



Newsletter

19th September 2025

Peace be with you...

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, the focus of our Celebration of the Word was Peace. This Sunday marks the International Day of Peace. As a Catholic family, we know that peace is at the heart of Jesus' message: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"* (Matthew 5:9). Monday's assembly gave us a special opportunity to reflect on how we can be peacemakers in our own lives - through kind words, helping hands and hearts open to forgiveness. Our children explored what peace looks like in their classrooms, playgrounds, families, and the wider world, reminding us that even the smallest actions of love can make a big difference.

Next week, we launch our 'Fairtrade Fortnight'. Just as peace begins with small acts of kindness, fairness begins with the kind choices we make each day. Fairtrade Fortnight is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about justice, dignity and care for our global family. By choosing Fairtrade products, we help farmers and workers around the world receive a fair wage and support their communities. This echoes Pope Francis' call, in his encyclical letter 'Fratelli Tutti', for us to build a world where no one is excluded and where the dignity of every person is respected.

Over the next two weeks, our classes will take part in activities, prayers and projects to help us understand how our everyday choices - what we eat, drink and buy - can promote fairness and compassion. **Our Mini Vinnies will be holding a Fairtrade Stall on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime where children are invited to bring in some pocket money (cash) to buy Fairtrade items (up to £5).** There are a selection of different chocolate bars, sweets and handmade gifts, and prices start at just £1. Please try to support us with this if you are able to do so.

On a final note, we were delighted with our Year 6 football team's performance last night at Bamber Bridge. The boys played superbly as a team, and we had three wins and a draw out of their five games. Thank you to the parents who came along to support us and we look forward to seeing you there again next week!

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sophie Bridge.
Headteacher



Class Romero - Weekly Update

Another fantastic week in Romero class. The children are settling into the school routines with ease! We are really enjoying our new units- especially transport. We have also been looking at scientists this week, exploring what material is best to absorb water. We love hands on learning! Reception children have learnt their first few sounds - SATPIN, we have loved exploring these letters in provision. I am looking forward to another busy, fun and exciting week at school.

Miss McEvoy.

Class Acutis - Weekly Update

We have had a very busy week in Class Acutis. It was lovely to go to church and share Mass for the first time this school year. The children filled church with their beautiful singing. The children have continued to get used to the new systems and have now got reading books and logins to continue learning at home. We are getting deeper into our class novel and the children asked some super questions about the book, using a question matrix to develop higher level ideas.

Mrs Lawman.



Class Kolbe - Weekly Update

It has been a productive week in Class Kolbe. History wise, we researched historical landmarks that can be found in Egypt such as Cairo, and the Valley of the Kings & Queens in order to better understand their importance. In RE, we have started our new unit for this half term which is Creation and Covenant. In our first lesson we looked at two pieces of scripture taken from Genesis in order to identify their literary type: poetry, prophecy or narrative. The children did an amazing job of using their inference skills in order to identify this. Maths wise, Y5 have been focusing on identifying powers of 10 more and less than a number, whilst Y6 have been exploring number lines and rounding. We are ending WK 3 on a high as the children have settled into their new year groups incredibly well and Class Kolbe is simply a lovely place to be!

Miss Bottomley



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

MacMillan Coffee Morning: A reminder that next Friday is our MacMillan Coffee Morning at 9am in the School Hall. We are kindly requesting donations of cakes to be sent into school on Thursday, 25th September. Any home bakes would need to be sent in a container labelled with a list of ingredients and the child's name to return the container to. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

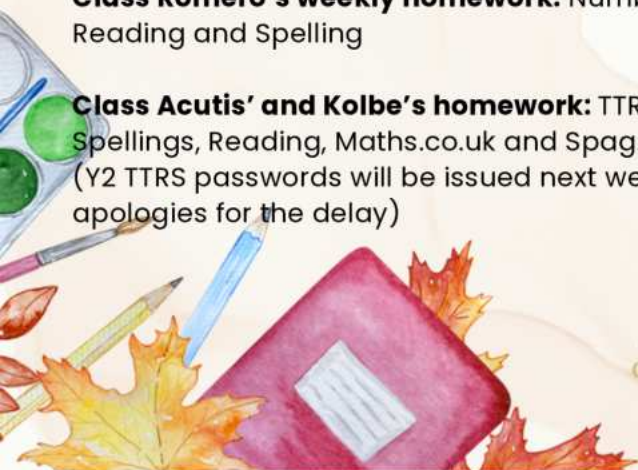
New Homework Diaries: Children have each received a beautiful homework diary. We believe these diaries will promote organisation and consistency, boost motivation and pride in their home learning, as well as providing a valuable home-school communication tool. Passwords to online learning platforms can be found at the back. Please ensure diaries are in your child's school bag every day and encourage children to look after them. Unfortunately, we do not have spares, so if they are lost, we would need to order replacements from the supplier and there would be a cost to parents.

