



One Family in Christ

St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

Newsletter

27th March 2026

We hope all our families celebrating Eid last week had a wonderful time. It is nearly Easter, and we have four days in school next week, finishing on Thursday at 3.15pm. We reopen on Monday 13th April at 8.45am.

#onefamilyinchrist
☺ Mrs Campbell

Well done Year 3 on getting 100% attendance this week!!



Head-teacher awards	Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible'	Celebration of Talent spotting
Nursery (Jochabed)	Eghosa	Yasa Darius
Reception (Miriam)	Yousuf	Stella Lucas
Y1 (Elizabeth)	Jacob	Anaya Niyar
Y2 (Prisca)	Grace	Cecilia Chibunna
Y3 (Sheba)	Marlous	Waleed Hafsa
Y4 (Deborah)	Shanzay	Kobi Jesupeme
Y5 (Esther)	Naafay	Nathan Lia
Y6 (Lydia)	Pison	Eshaal Haram

Class	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance: week beg 23.3.26	98.3	92.6	94.5	100	96.4	97	94

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Catholic Life

Gospel: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

The sisters sent Jesus a message: "Lord, your dear friend is ill."

When Jesus heard it, he said, "The final result of this illness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to the disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house.

Martha said to Jesus, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for."

"Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her.

"I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved. "Where have you buried him?" he asked them.

"Come and see, Lord," they answered.

Jesus wept. "See how much he loved him!" the people said.

But some of them said, "He gave sight to the blind man, didn't he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. "Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered.

Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!"

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?" They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me." After he had said this, he called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him.

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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The Importance of Attendance

Our attendance this week is 96.6% - fantastic!



We finish at 3.15pm on Thursday for the Easter holidays.

We reopen on Monday 13th April at 8.45am.

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Parental support: Smartwatches

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.org for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

- AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS**
A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £10. It's wise to avoid this bargain. Beware! Cheap tech is likely to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.
- CONTROL CALLING**
Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict when your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' contacts can vary. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.
- BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS**
For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (i.e. without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need to own mobile data. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.
- ENABLE FAMILY SHARING**
Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer expert safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which smartwatcheasily also alerts parents and carers.
- MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL**
Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.
- BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME**
Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.
- TRACK ITS LOCATION**
Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – sounding those push-notifying pings when a tracked device leaves the watch's location. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.
- THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'**
Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watches hidden in public (where possible) and not to resist if someone demands their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, police that line matter to the police; location data isn't always enough, as you could end up wrongly accusing someone.
- STORE MEDICAL INFO**
Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the wearer's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have "near fall" detectors, which send a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.
- USE THEM AS MOTIVATION**
If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at their phone, smartwatches are a great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

Meet Our Expert
Harry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 10 years, working for titles such as the technology journals *Time*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *ComputerWeek*. He's reported regularly on a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC's *Newsnight*, *ITV* and the *ITV* *News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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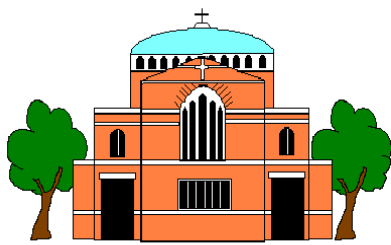
Please don't send smart watches into school - they can be very distracting for your child in lessons and can easily break at playtimes etc :)

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PD Challenge

Nursery were tasked with building something they could use in PD this week using the new tumble blocks. A fantastic hurdle was the creation of this pupil.



PD Challenge



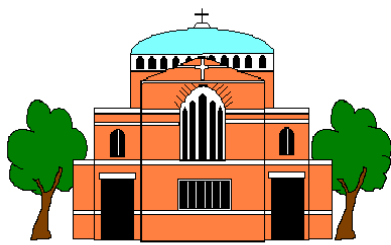
Year 1 have been taking part in some personal challenges in PE. They were trying to improve their control and concentration as they used a bat and ball to set their high score.

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Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



This week in Reception we have been discovering all about minibeasts. In the water area we used our nets to find some wiggly worms. In the painting area, we used potatoes to create ladybird prints.



The Nursery children made the most of the nice weather to practise their gross motor skills on the climbing frame.

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

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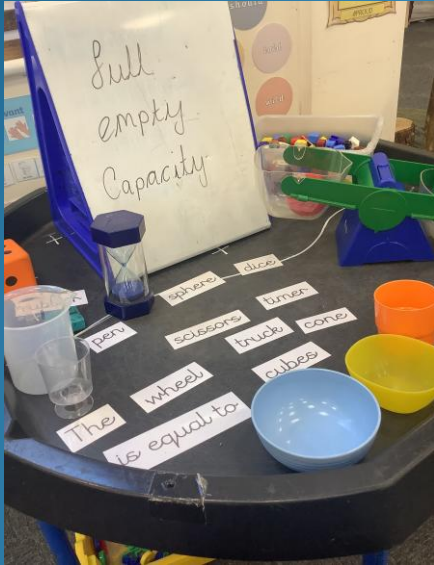


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This week Year One have been learning all about volume and capacity. Year One have tried really hard to use key words such as full, empty, nearly full, nearly empty, capacity and volume in their sentences to describe it!

In Year 2, we have been exploring what plants need in order to grow. One plant was given everything it needed, while the others were missing something such as light, water, soil or the correct temperature. We discovered that plants need all of these conditions to stay healthy.



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KS2



Year 3 have been busy in Computing, designing their very own programmes! They successfully created their own backgrounds, developed algorithms and ran their programmes with great confidence. We are so proud of their creativity and problem-solving skills—Year 3 are truly becoming fantastic game designers!

This week in art, Year 4 created beaver habitats using natural materials.



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KS2



This week, Year 6 explored Ordnance Survey (OS) maps by following a journey from our school to Rochdale Town Hall. The children looked at key map skills, including identifying symbols, using directions and locating places using both 4-figure and 6-figure grid references. Working collaboratively, they carefully traced routes across the map, developing their confidence in reading and interpreting real-world maps.

This week year 5 have enjoyed having time to spend reading for pleasure and practising the skills we have learned in guided reading. The Diary of a Wimpy Kid books are a class favourite.



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