

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th September 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Joseph's,

It has been another wonderful week at St Joseph's. The children continue to work incredibly hard, and we are extremely proud of the enthusiasm and determination they show in their learning each day.

This week, each class has chosen a charity to support during the academic year:

- **Reception:** WWF
- **Year 1:** Leeds Children's Hospital
- **Year 2:** Zarach
- **Year 3:** CAFOD
- **Year 4:** Action for Children
- **Year 5:** RSPCA and Leeds Children's Hospital
- **Year 6:** Teenage Cancer Trust

As a family, with
God in our hearts,
we love, laugh
and learn.

The children have explained beautifully why they have chosen these charities. The care, compassion and thought that have gone into their decisions have been incredibly moving. Our children have a strong understanding of why we undertake charitable work at St Joseph's. They recognise that schools across the country support many wonderful causes, but they also know that we do it for a very important reason: **Jesus told us to.**

Through teachings such as the parable of the Good Samaritan and the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour, show compassion and help those in need. We want to support people who may not have what we have and those who need our care, kindness and practical help.

Please encourage your children to think of ways they could support their chosen class charity. This might involve raising money, donating items, organising an activity or simply raising awareness. Every act of kindness can make a difference.

Meet the Teacher Open Afternoon

Next week, we would love to invite you into school. On Thursday 24th September, the school will be open for you to visit your child's classroom, see our new Inclusion Base 'The Workshop', and meet your child's teachers. The hall doors will open at 3:30pm. We politely ask that all visitors leave through the main school entrance by 4:15pm.

We are very excited to welcome you all and to share some of the wonderful developments taking place across our school. We wish you and your families a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday.

Best regards and God bless,
Mr G

DATES FOR THE DIARY

<u>September 2026</u>	<u>October 2026</u>	<u>November 2026</u>
19th - Otley Folk Festival	1st - Y4 Football	3rd - Parents Evening
23rd - Other Faiths Day	10th - Open Day for YR 27-28	5th - Parents Evening
24th - Meet the Teachers	14th - Flu Immunisations	11th - Remembrance Day Mass
24th - Y4/5 Girls Football	16th - TTRS Rockstar Day	16th - Anti-Bullying Week
26th - SMM Open Day for Y7	22nd - Harvest Mass	23rd - Otley Light Switch On
	23rd - Training Day	
	31st - Deadline for Y7 applications	

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

w/c 07.09.26

96.85%

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus,
Help our Mini Vinnies to follow the example
of the Good Samaritan.
Give them caring hearts to notice those in need, courage to help
others, and kindness to make a difference.
May they put their faith into action through
love, compassion and service.
Guide them as they support our school, parish and
wider community.
Amen.

OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MASS TIMES



Saturday Morning: 10am
Saturday Evening Vigil: 6:30pm
Sunday Morning: 9:30am & 11:15am



For updates, please check the weekly bulletin for
up-to-date Mass times.

<http://www.olasotley.org/bulletin.html>

The Theme of Seven

This week, we have explored the theme of seven and why this number appears so often in the Bible and our Catholic faith. In Scripture, seven often represents completeness, fullness and being made whole. We have reflected on how God calls us to grow in faith and become the best people we can be. We have also considered Jesus' teaching about forgiveness, reminding us not to put a limit on how many times we forgive. Instead, Jesus encourages us to have generous and loving hearts, choosing forgiveness again and again. The number seven has given us a wonderful opportunity to think about how we can show God's love through kindness, patience and forgiveness.

Our New Mini Vinnies

A huge thank you to everyone who applied to become one of our new Mini Vinnies. We were delighted by the wonderful applications and impressed by the thought, kindness and enthusiasm shown by so many children. It was a very difficult decision, but we are delighted to announce that our new Mini Vinnies are **Niamh (Year 6), Jude (Year 5), Jemimah (Year 5), Halle (Year 4), Sophie (Year 4), Katie (Year 3), Ava (Year 3) and Hughie (Year 3)**. We are excited to see how they will put their faith into action and become role models of kindness, compassion and service within our school community.

Our Mini Vinnies are inspired by the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and Jesus' teaching in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Good Samaritan saw someone in need and chose to stop, help and show compassion. This is at the heart of being a Mini Vinnie: noticing when someone needs help, caring for others and making a difference. Our Mini Vinnies have the opportunity to live out the Gospel in practical ways, serving others in our school, parish and wider community. We look forward to seeing the wonderful ideas they bring forward this year.

The Virtue of Love of Learning

This week, we have focused on having the courage to be a beginner. Learning something new can feel tricky, but making mistakes, asking questions and having another go are all important parts of learning. We have been encouraged to approach new experiences with an open mind and celebrate our progress rather than worrying about being perfect.

A love of learning means being excited to discover something new and being willing to say, "I wonder...?", "Can you help me?" or "I'd like to have another try."

