



St. John's RC Primary School

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 11 Friday 28th November 2025

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

The frosty and wet weather definitely hasn't dampened our spirits in school! This week has been a particularly busy and enriching one in school. The children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in UK Parliament Week, engaging in thoughtful discussions about democracy, decision-making and the importance of having a voice. Their curiosity and enthusiasm have been wonderful to see. We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Sean Woodcock, to school this week as we brought UK Parliament Week to a close. Mr Woodcock joined us for a special whole-school assembly, where he spoke to the children about the role of Parliament, how laws are made, and the importance of having a voice in our democracy. Our pupils asked thoughtful and engaging questions and it was a valuable opportunity for our children to see how what they have been learning in class connects to real-life democratic processes. We are grateful to Mr Woodcock for taking the time to visit and for helping us end Parliament Week on such a positive and inspiring note.

We also came together for a special assembly to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, marking the final Sunday of the Church's year before Advent begins. It was a reflective moment for the whole school, reminding us of the values of hope, compassion and service as we prepare for the season ahead.

Across the school, the excitement is building as rehearsals continue for our Nativity performances and the KS2 Carol Service. The children are working incredibly hard, and we are all looking forward to sharing these joyful occasions with you soon.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Prayer

Written by our chaplaincy team

Dear Jesus, our King, Help us be brave and kind superheroes. Show us how to love others, act in your ways and help us to use our gifts to make the world a calm and respectful place. Christ our King, guide our hearts with your love.

Help us follow your example of kindness, truth, and courage each day.

Help us to use our God given talents to inspire other children as they go through life. If they are selfless, may they motivate peers to think of others first.

Christ is King of my heart because he forgives us no matter what.

He will never go away he will help us throughout our lives.

Thank you for Jesus Christ the Messiah who serves as a role model for us to live our lives as superheroes. Help those who find it hard to live their lives in this way and guide everyone to do what is right

Attendance

Our whole school attendance for the week is: 96%. This meets our goal for the week! Let's see if we can manage this in the final two weeks too! Thank-you for all of your support in ensuring children are at school and on time each day. The classes with the highest attendance, at 100% and 99% this week is Nursery and Year 3.

Oracy Question of the week

Would you rather have a slide instead of stairs in your house or a trampoline floor?

Debate Club

I would like to share how incredibly proud I am of our Year 6 Debate Club, who delivered an outstanding performance in this week's assembly. Their confidence, clarity, and thoughtful arguments demonstrated not only the skills they have developed but also the maturity with which they approached each topic. It was a pleasure to see our pupils speak so passionately and respectfully, showcasing the very best of our school values.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Mrs Jefferies and Miss Callan for their dedication and guidance in preparing the team. Well done to everyone involved-what an inspiring example for the whole school community!

TA recruitment

We are pleased to share that our school is currently recruiting for two Teaching Assistant positions. These roles are vital in supporting our children's learning and helping to create a positive, nurturing environment across the school.

We have the following vacancies available:

- Teaching Assistant – 17.5 hours per week
- Teaching Assistant – 25 hours per week

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in joining our committed and friendly team, please visit our school website

We would be grateful if you could share this information within the community.



Certificates and Celebrations



This week's awards go to

EYFS Nursery	Phoebe Aneurin
Reception	Ivy Andrei
Year 1	Aiswarya Dhruv
Year 2	Tommy Marie-Bernadette
Year 3	Joseph J Jeron
Year 4	Johaann Gracie
Year 5	Gilroy Mariam
Year 6	Meeval Aibel
Headteachers Award	Year 6 Year 5
Attendance Award	Year 3 Year 3 & Nursery
Wrap Around Care	Isabella B Patrick

Staffing Update

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new School Business Manager, Mrs Stephanie Jackson, who will begin her role in January. Mrs Jackson brings a wealth of experience from her current position in the office, and we look forward to the contribution she will make as our School Business Manager.

Congratulations!



Catholic Life

This term's values are:



Autumn 2: learned and wise.

Learned: learning how God wants us to live our lives

Whether we are young or old, we should never stop learning about what God wants of us.

We learn many new things each day. By reading the Bible, listening to our teachers and listening to our hearts, we learn more of what God wants.

Wise: knowing how God wants us to live our lives and putting it into practice.

God is always with us and hoping that we will live our lives in the right way, following the teachings of Jesus.

Chaplaincy Team

This week, the Chaplaincy team worked on the prayer for our newsletter and also thought about their mission of being 'superheroes' and using their 'superpowers' to show Jesus is King of our hearts.

★ Advent Stay and Pray ★

As we prepare to enter the season of Advent, we are delighted to invite our parents and carers to join us for a special time of reflection and prayer in school. During Advent, we will be holding a "Stay and Pray" group each Tuesday afternoon, where parents are warmly welcome to come into their child's class to share in a short time of Advent prayer and stillness together.

This is a wonderful opportunity to pause in the busyness of the season, spend a few quiet moments with your child, and prepare our hearts for the joy and hope of Christmas. Parents and Carers are invited into their child's class on Tuesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December at 2:50pm for these sessions.

