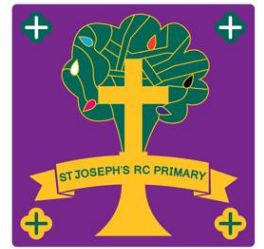


St Joseph's RC Primary School

NEWSLETTER

February 2026



Headteacher: Mrs Scott • Parish Priest: Father Stamp • Tel: 01706 873177 • www.stjosephsbacup.co.uk



What a busy term we've had since returning after Christmas! Our pupils have truly got stuck into their learning with remarkable enthusiasm.

It has been particularly heartwarming to see our older children supporting our younger pupils around the school. They've been wonderful role models, not just in academic support, but in embodying our Gospel values. Watching them encourage and guide their younger peers has been a true testament to the nurturing community we've built at St Joseph's.

This term, we've placed a significant emphasis on safety - particularly online safety. We're increasingly aware that some of our younger pupils might be accessing games and websites that aren't age-appropriate. As we approach the half-term holiday, we kindly ask parents to review the settings on their children's devices to ensure they're accessing safe, suitable content.

I'm incredibly proud to celebrate our children's achievements in writing this term. The standard has been amazing, with children displaying genuine pride in their work throughout their classrooms. Their creativity and confidence shine through in every piece they've produced.

Looking ahead to next term, as part of our year of prayer, we'll be focusing on writing our own prayers that we can share with one another.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely, restful break and we wish you a blessed and meaningful Lent.

Mrs Scott, Headteacher



PTA Movie Night

A massive thanks to everyone who supported our Movie Night. The children loved our showing of Zootropolis 2! We raised £215 for the PTA.



School Dinner Price Increase

Unfortunately the price of a school dinner will increase in September 2026 to £2.80 per day (£14.00 per week). We do try to keep our price as low as we can, and this will still be below the recommended price for Lancashire.

Charges apply to all pupils in Year 3-6 and Nursery, unless your child is entitled to free school meals. You can check entitlement at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/>



Attachment & Trauma
Aware School **AC**Education

SPORTS

Congratulations to the latest group of children who have represented St Joseph's at the recent Rossendale Schools Sports Partnership competitions.

As always, you did us proud!



Key Stage 2 Boccia Competition
The Valley Leadership Academy

Number Day 2026



Thank you to everyone who supported Number Day last week. The children had an amazing day doing all things number and we raised £62.00 for the NSPCC.



Celebration Worship

Fr Fridays at 9am in the school hall



God wants me to be the best me I can be.



Download the app to stay in the loop

The Eduspot mobile app enables you to keep up with messages from school, with a personalised timeline of all your children's school activities and updates. **Download the app today!**



Scan here to learn more!



Free School Meal Vouchers are ending soon

If you currently receive the Edenred free school meal vouchers for the school holidays, please note that Easter 2026 holidays will be last time these vouchers are issued.

These vouchers were brought in during Covid and have been paid for through the Household Support Fund. This fund is ending on 1st April 2026 and will be replaced by the Crisis & Resilience Fund. There is no provision for holiday time free school meal vouchers to be issued under the Crisis & Resilience Fund conditions.

Vouchers for February half term were issued on 9th February. Those for the Easter holidays will be issued in the week commencing 23rd March 2026.



At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing and digital citizenship. **Presented** delivered by National On-line Safety, these guides have a focus on safety and security. For further guides, links and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 9 in 10 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 10 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and misuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This is an active learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate content of inappropriate nature. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or harmful material. Setting boundaries and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete work, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own opinions. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less meaningful interaction. If not managed, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and mental health. Encouraging a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for well-being.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to generate homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Encourage children to be honest about their use of the technology, and maintain an open relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and assess its reliability. Encourage them to use their own critical thinking skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to help if a problematic aspect first arises.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools can be used.

Meet Our Expert

Braden O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eden House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As co-author and speaker on digital literacy and active writing for institutions such as The National College, Braden guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Follow us on social media: www.wake_up_weds, www.thenationalcollege.com, [@wake_up_wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake_up_wednesday), [@wake_up_weds](https://www.facebook.com/wake_up_weds)

Stubblelee Bike Revival

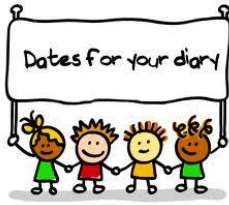
At Stubblelee Greenhouses in Bacup our Bicycle Revival Project serves our local community to keep usable bikes out of landfill. Our experienced volunteers refurbish and repair bikes which people can then purchase at a reasonable price.

This enables people to have access to affordable bikes for themselves, their families and their friends whilst helping to reduce waste and take better care of our environment.

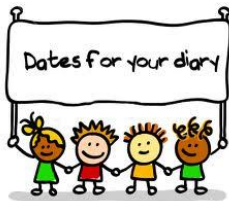
More information about what we do can be found on our website: www.thegreenhouses.org

To donate a bike, arrange a repair or to purchase an upcycled bike please contact David on: 07539199548
email: david@thegreenhouses.org

God wants me to be the best me I can be.



- Fri 13th Feb Feel Good Friday 2.30pm
- Fri 13th Feb School Closes 3.20pm
- Mon 23rd Feb School Reopens
- Mon 23rd Feb Eagles Class Blackpool Trip
- Wed 25th Feb Chinese New Year Food Tasting
- Tues 3rd Mar Class Photos
- Thur 5th Mar World Book Day
- Tues 17th Mar Boogie Bounce Day
- Tues 31st Mar PTA Rec/Y1/Y2 Easter Eggstravaganza
- Wed 1st Apr PTA KS2 Easter Eggstravaganza
- Thur 2nd Apr School Closes 2.00pm
- Mon 13th Apr School Reopens
- Mon 11th May Year 6 SATs begin
- Fri 22nd May Feel Good Friday 2.30pm
- Fri 22nd May School Closes 3.20pm
- Mon 8th June School Reopens
- Mon 15th June Life Education Visits school
- Tues 16th June Life Education Visits school
- Wed 17th June Year 6 Residential
- Thur 18th June Year 6 Residential
- Fri 19th June Year 6 Residential
- Tues 14th July Year 6 Prom
- Fri 17th July School Closes 2.00pm



Happy Birthday to the children celebrating during February!

Lottie, Lillie-Anne, Tyler B, Wynter, and Princess.



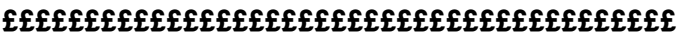
BREAKFAST CLUB

Our FREE Breakfast Club, sponsored by Greggs, starts at 8.00am (last admission 8.30am). No need to book, just turn up!

STAR KIDS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Star Kids is available to book from 3.20–5.30pm every day

★ Prices ★
 Half session - 3:20-4:20pm or 4.20-5.30pm* £4.50
 Full session - 3:20-5:30* £7.00
 *Late collection charges apply



A reminder that payments for school dinners, After School Club, nursery fees, trips and events should be made through ParentPay.

If you need help with your account, please visit the school office.

The cost of a school dinner is £2.70 per day - £2.80 per day from September 2026.

If you have not paid in advance, payments MUST BE MADE on the day you receive a text reminder. Failure to pay will mean we cannot provide a school dinner or your child cannot attend After School Club. Thank you.

We are a proud parkrun primary school

Join us at our local junior parkrun on Sunday!

Have you signed your child up to junior parkrun yet?

Stubblee Moorlands junior parkrun
Every Sunday at 9am

Warm-up from 8.50am

Join our School Group

– Joey Juniors



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