



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through
Faith, Hope, and Love

Newsletter – Friday 8th May 2026

As we continue through the term, the ever-changing weather has certainly reminded us to be adaptable – with sunshine and showers often arriving in the same day. Following the recent bank holiday weekend, we hope all our families had a restful time and a chance to enjoy some moments together.

As a Catholic school community, we remain grateful for these opportunities to pause and reflect. We also offer a gentle reminder to ensure children come to school in the correct uniform each day. With such variable weather, it is helpful for pupils to bring appropriate layers so they can remain comfortable both inside and outside.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Exciting opportunity for KS2 this week

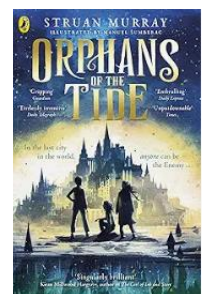
On Wednesday this week, we were joined by Thomas Williams who delivered a parliament assembly to the children. The assembly was very well received by the children, and the staff were very impressed by their engagement and the questions that they asked in response to the information that they were given, especially from some of the children in Year 3. Tom was equally impressed with our children, how well they sat, listened and how polite they were. I would like to thank Mrs Knight for arranging this enhancement to our children's learning at no cost to parents.

Author visit

I am sure that you will know that we have been given some fantastic new resources that will form the beginnings of a library for the children. In addition to these great resources, we have been offered an author visit. I am sure that you will remember from the beginning of the year during the literary festival, when Sian Hughes visited, this was at a cost to parents. We are very fortunate to be offered this opportunity for **free**.

Struan Murray will be visiting in June to deliver an assembly to KS2 followed by a workshop for Year 5 and 6. Year 6 are currently reading one of his books - Orphans of the Tide. What an exciting opportunity for the children to meet him!

We will share more information about this nearer the time.



Section 175 Audit

I spent the morning with Kevin McCloskey from the Local Authority yesterday. He was paying us our annual visit for our Safeguarding Audit. This visit consisted of staff surveys, KS2 pupil surveys, pupil voice, conversations with staff, scrutinising paperwork and discussions about processes. The survey results, which were anonymous, were very

positive and it is always a pleasure to talk to our children with visitors. They left having enjoyed their visit, supporting the process that we have in place.

LWCET NEWS



Dear Families

Here is a podcast update from the Little Way Catholic Educational Trust about some of the activities of the Trust further afield than your own school. Please have a quick listen to it - it's only a few minutes long.

<https://www.podbean.com/media/share/pb-2qeqd-1ab50b7>

Wishing you all the best for the rest of the Summer Term.

Charlotte Blanch
CEO - Little Way Catholic Educational Trust



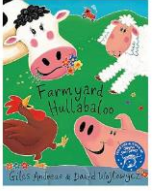
Singing Lessons with Mr Robinson

We are delighted to share the wonderful opportunity that our Year 3 and 4 pupils have enjoyed this year through their singing lessons with Mr Robinson. These lessons are of an exceptionally high standard and would normally cost around £2,000 for the year — something the school would not be able to fund. However, we have been incredibly fortunate that the Diocese has supported this provision for our children. I have heard first-hand how engaging and enriching these sessions are, with pupils learning not only to sing beautifully but also to develop their understanding of musical notation. I recently had the privilege of joining the lessons for a few weeks and was truly impressed by both the quality of teaching and the remarkable progress the children are making. We will certainly be exploring ways to continue offering this opportunity in the future, given the clear benefits it brings to our pupils.

Parent Tours

We have had a bit of a flurry of parental tours of our school, looking for September 2027 places. When I show parents around, they are always struck by how calm the school is and how well engaged the children are in their learning. After completing a tour recently with some parents, one of them said to me, so, you don't have any children with special needs here. I replied, on the contrary, our children with EHCPs is above National average to a similar school to us, we have many children with diverse needs. They then continued to question why we didn't have 'corridor children'. This term is commonly being used for children who are unable to cope in the classrooms. I went onto explain about inclusive classrooms and adapting the learning to meet the needs of the children. This comment is an incredible complement to all staff who work incredibly hard at St Joseph's to create inclusive learning environments for all.

Story Time at the Convent



Just a reminder – next Friday it is time for Story time at the Convent again! Friday 15th May - hope to see you there!



Attendance

The numbers have reduced to 12 children on the Persistently Absent (PA) register, which is great, moving in the right direction. As you know, when a child's attendance falls below 90% they are considered to be persistently absent from school. This will lead to gaps in their learning which will make it more challenging for them to make the best progress that they are able to make.

6 children on the PA register are from Year 1.



PTA News

Ice creams are on sale, how lovely to see some new faces helping out. Thank you to all of the parents who have volunteered to help and make this possible for our children.

Next Friday will be the great PTA fun run from 3.30pm! The cost of this event is £1, and all children will receive a Mr Freeze pop and a fun sticker for finishing.

Children who are in OOSC will be taken to OOSC after the run by staff from the OOSC, the school, or a member of the PTA. The participating OOSC children will be identified by wearing a high-viz.

If your child is attending and will be going to OOSC after the event, the OOSC will hold a sign-up sheet for you to complete, and you can make the payment to the PTA via PayPal (Friends & Family) bank transfer. Please put your child's name and fun run as the reference. Please complete the sign-up with OOSC no later than Monday 10th May. Thank you for your support.

