



One Family in Christ

St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

Newsletter

18th September 2026

As we begin another exciting year at St John the Baptist, we remain committed to making sure that every child feels welcomed, valued and able to flourish. This year, we will focus on strengthening the foundations of learning, supporting children to overcome barriers and providing the challenge and encouragement they need to achieve their very best. Working together as one school family, we will continue to nurture confident, curious and compassionate children who are ready to make a positive difference in the world.

#onefamilyinchrist

© Mrs Campbell

Head-teacher awards	Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible'	Celebration of Talent spotting
Nursery (Jochabed)	Michelle	Nancy Melody Edna
Reception (Miriam)	Jay-Jay	Aldana Jerwin Hana
Y1 (Elizabeth)	Teddy	Ismaeel Yousuf Rumi
Y2 (Prisca)	Kore	Anaya Melaher Blessing
Y3 (Sheba)	Chibunna	Grace Joseph Iylah
Y4 (Deborah)	Andre	Hugo Amira Dinaath
Y5 (Esther)	Lexie	Ava Azaan Sophia
Y6 (Lydia)	Lexi	Shafeeh Josefhi Lucas

Class	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance: week beg 18/9/26	93.1%	96.9%	98.7%	97.6%	97.9%	97.8%	97.9%

Visit our website for more information:
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Catholic Life

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

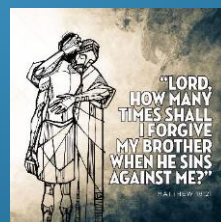
Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but seventy times seven, because the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who decided to check on his servants' accounts. He had just begun to do so when one of them was brought in who owed him millions of pounds. The servant did not have enough to pay his debt, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave, with his wife and his children and all that he had, in order to pay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before the king. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay you everything!' The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go.

"Then the man went out and met one of his fellow servants who owed him a few pounds. He grabbed him and started choking him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said. His fellow-servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!' But he refused; instead, he had him thrown into jail until he should pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset and went to the king and told him everything. So he called the servant in. 'You worthless slave!' he said. 'I forgave you the whole amount you owed me, just because you asked me to. You should have had mercy on your fellow-servant, just as I had mercy on you.' The king was very angry, and he sent the servant to jail to be punished until he should payback the whole amount."

And Jesus concluded, "That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

This week let's try our best to make a change in the way we treat other people, to say sorry when we have done something wrong, and to forgive and help others make a change in the way they behave.



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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Parental support: back to school

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 climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**
Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**
Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is engaging "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**
Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**
Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert
This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

Meet Our Expert
Jo Morton-Brown

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Behaviour in school

✿ Excellent Behaviour and High Expectations

We are incredibly proud of the **excellent behaviour and high standards we see across our school**. Our children know that we have high expectations of them and, importantly, they understand *why* these expectations matter.

We expect everyone in our school family to be **kind, respectful, responsible and ready to learn**. Children are encouraged to make positive choices, show consideration for others and take pride in themselves, their learning and our school.

Our high expectations help to create a calm, safe and welcoming environment where every child can thrive. We celebrate children who demonstrate our school values, show resilience and make the right choices — even when these choices can sometimes be difficult.

Thank you to our parents and families for supporting us in reinforcing these expectations at home. **Together, we are helping our children to become confident, respectful and responsible young people who are ready to make a positive difference in the world.**

We are very proud of you, children — keep it up! ✿

Parents can be assured that we take action when children do not follow our school rules. Any incidents where a child hurts another child are dealt with quickly, and parents are informed where appropriate.

We really appreciate your support in helping us keep all children safe. Please continue to remind your child about our school rules and the importance of being **kind, respectful and safe**.

Our behaviour policy is on our

website: <https://www.stjohnthebaptist.stoccat.org.uk/key-information/policies/>

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The importance of Attendance

Our attendance this week is **96.6%** which is great!
Thank you for ensuring your children are in school
every day.

Last 5 days (10 September 2026 to 16 September 2026)



Overall attendance %

96.6%

Overall absence %

3.4%

Unauthorised absence %

1.9%

Our attendance this year so far is **95.3%**.

Current academic year up to Wednesday 16 September 2026

Number of pupils

215



Overall attendance %

95.3%

Overall absence %

4.7%

Unauthorised absence %

3.9%

Polite reminder:

- Term time trips cannot be authorised
- Please book routine appointments after school time
- Attendance meetings and plans will be put in place to support children being in school. We, like you, want the children to achieve their very best.

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Reception 2027 Applications

The portal for Reception places (2027 start) is now open: <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/school-admissions-appeals/apply-primary-school-place/4>



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**Please apply for your primary
school place for September
2027!**



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Rochdale admissions for Primary school places is now open. Your child's reception place **MUST** be applied for before Friday 15th January 2027.

**Monday, 14
September 2026**

The online admissions system opens for primary school places starting in September 2027.

**Friday, 15 January
2027**

Closing date for applications

Ensure your reception class application for a primary school is submitted before this date. Otherwise, you will need to apply for a late application.

**Friday, 12 February
2027**

Last date for any changes to the address in your application.

**Friday, 16 April
2027**

National offer day.

IMPORTANT!

Attending St John the Baptist RC Nursery **DOES NOT** guarantee a place in our Reception class.

Parents and carers must apply online before the deadline: 15/1/27

<https://startingreception.co.uk/>

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High School 2027 Applications

The portal for High School places (2027 start) is now open:



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**Please apply for your High
School place for September
2027!**



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Rochdale admissions for Secondary school places is now open. Your child's Y7 place **MUST** be applied for before Saturday 31st October 2026

**Tuesday, 1
September 2026**

The online admissions system opens for secondary school places.

**Saturday, 31
October 2026**

Closing date for applications

Ensure your secondary school application is submitted before this date. Otherwise, you will need to apply for a late application.

**Friday, 11 December
2026**

Last date for any changes to the address in your application.

**Monday, 1 March
2027**

National offer day. [Sign in to view your school place offer.](#)

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KS2 core strength

One of the focuses in PE this half term is our core strength. There are many advantages to improving in this area including improved handwriting. Here we are trying to move on our hands and feet whilst balancing a ball on the midriff.



Reception PD skills



Reception class were learning how to skip using a long jump rope today. It took a few attempts to get the timing right but real progress was made. A lot of concentration was needed.

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Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



The Nursery children have settled in beautifully and are working hard on the strong foundations. We have been painting the walls and using all our muscles to stretch up high. We have been using our fine motor skills to thread the letters, and we have been using our 'Crocodile Snap' pen grip to draw circles.

Year one have enjoyed reading a range of books in their reading garden this week. They have shared books and enjoyed exploring the different genres.



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

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KS2

In Art this week, Year 3 got creative using paints to print leaves and use corrugated card to show texture.



This week, Year 5 have been exploring watercolour techniques in Art, developing their skills in blending, layering and creating different effects.

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