

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th September 2026



**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!



DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

w/c 14.09.26

97.58%

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

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Dear God,

Today, we pray for everyone supported by Macmillan Cancer Support, and for their families and friends.

Give them strength when days are difficult, hope when they feel worried, and comfort when they need it most.

Bless all the nurses, doctors, carers and volunteers who help others with kindness.

Help us to be caring to help those around us.

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.

<https://ourladyallsaintsotley.org>



The Theme of 'God of Good'

This week, we have been reflecting on our theme 'God of Good' and thinking about the many good things that God gives to us each and every day. God is good, loving and generous, and He wants us to recognise the goodness around us and share that goodness with others. We have been encouraged to think about the ways in which we can be a 'God of Good' in our own school community by choosing kindness, generosity, patience and compassion. Sometimes, doing good can be something very simple, such as helping a friend, including someone in our game, sharing what we have or offering a kind word to someone. We have reflected on how God does not ask us to do enormous things all the time; instead, He invites us to use the little opportunities we have each day to show His love to others.



Matthew 20:1-16 – The Workers in the Vineyard

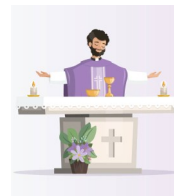
We have also listened to Jesus' parable of the workers in the vineyard from Matthew 20:1-16. In this story, a landowner goes out at different times of the day to find people to work in his vineyard. At the end of the day, the workers are all given the same generous payment, even though they have not all worked for the same amount of time. Some of the workers feel that this is unfair, but Jesus uses the story to help us understand that God's love and generosity are not measured in the same way that we measure things.

God does not love some people more because they have done more, achieved more or arrived first. His love is generous and freely given to everyone. This Gospel encourages us not to compare ourselves with others or become jealous of the good things that happen to them. Instead, we are called to celebrate one another and be grateful for the goodness we receive. As a school family, we can remember that everyone has a special place within God's family and that there is always enough of God's love for everyone.



Mass Formation – What Is the Mass?

As part of our Mass formation, we have been exploring the question: 'What is the Mass?' We have been learning that the Mass is much more than simply attending church or listening to prayers. The Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics, where we gather together as God's family to listen to His Word, pray together and celebrate the Eucharist. During Mass, we hear readings from the Bible, listen to the Gospel, pray for ourselves and others, and bring our gifts, prayers and lives before God. We also remember Jesus' Last Supper and celebrate the Eucharist, when bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We have been thinking about the different parts of the Mass and why each part is important, helping us to understand how we can participate more fully and reverently when we come together for Mass. Most importantly, the Mass reminds us that we are not simply watching something happen; we are joining together as one Catholic family to worship God and grow closer to Jesus.



Saint of the Day – St Finbarr

Our Saint of the Day for Friday 25 September is St Finbarr, also known as St Finbar. He lived in Ireland during the sixth and early seventh centuries and became the Bishop of Cork. He is remembered as the patron saint of the city and Diocese of Cork. St Finbarr dedicated his life to serving God and helping others to know and follow Jesus. His life reminds us that we can use the gifts God has given us to serve our communities and share His goodness with those around us. As we think about our theme 'God of Good', we can look to St Finbarr as an example of someone who gave his life in service of God and others. We can ask St Finbarr to pray for us and help us to recognise opportunities to do good, show kindness and bring God's love to those around us.



CLASS PAGES

YEAR R NEWS

In English, the children have continued exploring 'Colin and Lee, Carrot and Pea'. We have been working on sequencing the story, thinking carefully about what happened at the beginning, middle and end. The children then used their imaginations to create their own fruit and vegetable characters who could become friends with Colin and Lee. They enjoyed giving their characters names, personalities and ideas, developing their storytelling, vocabulary and creative thinking.

In Maths, we have been focusing on the number 3. The children have been exploring different ways to represent three and recognising the quantity in a range of practical activities. One of our favourite activities involved using a small car to follow a road shaped like the numeral 3, helping the children to develop their numeral formation and fine motor control. The children have really enjoyed making three in different ways and are becoming increasingly confident in recognising and representing the number.

In RE, we have been learning about Islam and exploring why Muslims use prayer mats when they pray. The children looked carefully at prayer mats and discussed how they provide a clean and special space for prayer. We also talked about how prayer is an important part of Muslim life and how people of different faiths have special places, objects and traditions that help them to pray and worship. The children showed great curiosity and respect as they explored and discussed another faith.