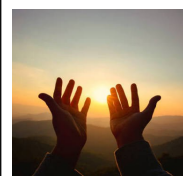
Pope Leo XIV's Birthday

We would also like to wish Pope Leo XIV a very happy birthday! His birthday gives us an opportunity to remember the Pope's special role as successor to St Peter and spiritual leader for Catholics around the world. We can pray for Pope Leo, asking God to guide him as he leads the Church and shares the message of Jesus.

Keeping Miss Walker's Daughter in Our Prayers

Finally, we ask our school community to come together in prayer for Miss Walker's daughter. We pray that God will be close to her, bringing comfort, strength and healing, and that He will surround her and her family with His love during this difficult time.

7





MULTISPORTS CAMP

AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, OTLEY

 BE ACTIVE
  MAKE FRIENDS
  HAVE FUN
  BUILD CONFIDENCE

 **MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER**
 09:00 – 15:00
 **£20**



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Football
- ✓ Dodgeball
- ✓ Individual competitions and team games

BOOK NOW!

AGES 5-13

 Marcus@twcommunitysports.co.uk
TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFO

 QUALITY COACHING
  FUN ENVIRONMENT
  BUILD SKILLS
  MAKE MEMORIES



OCTOBER HALF-TERM EXCURSION TO NELL BANK

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE DAY

 BE ACTIVE
  MAKE FRIENDS
  HAVE FUN
  BUILD CONFIDENCE

 **TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER**
 09:45 – 14:45
 **£30**

AGES 5-13

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ✓ Outdoor exploration
- ✓ Team building
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Den-building
- ✓ Adventure playground

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ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, OTLEY

'We Love, Laugh and Learn'

 **01943 463840**

office@stjosephsotley.org

OPEN DAY

Saturday 10th October 2026 9am - 12pm

All are welcome!



Scan me!




CLASS PAGES

YEAR R NEWS

In English, we have been exploring our new story, 'Colin and Lee: Carrot and Pea'. The children have been making predictions about what they think might happen to Colin and Lee as the story develops. We also talked about the similarities and differences between a carrot and a pea, thinking carefully about their appearance, size, colour and how they grow. The children shared some fantastic ideas.

In Maths, we have been practising matching numerals to amounts. The children have enjoyed counting carefully and finding the correct numeral to represent each quantity. We also explored capacity and volume using our pasta 'carrots' and 'peas', investigating which containers could hold more or less.

In RE, we have been learning about the Creation story and exploring the wonderful things that God has made. We focused on the phrase, "God said it was good," and talked about how we can appreciate and care for the world around us. The children created and decorated their own thumbs with stars, which they then took around the school grounds to help them identify the things God has made. It was lovely to see the children noticing and appreciating the beauty of nature and recognising that all of God's creation is good.

The children also voted for their class charity. Knowing that our class saints are St Francis and St Anne, the children wanted to focus on the animals and so we will be raising money for WWF! Check out for details on our charity day to raise money for our class charity!

YEAR 1 NEWS

In English, we have continued reading 'The Lost Property Office'. We have been learning how to write captions and labels and identify sentences. We have also been practising reading our own writing back to ourselves to check that it makes sense. We also started our reading groups this week and have enjoyed talking about the different vocabulary in our new books.

In Maths, we have continued learning about counting and ordering numbers. We have played lots of practical maths games to help us practise our skills, including using dominoes. We have also been practising our correct number formation in our books and in provision.

In Science, we have been learning about the human body. During provision, we have drawn and labelled different parts of the body. We have also been learning about our five senses and exploring them in our investigation area. We enjoyed investigating activities such as the feely box and using coloured glasses and different lenses to explore what we can see.

YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths, we have been learning about place value. We have been making numbers to 100 using tens and ones and thinking carefully about what each digit represents. The children have used practical equipment to build different numbers and explain how many tens and ones they contain.

In English, we have continued our work on describing life under the ocean. We have been learning how to identify and use nouns and verbs and choosing exciting vocabulary to describe what we might see happening beneath the waves. We are beginning to use these ideas to make our writing more interesting for the reader.

Our Science learning has focused on deciding whether things are living, once alive or have never been alive. We sorted a range of objects into the three groups and discussed the reasons for our choices. There were some interesting examples that really made us think!

In RE, we have been learning more about the Bible. We discovered that the Bible is divided into two main parts – the Old Testament and the New Testament – and that each Testament contains lots of different books. We enjoyed using real Bibles to investigate and sort different books according to whether they belong in the Old or New Testament.

YEAR 3 NEWS

Our children have been working their socks off in Maths, strengthening their knowledge of place value and number facts. They have developed confidence in recognising digit values, using efficient strategies and recalling key facts to solve problems quickly and accurately.

We have also started our new English text, 'Lights on Cotton Rock', which has been a big hit! The children have produced some fantastic setting details, carefully using expanded noun phrases to make their descriptions exciting and imaginative.