Class Romero's weekly homework: Numbots, Reading and Spelling

Class Acutis' and Kolbe's homework: TTRS, Spellings, Reading, Maths.co.uk and Spag.com (Y2 TTRS passwords will be issued next week apologies for the delay)

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	98.2%	97.9%
Year One	96.2%	97.6%
Year Two	97.5%	99%
Year Three	98.2%	96.9%
Year Four	95.9%	94.2%
Year Five	89.1%	94.4%
Year Six	95.3%	92.8%
School Total	95.8%	96%

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





Parish News: Children's Liturgy Team

Sunday is 25th Sunday of the year and we hear about a dishonest manager and about how we cannot love God and money equally. God must come first in our lives.

The manager in this story's job was to look after a rich man's property and money.

The rich man was cross because the manager was not careful with his money. He spent too much of it. And so the rich man told the manager he could no longer have a job.

There are many rich people in the world and there are even more people who have very little money. Do you think it is fair that some of us are rich and have lots of nice things, and some of us are poor and do not have all the things we need to live a safe and healthy life?

Jesus said that we can't serve both God and money in our lives. God must come first. Then other people. Then money and the things that we own last. He also says that we should be generous with the money that we do have and use it to look after others.

How will you make sure that you put God and other people before your possessions in the coming week? What will you do to show that you serve God in your life?

We would love to see you on Sunday at 9:30am Mass - Children's Liturgy Room.

A Message from our Governors

As a school, we're sad to confirm that Dave Joy has made the decision to relinquish his role as a Parent Governor at St Joseph's. Dave has been a Parent Governor for almost nine years, being elected to the role when Harrison and then Will joined our school. During that time, he has been a fantastic source of support to us - generous with his knowledge and expertise in Special Education, proving invaluable in our preparation for OfSTED inspections over the years and participating in the meetings with Inspectors. Dave now feels that his role as Regional Director for Schools within a group of Special Schools means he lacks the capacity to continue as a Parent Governor. We would all like to sincerely thank Dave for his support for school over such a lengthy period of time and we wish only the best to Dave, Lucy, Harrison and Will.

In turn, this means that we now have an exciting vacancy for a Parent Governor!

The role involves attending and preparing for two evening meetings per term (one online and one in person at school) and visiting school a couple of times per year to look at the work that school is undertaking. A really comprehensive training programme is available to all Governors and you would be joining a very friendly and supportive Governing Board and be able to give something back to your school community. We're always interested in hearing from people with skills or knowledge in HR, buildings, health and safety or with an education background but this is not at all essential. What is more important is a willingness to read documentation and to provide support and challenge to our school so that we continue to improve.

If you are interested in this role and would appreciate a chat about it, please let Mrs Cox know and she will put you in touch with Kate Armstrong, our Chair of Governors.

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

Upcoming Events

Head Boy and Head Girl interviews will take place on Monday, 22nd September. If you would like to be considered, please be ready to answer the question – “Why I would be the best person to represent school”

Class photographs will be taken on Monday

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.

Cafod: Brighten Up Day on Friday, 3rd October – more details to follow

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.

- *Let's Go Sing – Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday after school in preparation for a performance at Blackburn Cathedral in March.. (If your child is in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 and they would like to take part, please complete the form on School Spider)*

This Week in Pictures



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

**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





Dear Parents and Carers,

While on earth, we are given 'free will' and God our Father trusts us to use it wisely. There may be times when we make a wrong choice, but we can trust that God is always there to help us start again.

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us about the value of being trustworthy people. We can show this by making good choices – especially when it comes to the use of money.

Wednesday 17th September 2025

When we give God first place in our lives – using our talents, our time and our money to serve God – we are blessed here and now, and can be certain that we will be rewarded in the life to come too.

Enjoy a special time together hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **TRUSTWORTHY**.



Dom Henry Wansbrough

A Word from the Saints

"Trust the present to God's love and the future to God's care."

St Augustine of Hippo

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH

Sunday 21 September 2025



Jesus said, "The one who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the one who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with

money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money."