Eco – Committee Litter Pick

Councillor Gill Thomas has achieved her goal. She has funding for further litter pickers and books to support the Eco-Committee and their learning. She will be coming in to deliver the items to school when we get back after half term.

The plan is for the litter pickers to be on site for children to use, if they wish, during break and lunch times. Making sure that we are being stewards of the earth and caring for our school environment.

Trips

Reception and Year 3 came back from their exciting days out today, tired but full of the fun of the days that they had. I would like to thank the teachers for planning and taking the children on these trips – they are extra-curricular and take a lot of time to organise. I would also like to thank the PTA for supporting the children - £5 per child – to reduce the cost of the trip. Also, a huge thank you to the parents who pay it forward. Without this combined generosity, these trips would not be able to go ahead.

Year 3, 4 and 5 will be joining together to take advantage of a FREE educational visit to Tinkley Gate where they will be able to enjoy the Wind in the Willows sculpture trail, inspired by Kenneth Grahame's classic, which officially launches on Friday 22nd May. They will be treated to the Animal and Plant Health Agency's "Woodland Science Lab" – a hands-on discovery zone where they will learn more about their work, including having a go at "vaccinating" plush badgers. They will have the opportunity to meet some of the artists behind the sculpture trail, who will offer a short workshop on painting sculptures. We seek every opportunity to enhance our children's learning with experiences with no cost to parents. More information will be coming out for these parents soon.

Books, Books, Books

Here are some of the Amazon donations that have made it into the classrooms over the last few weeks. Thank you to the parents who have donated them and to the parent who raised the idea at the Parent Forum. Your children of course benefit from this great idea.



You can donate any time. If this is something that you would like to do, please do. Book lists can be found here:

Reception <https://amzn.eu/01dYQzLB>

Year 1 <https://amzn.eu/0aMD7f7G>

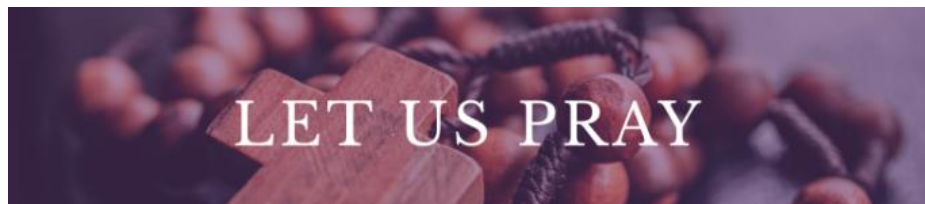
Year 2 <https://amzn.eu/0iYUmbXF>

Year 3 <https://amzn.eu/0ePSQ6Sc>

Year 4 <https://amzn.eu/09Wx6uVH>

Year 5 <https://amzn.eu/04C26zX0>

Year 6 <https://amzn.eu/07cKHj3n>



Mass Schedule

Mass begins at 10am

Parents are warmly welcome to join their child's class when it is their turn to go to Mass. Please let the Admin Team know if you are able to come.

14th May – Ascension - Year 2
21st May – Year 1
Half Term
4th June – Reception
11th June – Year 5
18th June – Year 6 Leaver's Mass in Clifton Cathedral

25th June – Year 4
2nd July – Year 3
9th July - Year 2
16th July - Whole School Leaver's Mass at 9.30am



May 2026

Just a reminder that you are able to access and see the focus for our Liturgies through the Ten Ten monthly Parent Newsletter.



This week's prayer is from Year 5, written for the LGC meeting that took place last week:

Dear Lord,

We ask you to be with us as we gather to make a change. Give us the strength to make good choices for our school. Bless us O Lord, Amen





Respect + Optimism + Community + Kindness

Open Evening

Thursday 4 June 2026

5:00pm - 7:00pm

For
Prospective
Students

Year 7
Admission
September
2027



Unlock Your Potential

Talk from the Principal at 6pm in the main hall.

Dates for your



May 2026

WB Monday 11th - KS2 SATs

Friday 15th - Convent Story Time - AM

Friday 15th - PTA Colour Run after school

Tuesday 19th May - Y4 trip to We Are Curious

Friday 22nd May - Half Term 😊

Summer Term 2 - June 2026

Monday 1st - MAT INSET day

Tuesday 2nd - Y6 Bikeability starts

Wednesday 10th - Class and leavers' photos

Wednesday 10th - Parent Forum 2pm - all welcome

Tuesday 16th - New Parent's Evening EYFS

Thursday 18th - Leavers Mass at Cathedral

WB 29th - Show week Y6 (Monday 29th dress rehearsal, Tuesday 30th Matinee, Wednesday 1st July Evening performance)

Thursday 25th - EYFS Transition afternoon

WB 29th - Last week of teacher led clubs

July 2026

Thursday 2nd - Transition afternoon (EYFS)

WB 6th - Health Week

Tuesday 7th - Sports Day

Friday 10th - Reports out to parents

WB 13th - Week of Awe and Wonder

Tuesday 14th - Whole School picnic - Y6 Make £5 Grow stalls

Wednesday 15th - Music concert

Thursday 16th - Leavers' mass 9.30am

Friday 17th - Schools out for summer -

**SCHOOL FINISHES AT
1.30PM**