



# St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

## Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

We have had a wonderful day celebrating Chinese New Year. The children looked wonderful in their red clothes and completed some lovely activities throughout the day, which they then presented in a special assembly.  
#onefamilyinchrist  
☺ Mrs Campbell

Head-teacher awards	Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible'	Celebration of Talent spotting
Nursery (Jochabed)	Aros	Mahalia Zahra
Reception (Miriam)	Rumi	Halima Noor Teddy
Y1 (Elizabeth)	Arielle	Lawi Caleb
Y2 (Prisca)	Shehryar	Zarmeen Grace
Y3 (Sheba)	Marlous	Salvador Jannat
Y4 (Deborah)	Azaan	Kobi Fatima
Y5 (Esther)	Margarida	Luana Naomi
Y6 (Lydia)	Amarachi	Sariah Awais



Class	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance: week beg 13.2.26	97.8	<b>100</b>	98.3	96.5	97.8	94.8	98.3

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## Catholic Life

### Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

“You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it.

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.”



We are asked to do good things – to help others and live as God wants us to. In this way, we can let our light shine in people’s sight. When they see our good works, they will praise God. Through the things that we do, other people will know how good God is.

Love of learning and playing together. One community, aiming high, helping each other and praying together. On our journey with Christ.

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**One Family in Christ**

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## The Importance of Attendance

Our attendance this week is 97.8% which is excellent.



Huge congratulations to Year 1 who achieved 100% attendance this week.

They will receive a special treat when we come return after half term!

**Please ensure your children are back in school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 8.45am. Gates open from 8.35am as always.**

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## Parental support: Whatsapp

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe to be used with a degree of safety. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tools and tips for schools.

### What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients - not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging. WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

**AGE RESTRICTION 16+**  
In UK and Europe, rest of the world 13+

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**EVOLVING SCAMS**  
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the parent's child, requesting a money transfer (plus a verification message), plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

**CONTACT FROM STRANGERS**  
To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

**FAKE NEWS**  
WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from original, and might not be entirely factual, either.

**VIEW ONCE CONTENT**  
The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once is a popular feature. WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or documents, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to take an evidence of wrongdoing. People used to be able to screenshot this "disappearing" content - but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

**CHAT LOCK**  
Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate "locked chats" folder, saved behind a passcode, biometric or facial ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

**VISIBLE LOCATION**  
WhatsApp's "live location" feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location - potentially allowing strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

#### Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

**EMPHASISE CAUTION**  
Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages, setting up two-step verification as a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

**THINKING BEFORE SHARING**  
Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

**ADJUST THE SETTINGS**  
It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.

**CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY**  
Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

**...HEY OSCAR...**

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher with 15 years experience in child protection, safeguarding and cyber safety. She has written various national press articles and supported the Australian government's computing curriculum and national curriculum of computing in the UK, USA and Australia.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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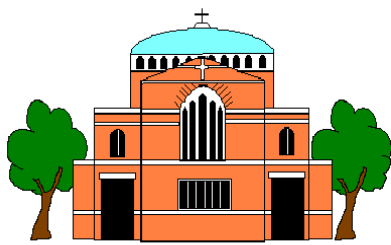
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## Lancashire Cricket Foundation

This half term, years 3 and 4 have been enjoying sessions with LCF as part of their PE lessons. They have loved bowling, catching and smashing deliveries around the hall as they learnt lots of new core skills.



## Year 3 PE Showcase



Year 3 had their PE Showcase on Thursday where they showed off the hockey skills they have learnt. A lot of patience and discipline is needed when controlling the ball and they all managed this superbly throughout.

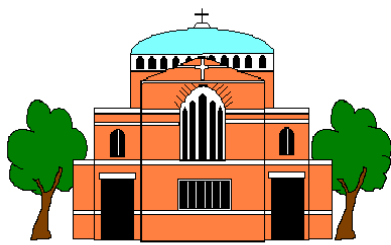
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## Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



Reception reflected on the 'Glory be' prayer and drew pictures of things they wanted to say glory to God for.

As part of Safer Internet Day, Year 2 have been discussing an exciting new type of technology: AI. The class explored what voice assistants are and how they help us and make us feel.



“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

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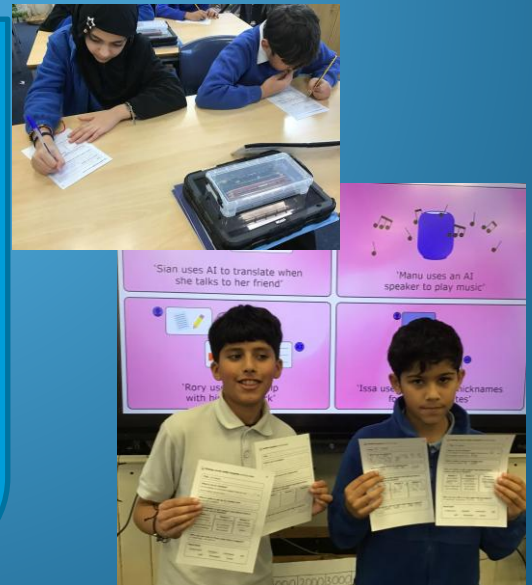
## LKS2



In Year 4, for Safer Internet Day, we looked at if AI was 'ok' and 'not ok' and did a sorting task.

## UKS2

This week, the Year 6 children took part in a Computing enrichment session where they explored AI chatbots and how they work. They learnt what artificial intelligence is, how chatbots generate responses and how they can be used to support learning in a safe and responsible way. The session also encouraged pupils to think critically about online information, digital safety and the importance of using technology ethically.



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