YEAR 1 NEWS

In English, we have started our new book, 'Once There Were Giants' by Martin Waddell and Penny Dale. We have been thinking about how people grow and change, from being a baby to becoming an adult. We have been making predictions about the story, putting events in the correct order and taking part in whole-class reading and comprehension activities. We have also been developing our vocabulary and talking about what we notice in the illustrations.

In Maths, we have been learning about one more and one less and have been practising counting forwards and backwards. We have enjoyed lots of practical activities, including using objects, number lines and outdoor games to help us develop our understanding. We loved creating outdoor number lines and counting backwards.

In Science, we have been continuing our learning on the human body and senses. We have used reference books and pictures to find out about different parts of the body and have created our own labelled diagrams. We have also been learning about real-life scientists and doctors and thinking about the important work they do to help us understand and look after our bodies.

YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths, we have continued our work on place value. We have been using place value charts to help us understand the value of each digit in a number. We have also been partitioning numbers to 100 into tens and ones, using part-whole models to show how numbers can be split into different parts.

In English, we have been busy planning and writing our descriptions of the ocean. We have thought carefully about what we might see beneath the waves and have been choosing interesting adjectives and verbs to bring our descriptions to life. The children have worked hard to turn their ideas into descriptive sentences and are excited to read their work to Reception Class.

This week in RE, we have been learning about Islam and how prayer is an important part of Muslim life. We learnt that Muslims pray five times each day and talked about how these prayers take place at different times, from morning through to night. The children enjoyed finding out more about how Muslims practise their faith.

YEAR 3 NEWS

We've had another lovely week in Year 3! It has been wonderful to see the children working so well together, supporting and encouraging one another. In English, they have worked hard recapping expanded noun phrases and prepositions. I have also been so impressed with the children's reading at home and how many are steadily moving through the Reading Record levels. Their enthusiasm and commitment to reading is really wonderful to see, so a big thank you for all your support at home too!

In Maths, they have been amazing at partitioning numbers up to 1,000. We have also loved reading their beautiful Creation Story poems in RE, and the children thoroughly enjoyed getting the atlases out and hunting for different places around the world.

A special well done also goes to our School Council candidates, who did a fantastic job presenting their ideas to the class with confidence and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of everyone's hard work this week. Keep it up, Year 3, you are doing brilliantly!

YEAR 4 NEWS

This week in Year 4, we have been focusing on challenging ourselves and showing our skills: inference, summarising and explaining. We have set ourselves the challenge of building resilience over the year and working as a class to help everyone learn.

In English, we have explored "Into The Forest" by Anthony Browne and have learned about prefixes (IN-visible) and phonic endings (frinGE, hinGE).

In Maths, we have explored Place Value, looked at number lines; added and subtracted ones, tens, hundreds and thousands. We have challenged ourselves with Reasoning.

In RE, we explored how God fulfilled his Covenant with Abraham. We also explored Buddhism on our Other Faiths Day, exploring the Tripitaka (3 baskets) of Buddhist teachings and designing our own teachings to help the world.

YEAR 5 NEWS

This week in English, we designed our own dragons, using ambitious vocabulary to bring our creatures to life. We thought like scientists, considering each feature and making sure it had a purpose. We then began planning our non-chronological reports, using what we have learnt to organise our ideas.

In History, we listened to a podcast about the archaeological dig at Yinxu, which provided the first concrete evidence that the Shang Dynasty existed. We heard about discoveries including oracle bones with the earliest example of ancient Chinese writing and the tomb of a warrior queen, Fu Hao. We are excited to discover more about life in the Shang Dynasty.

In Maths, we explored adding and subtracting 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000 and 100,000. We practised partitioning numbers, placing them on number lines, and comparing and ordering numbers up to 100,000.

On our other faiths day, we learnt about the Hajj pilgrimage, an important practice in Islam. We explored what Muslims experience during this journey and wrote a diary entry from the perspective of a Muslim completing Hajj, considering the sights and emotions they might encounter.

YEAR 6 NEWS

In English, the children used their knowledge of punctuation (the Speech Sandwich method) to create their own dialogue between characters from Titanium. We really focused on interspersing action with dialogue by developing the reporting clauses to show the characters' feelings and actions. The children then moved on to developing their plans ahead of our Big Write next week.

In Maths, we finished our topic on place value with a focus on negative numbers. It has been a wonderful start to work in Maths as the class are using their knowledge to answer some difficult past SATS questions and challenges, and everyone is giving their best!

In RE, we looked at the history of covenants in the Bible, then went for a hunt around the classroom to match the symbols to the covenants and what each side had promised. We reflected on how different the New Covenant is to any that came before.

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)