We have also had another fantastic ukulele session with Billy from 'Front Row Music'! The children are really enjoying learning to play and are making wonderful progress. They are busy preparing for a mini concert on Monday 12th October in the morning, where they will have the chance to showcase what they have learned. Further details will follow soon.

YEAR 4 NEWS

This week in Year 4, we have been learning about strange stories, disgusting Science, ancient ruins and special promises (Covenants) in RE.

In English, we have been building our understanding of inference skills in Comprehension: learning how to get clues from the text, examine what it tells us and focus on RTQ:ATQ = Read The Question: Answer The Question!

In Maths, we have made a very good start on our Place Value unit and have been exploring how numbers can be represented in different ways. We have been developing our understanding of how to answer Reasoning and Problem-Solving Questions.

In RE, we have studied the story of Abram and how God made a covenant (a special, lasting promise) with him: to make him a great nation if he would follow God's Word. We have linked this to our School Councillors and how they will be looking after us.

YEAR 5 NEWS

In RE, we recapped the life story of Moses up to the Ten Commandments thinking about how he felt when he saw the burning bush. We then compared artwork of the burning bush and wrote about what we noticed, how the artist portrayed God in the images and what we wondered about it.

In English, we were introduced to our new book, 'Dragonology'. We magpied unfamiliar and interesting words from the text that we could use as 'wow' vocabulary in our reports, using dictionaries to discover their meanings. We became feature detectives, exploring the features of a non-chronological report to create own success criteria for our final pieces of writing.

This week in History, we started our topic 'Dynamic Dynasties' by comparing the timelines of Ancient Britain with Ancient China. We identified that the Shang Dynasty occurred at the same time as the Bronze Age in Britain. We were amazed that even though China was a very isolated country (due to the deserts and mountains surrounding it), it developed much faster than Britain. Lillie said that she found it interesting that evidence of farming was found in China dating back to 10,000BC!

In Science, we carried out a range of activities to explore gravitational force, learning about the findings of Isaac Newton and Galileo Galilei. We had some fantastic discussions and came up with some really interesting questions, including: *Does gravity still work in water?*

YEAR 6 NEWS

In RE this week, we revisited the story of Creation and the Fall of Man. We focused on the purpose and message of this part of Genesis, and the class thought about the imagery each text created for them. We discussed that God created a perfect world, and reflected on why the world is not perfect anymore.

In English, we began by making predictions about the storyline of the music video 'Titanium', before starting to use descriptive and figurative language to describe the different settings seen in the video.

In Maths, we looked at numbers to 10 million and the place value of different digits. We experimented with counters on a place value chart and looked at patterns and the purpose of the place holder zero.

REMINDER - WELLBEING AND SAFEGUARDING

A reminder that safeguarding information, including resources, signposting and details of who to talk to if you have any concerns, can always be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

WELLBEING / SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Contact Telephone Number for Parents - The school office will be open during normal school hours: 01943 463840. Please ask to speak to **Mr Gilhooly, Mrs Wainwright, Miss Wilkinson or Mrs Monkman.**

If you are outside of school hours or it is a holiday and you have a concern you can ring the local authority social worker team directly.

- Leeds Children's Social Work Services on 0113 222 4403 Further information can be found [here](#).
- Bradford Children's Social Work Services 01274 433999 further information from Bradford local authority can be found [here](#).

NSPCC Helpline

The Department for Education has commissioned the [NSPCC](#) to establish a dedicated independent helpline for people who have experienced sexual abuse in educational setting.

The Helpline went live on 1 April, and will provide both children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse in schools with support and advice, including onward action such as contacting the Police if they wish to. The Helpline will also provide support to parents and professionals. Anyone who gets in touch through this dedicated helpline will also be signposted to other relevant support services available, including Childline, which provides ongoing support and counselling to children and young people. The dedicated and confidential NSPCC helpline – Report Abuse in Education can be reached on 0800 136 663 or by email at help@nspcc.org.uk.

NHS ChatHealth (chathealth.nhs.uk)

[ChatHealth](#) enables young people to access support and advice regarding various emotional health and wellbeing concerns. To find out more information about ChatHealth and how to access the support please use the above link. ChatHealth also offer a Text Service 07520 619750 (8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday) 11-19 year olds. Mental Health/General Health enquiries.

MindMate: Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health.

Online (<https://www.mindmate.org.uk/>) and via telephone 0300 555 0324.

Safeguarding Resources/Information

The following resources, highlighted by the Leeds Safeguarding Team, are also available for parents:

[NSPCC Keeping Children Safe Online](#) provides a useful guide to social networks, apps and guide.

[National Online Safety](#) have produced a series of top tips guides to support remote learning for Parents, Children and Teachers

[Thinkuknow](#) is the education programme from NCA-CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline for different age groups and parents.

[Childnet](#) has produced a Parent and Carer Toolkit which is a collection of three resources designed to help you talk to your child about their online life, manage boundaries around family internet use and point you in the direction of where to get further help and support.

[Safer Leeds](#) - Domestic violence and abuse (leeds.gov.uk)

