St Joseph's
Catholic Primary School Otley
a Voluntary Academy

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

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 2nd October 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

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

Reading Rockets continues to be a big part of life at St Joseph's! It has been a pleasure to see some of our youngest children enjoying the Golden Table at lunchtime as a reward for their reading. Their enthusiasm is wonderful to see, and we are very proud of their efforts.

Please continue to encourage your children to read as much as possible. Sharing stories, listening to them read and talking about books all make a difference. Reading opens doors across the curriculum, develops vocabulary and imagination, and creates opportunities throughout life. Thank you for helping us nurture this love of reading.

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

Thank you also to parents and visitors for your patience when accessing the school building. Our new gate and fence are now in place, and we are awaiting the installation of a magnetic lock, which will allow the main office to release the gate more easily. It is paramount that we keep the gates locked to safeguard our children.

Please remember that **the gates will be locked at 9.00am and opened at 3.00pm**. If you need access during the school day, please contact the school office on 01943 463840. Thank you for your understanding and support.

We are delighted that all our Year 6 children have returned safely from their residential visit to Herd Farm. This has been a great achievement for everyone, with opportunities to try new challenges, develop independence and make lasting memories together.

Please take a moment to thank Mrs Armitage, Mr Voller and Mrs Monkman, who supported and cared for the children throughout their visit. We are very grateful for the time, energy and encouragement they gave to make this experience possible. With how tired the children are likely to be, Year 6 families may well be in for a restful weekend!

Wishing all our families a lovely weekend.

Best regards and God bless,

Mr G

FLU IMMUNISATION

If you would like your child to receive their flu vaccination in school, please complete the online consent form by **6th October** at www.leedsimmunisations.co.uk using school code **EE139355**.

Flu vaccination helps protect children from flu and reduces the risk of them becoming unwell and passing the virus on to others.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

October 2026	November 2026
10th - Open Day for YR 27-28	9th - Parents Evening
12th - Harvest Festival	11th - Parents Evening
14th - Flu Immunisations	11th - Remembrance Day Mass
16th - TTRS Rockstar Day	16th - Anti-Bullying Week
22nd - Harvest Mass	23rd - Otley Light Switch On
23rd - Training Day	
31st - Deadline for Y7 applications	

IMPORTANT: EYFS TRAINING DAY

YR staff training day on Friday 4th December. Please note, School Closed to Reception on this day – please make alternative childcare arrangements.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

w/c 21.09.26

97.02%

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Dear God,
Thank you for the people who encourage us, believe in us and help us when things are difficult.
Help us to use kind words and actions to encourage others.
Give us the courage to say, "Keep trying," when someone feels like giving up,
and help us to celebrate the successes of those around us.
May we always remember that you love us and believe in us.
Help us to be a source of hope, kindness and encouragement to everyone we meet.
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

Our New Virtue – Citizenship

This week, we introduced our new virtue of Citizenship. We have explored what it means to be a good citizen and how, as Christians, we are called to care for ourselves, others and the world around us. This means making positive choices, taking responsibility and recognising that our actions can make a difference. We have reflected on how we can show citizenship by caring for our environment, helping others, following school rules, including everyone and treating others with dignity and respect. We are also part of a much wider community – our parish, local community and the wider world. Jesus calls us to notice when others need our help and use our gifts to make the world a kinder, fairer and more peaceful place.



Our Theme – Encouragement

Our theme this week is 'Encouragement'. We have explored how our words and actions can help others feel confident, valued and supported. Simple words such as "Well done!", "Keep trying!" or "I believe you can do it!" can make a real difference. We have thought about how Jesus encouraged those around Him and how we can lift others up rather than knock them down. In our school family, we want everyone to know that they are loved by God and surrounded by people who will encourage and support them.



Matthew 21:28–32 – The Two Sons

We listened to Jesus' parable of the two sons. One son initially refuses to work in his father's vineyard but later changes his mind and goes. The other agrees to go but does not. Jesus reminds us that it is not simply what we say, but what we do, that matters. This links closely with our virtue of Citizenship. It is easy to say we want to help others or care for creation, but Jesus encourages us to put our words into action. We have reflected on how we can show our faith through being helpful, responsible, forgiving and kind.



Justice and Peace in the World

We have also been thinking about Justice and Peace. As Catholics, we believe that every person is created by God and has dignity and worth. Sadly, many people experience poverty, hunger, conflict and unfairness. We have been encouraged to pray for those in need and consider how we can help build a fairer and more peaceful world. Justice means recognising when something is unfair and trying to make it right, while peace involves understanding, forgiveness, respect and love. Even small acts of kindness, generosity and encouragement can make a difference.



CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

As we approach CAFOD Harvest Fast Day, we have been thinking about people around the world who do not have enough food or resources. Harvest is a time to give thanks for what we have while remembering our responsibility to share with those in need. CAFOD works with communities around the world to tackle poverty and build a fairer future, helping people access food, clean water, education and opportunities. Harvest Fast Day gives us a chance to put our faith into action through a small sacrifice and by thinking of others. We pray that our actions will help us become compassionate citizens who care for our neighbours both near and far.