Well done Year 5!

Year 5 have earned stamps on their mission cards for showing human dignity by recognising we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

♥ REVERSE ADVENT APPEAL ♥

This year, as part of our Advent preparations, we are taking part in a Reverse Advent appeal to support the wonderful work of Father Hudson's Caritas. Instead of receiving something each day, we are inviting our school community to give something back, living out our commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the principles of Solidarity and the Preferential Option for the Poor.

Through our donations, we show that everyone has dignity and worth, and that we stand together with those in need. Each class has been assigned a focus item to donate so that hampers can be created for individuals and families who are less fortunate, including those who are homeless, disabled, refugees and migrants, older people, or children and families in need. These hampers will help bring comfort, joy, and a sense of togetherness during what can be a challenging time of year for many.

We warmly welcome any donations, however small, and we fully appreciate that this comes at a busy and sometimes difficult financial time for families.

All donations should be sent into school by Monday 8th December at the latest, so that Father Hudson's can collect and distribute the hampers in time for Christmas.

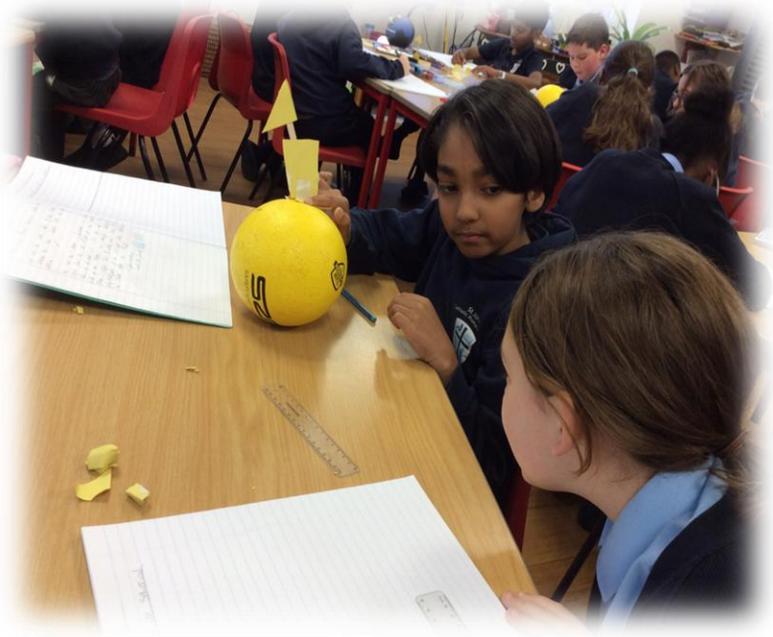
Class donation items:

- Reception & Nursery: Biscuits and chocolates
- Year 1 & Year 2: Crackers, breadsticks, crisps
- Year 3 & Year 4: Jams, chutneys, marmalades, spreads, jarred olives
- Year 5 & Year 6: Tinned items such as soup, baked beans, dried noodles, rice and pasta

Thank you in advance for your generosity, kindness, and support.

St. John's in Pictures

Over the last week we have been really focused on our mission of showing extra kindness and working as a team. Last Thursday, we demonstrated some spectacular teamwork at the Year 1 Multi Skills Festival, hosted at Blessed George Napier. We had lots of fun!



It's another busy week at St John's!

📖 📖 Year 5 have been proving the world is not flat. 🌍 🌍

We used model ships and tiny globes (sports balls) to create the scenario of a vessel disappearing into the distance on a flat surface or on a curved one.

Flat earthers society commented, "Our members around the globe are not convinced!" 😏



Christmas Dinner booking now open

The children will enjoy Christmas Dinner on Thursday 18th December this year.

If you wish to book your child a Christmas meal, please book this on Arbor before Friday 12th December.

We will close the booking at midday on 12th December to ensure we have enough time to order these.

Important dates

Key Dates	
December	
Monday 8 th	Year 6 Kilvrough Trip until Friday 12 th
Tuesday 9 th	KS1 Christmas Production 17:00
Wednesday 10 th	EYFS Christmas Production 09:30
Thursday 11 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15 th	KS2 Carol Concert St John's Church
Wednesday 17 th	Christmas Craft Afternoon
Thursday 18 th	Whole School Advent Mass Christmas Dinner day
Friday 19	End of Term 13:00 finish

⚠️ WRAP AROUND CARE - 15.12.25 ⚠️

We would like to inform you that on Monday 15th December, our wrap around provision will finish at the earlier time of 4:30pm.

Please ensure you only book the first hour. There will be no bookings being taken between 4:30pm and 5:00pm on this day - children will need collecting at 4:30pm.

This one-off adjustment is due to our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at St John's Church, which our staff will be attending. Finishing at 4:30pm ensures that staff have sufficient time to travel to the church and support the concert.

We are sharing this information in advance so that families can make any necessary alternative arrangements. Please note that children can be booked in until 4:30pm only on this date.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.