Adapted from Luke 16:1-13

The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

Having Hope in our Families

God wants us to place our trust in him, so that he can guide our lives. Following God's ways shows God that we are trustworthy and provides a secure foundation for our lives and for the lives of our children too.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



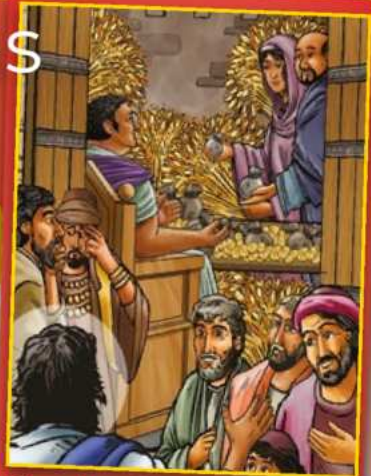
1

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

One day Jesus was talking to his disciples about choosing to put God first in their lives – about not becoming a 'slave' to the love of money, but rather using money in a way that is pleasing to God. Jesus said: "If you can be trusted with little things, then you can be trusted with big things. To God, money is a little thing. If you can't be trusted with that, how can you be trusted with real riches? The choice is yours, but you cannot be the slave both of God and of money."

How does Jesus want us to use our money?

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.



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?

2

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

"Those who trust in God can do all things."

StAlphonsusLiguori

TRUSTWORTHY

Being a trustworthy person and also knowing who to trust is really important. Ask your child what the word 'trustworthy' means to them. A friend who can be trusted is a gift from God! Who are the most trustworthy friends in your child's life and why do they trust them? What do their friends do which shows they are trustworthy? Perhaps you can tell your child about those people in your life whom you trust the most, and say why they are trustworthy.

We can show God and others that we are trustworthy by making the most of our gifts – to make the world a better place. In this coming week, what can each one of us do to show that we are trustworthy? Perhaps we can: be generous with our God-given gifts of talent and money; always try to tell the truth; say our daily prayers; ask God to guide us to do the right thing; keep our promises.

3

Dear Lord Jesus, help us use our gifts well – to be your trustworthy sons and daughters who always put you first in our lives. Amen.

FINDING THREE

R M G J J S E H C I R
I M O N E Y O D G Y E
C G Y N S U S E J G L
H L T R U S T E L V A
E V A L S V L R U S L
S G D N T S U R T V Y
V O R E A L T G J Y J
G A S A V A Y L E G U
W A R N S V A N S O S
Y N L G Y E O E J D T
N R W A R M G T A L S

WEDNESDAY
WORD SEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN



JESUS
WARNS



SLAVE
MONEY



TRUST
GOD



REAL
RICHES

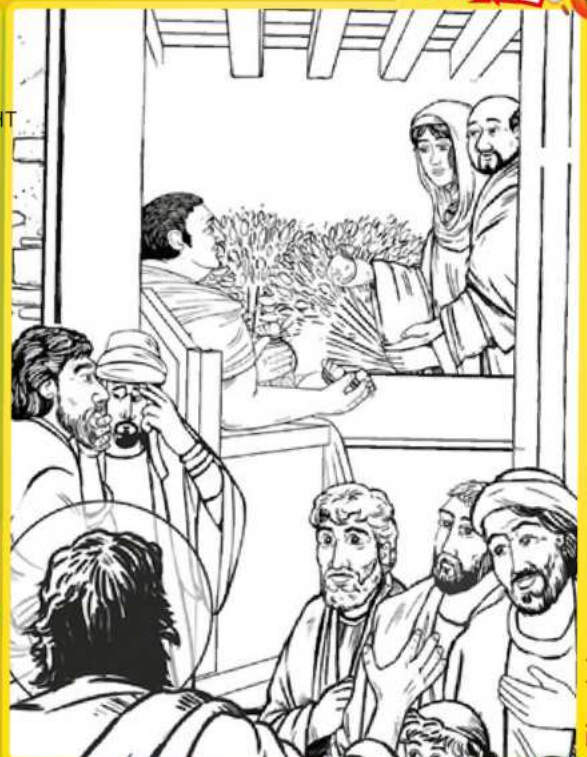
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters O C M in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

bomicg trumstoced tchimnogs othcenm

"If you can be _____ with little _____,
_____ you can be trusted with _____ things."

Jesus is trustworthy! We can always trust Jesus to help us make the most of our lives—enjoying them and using them to love and care for others. Jesus leads us to live our best life—full of peace, joy, and kindness.



Find the differences, then colour the picture

Find the differences

This week I will try my best to ...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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