacting staff: If you need to contact your child's class teacher, their email addresses are as follows. Please be mindful that staff may not reply outside of their usual working hours.

Class Kolbe - m.bottomley@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

Class Acutis - e.lawman@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

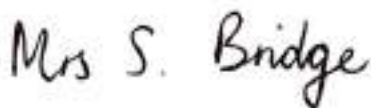
Class Romero - m.mcevoy@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk

Reception Baseline Assessment: From next week, the new starters in Class Romero will begin their statutory baseline assessment. This assessment takes approximately 20 minutes with the class teacher and further information about this can be found via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Thank you for your unwavering support
as we love, learn and follow Jesus
every step of the way.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sophie Bridge.
Headteacher

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	97.3%	97.7%
Year One	99.2%	98.6%
Year Two	100%	100%
Year Three	94.5%	96%
Year Four	91.3%	93.3%
Year Five	96.4%	97.7%
Year Six	89.4%	91.2%
School Total	95.3%	96.2%



Dear Parents and Carers,

Avery warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. Jesus' great act of love, of self-giving, on the cross, has paved the way for people to share in the true richness of God's joy and love in this life, and also in the life to come.

Wednesday 10th September 2025

God wants us to try to live like Jesus, to be 'self-giving', which is the opposite of being 'selfish'. To be 'self-giving' is to be very aware of others' needs or interests, and to put others' needs before our own.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **SELF-GIVING**.

Dom Henry Wansbro

A Word from the Saints

"Love each other as Jesus has loved us. He has given nothing less than his life for us."

St Teresa of Calcutta

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 14th September 2025



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven - that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved."

Adapted from John 3:13-17

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope in our Families

It is self-giving which makes people truly great, warmly remembered and deeply loved. The happiest people on earth are actually those who are self-giving and serve others. So enjoy your week together - bring peace and joy into your home and community by sharing God's love, through your self-giving.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME

10 MINUTES



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus said to Nicodemus (who was a teacher of the law), "No one has gone up into heaven except the one who came down from heaven – that is, the Son of Man. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have everlasting life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world; he sent him to save the world."

Why did God send his Son into the world?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love : This Wednesday's Word...

"It is ingivingthatwereceive."

St Francis of Assisi

SELF-GIVING



Ask your child what 'self-giving' means to them. Who are the most self-giving people that they know? In what ways are those people self-giving? Ask your child if they can remember the last time when they shared their sweets, their time, their toys, or gave something up to help someone else happy. It may help your child if you can talk about someone you know to be self-giving, and say why.

How can we be self-giving, even in little ways, at home, at school or in the community? Perhaps we can: offer to help out at school or around the house before we're asked; be polite and let others go first; take time to offer praise where we can; be first to reach out and make friends again after an argument; give some of our leisure time to be with God in prayer; pray for someone in need.

3 * Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us, and for all the kind people in our community who show us your way of love and self-giving. Amen. *

FINDING THREE

W O L R D T P D J E J S
P D O C S Z O U S E J O
G A E S G D N
S I N E \$ W H Y L U F A S W
V T S E N A S W I N V J
E H O R N S D A L I F E
E T E R N A L V W P S S
O W E N W V R E O E N U
A T V L I E O R V D L S
E Y A A G P W O R L D E
O D G O O D L A F I S H
H W O H D A E F I L O P

WEDNESDAY
WORD SEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN



GOD
LOVES

GAVE
JESUS

SAVE
WORLD

ETERNAL
LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters i u k in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

guaviek Skouni kloviedu woukrild

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God ____ the
____ somuchthathe ____ hisonly ____."

We prove our love by our actions. It's our self-giving which helps to make the world a much better place. To truly follow Jesus we must be kind and self-giving.

This week I will try my best to...

Wri tea promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



St Joseph's Hoghton

STOP MOTION ANIMATION Afterschool Club_

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital skills. In this workshop, children will work in teams to create a storyline and bring it to life through stop motion animation. In the final week, the children will showcase their animations in front of their peers. This club encourages teamwork, creativity, confidence and of course, laughter! At the end of the course, all children will receive a certificate and one team will receive a trophy.

DATES :

11th Sept, 18th Sept, 25th Sept, 2nd Oct, 9th Oct,
16th Oct

TIME :

Running on Thursdays from 3:20 - 4:20

PRICE :

6 weeks of fun for just 42!



BOOK HERE

<https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/5017>

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, please email
support@jamcoding.co.uk

“ Animation
can explain
whatever the
mind of a child
can conceive!

WIN A FREE PLACE!

Follow us on social media for
the chance to win a free place.



www.jamcoding.co.uk

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed – with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS



Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or energy levels, such as irritability, withdrawal, clinginess, or frequent headaches. These may indicate that a child is feeling overwhelmed. By tuning into these cues early and offering a calm, non-judgemental space to talk, adults can help children feel heard and supported before issues escalate.

2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING



Make time for open, informal check-ins – whether it's during car journeys, over dinner, or in quiet classroom moments. Let children know it's okay to talk about what's bothering them. Regular, low-pressure conversations create a safe space where emotions are validated, not dismissed.

3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY



Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones while improving mood and focus. Encourage movement through activities children genuinely enjoy – from team sports to dancing around the kitchen. Even light activity like stretching or walking the dog can help us all unwind.

4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS



Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that avoids screens before bedtime and promotes winding down, such as reading, listening to music, or chatting quietly. Good sleep hygiene helps reset mood, enhances concentration, and boosts emotional resilience.

5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS



Mindfulness doesn't have to mean long periods of meditation. A few slow breaths before lessons or short family meditation sessions before bed can make a real difference. These simple habits help children ground themselves, reduce emotional reactivity, and build inner calm over time.

6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES



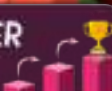
Excessive screen time, especially before bed or on social media, is linked with higher stress levels. Set clear expectations for when and where devices can be used and suggest screen-free alternatives like crafts, nature walks, or board games to promote digital balance and reduce overstimulation.

7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS



Strong relationships act as a buffer against stress. Whether it's a trusted adult, a sibling, or a good friend, ensure children have people around them they can talk to and spend quality time with. Help them build those bonds through shared activities and meaningful interaction.

8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION



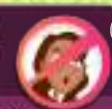
Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressured to be perfect, stress naturally follows. Celebrate small wins and help them reframe setbacks as learning opportunities. This helps build confidence and reduces the fear of failure.

9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING



Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage children to identify problems, consider possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Practising these steps builds a sense of control and reduces the helplessness that often accompanies stress.

10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED



Children notice how adults respond to challenges. Model healthy coping strategies such as taking breaks, asking for help, or calmly expressing frustration. By showing how you manage stress constructively, you help normalise these behaviours and encourage children to do the same.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Saterman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



Roald Dahl Day

Monday 15th
September



George's Marvellous Chicken Burger

with

Mr Fox's Fantastic Hash Brown Bites
The BFG's Snozzcumber Sticks & Dips

or

The Twits' Pasta Twists & Tomato Sauce

with

The Grand High Witch's Garlic Bread

or

James' Giant filled Jacket Potato

with

Matilda's Magical Garden Salad

~

Wonka's Whipple-Scrumptious Doughnut Rings

with

Charlie's Chocolate River



Lancashire
County
Council



**LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE**

SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
PRIMARY

APPLY NOW!

at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child has a 4th birthday between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026.

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



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



CLOSING DATE
15 January 2026

lancashire.gov.uk



**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
SECONDARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2026

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2025.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

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.

CLOSING DATE
31 October 2025

School transport



If travel cost is an important factor in your school preference, search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.



lancashire.gov.uk