HARVEST FESTIVAL



FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER

WE ARE ACCEPTING:

- TINNED FRUIT, VEGETABLES, SOUP OR BEANS
- CEREALS
- BISCUITS AND CRACKERS
- PASTA AND RICE
- TEA, COFFEE, LONGLIFE MILK
- TOILETRIES
- OTHER NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

MULTISPORTS CAMP

AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, OTLEY

TW COMMUNITY SPORTS LTD

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

TW COMMUNITY SPORTS LTD

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

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

QUALITY COACHING | FUN ENVIRONMENT | BUILD SKILLS | MAKE MEMORIES



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!

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL OTLEY

Scan me!



CLASS PAGES

YEAR R NEWS

In English, we have been exploring our new story, 'The Dot'. The children used their gross motor skills to create large dots and circles outside before creating their own dot artwork. They enjoyed experimenting with different movements, shapes and ideas, showing great creativity and confidence.

In Maths, we have been focusing on the number 4. The children practised recognising the numeral and enjoyed using paint to identify and 'splat' the number 4. This fun, hands-on activity helped to develop their number recognition and fine motor skills.

In RE, we have been revisiting the Creation story and sharing our favourite parts. The children talked about what God created and explained why they particularly enjoyed different parts of the story. It was lovely to hear them remembering that God saw His creation and that "It was good."

In Understanding the World, the children created their own mazes, linking this to the maps they made after touring our school. They remembered different rooms and areas around school and used their ideas to design their own routes and challenges.

YEAR 1 NEWS

In English, we have been superstar writers this week and have been learning about the difference between a caption and a sentence. We have practised saying our sentences aloud, writing them together and checking them to make sure they make sense.

In Maths, we have been learning about more than, less than, greater than and equal to. We have been learning how to use the symbols > < = and have played lots of games to help us understand them.

In PSHE, we have been thinking about our families and ourselves. We have been linking our learning to our class book, 'Once There Were Giants'. We have talked about how we grow and change from being a baby into an adult and shared ideas about our own families.

In RE, we have been learning about Islam and why Muhammad is an important and special person to Muslims. We have learnt that Muslims believe Muhammad received messages from Allah and shared these teachings with others.

YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths, we have continued developing our understanding of place value. We have been practising writing numbers to 100 in words and making sure we can match numerals to their written forms. We have also been flexibly partitioning numbers, exploring the different ways that the same number can be split into parts.

In English, we have started our exciting new text, 'This Is Our World'. Before reading, we used clues from the front cover and illustrations to make predictions about what the book might be about. We have also started gathering interesting information about ourselves and our lives, ready to use in our writing.

In RE, we have been learning about the story of Noah. We have retold the important parts of the story and learnt how Noah trusted and listened to God. We discovered that, after the flood, God made a promise to Noah and that the rainbow was a sign of this special promise.



YEAR 3 NEWS

The children have really impressed me with their fantastic setting descriptions, remembering to use expanded noun phrases and prepositions to add detail and bring their writing to life.

In Maths, we have been building our confidence with numbers up to 1,000 and learning how we can use our known number facts to help us estimate where numbers belong on a number line. It has been wonderful to see the children becoming more confident and explaining their thinking.

In RE, we have enjoyed some really thoughtful discussions about how we can be Good Samaritans in our everyday lives. The children have shared lovely ideas about showing kindness, caring for others and understanding why it is so important to respect the dignity of every person.

YEAR 4 NEWS

In Year 4 this week, we have been encouraging children to be proud of their work, in terms of their presentation and the development of their answers. We have explored daily life for the Anglo-Saxons and studied treasures and artefacts.

In English, we have started our new book: 'The Promise', which sends a really strong eco-message of rejuvenation and recovery. The children have also shown lots of enjoyment with Spelling Shed.

In Maths, we are using Roman Numerals (including writing the date) and have learned about how to round numbers. We are having a massive push to build good weekly routines with TTRockStars.

In RE, we completed an Other Faiths exploration of Islam: considering how Muslim people use the rules of the Qur'an to shape their lives. We have also studied the Covenant that God made with Abraham.

YEAR 5 NEWS

This week in English, we began drafting our non-chronological reports about our dragons, paying particular attention to using technical and ambitious vocabulary to make our writing informative and engaging.

In Science, we learnt about the difference between mass and weight and explored how these are measured using force meters.

In French, we learnt the months of the year.

In RE, we made links between the Ten Commandments and Jesus' Summary of the Law, exploring how the two connect and guide us to live our lives.

In Maths, we ended our Place Value unit by learning how to round numbers up to 1,000,000. We used a catchy rounding rap to help us remember the rules and put our knowledge into practice!

YEAR 6 NEWS

Our Year 6 children have had an amazing few days on their residential! They began their adventure on Wednesday with a visit to Harewood House, where they explored the beautiful historic house and grounds. They learned about the history of the Harewood Estate, discovered more about the people who lived there and enjoyed time exploring the fantastic adventure playground.

They then headed to Herd Farm for an action-packed few days of challenges and adventure. The children tackled the giant swing, crate stacking, archery and the assault course, showing fantastic teamwork, courage and determination. They even braved a night walk!

Alongside all the exciting activities, there has been plenty of delicious food, laughter and time spent making special memories with friends. It has been wonderful to see the children supporting one another, challenging themselves and having such a fantastic time. What an adventure!

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)

