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 11th September 2026

A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

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

It has been another joyful and productive week at St Joseph's. Over the past week, the children have been learning about their class saints and discovering how their lives can inspire us to grow in faith and virtue. Please remember to ask your child about their class saints and what they have learned!

Meet the Teacher

We warmly invite all parents and carers to our **Meet the Teacher event on Thursday 24 September**, from 3:30pm until 4:15pm.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to:

- Meet your child's new class teacher
- Visit your child's classroom
- See the exciting changes made across the school during the summer
- Learn more about the year ahead

We hope that as many families as possible will be able to join us.

Attendance

Each week, we will share the school's attendance information so that families can see how we are progressing towards our whole-school target of 97% attendance by the end of the academic year.

Every school day matters, and regular attendance gives children the very best opportunity to learn, flourish and enjoy all that school life has to offer. Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting the school in working towards this important goal.

I wish all our children, families, parishioners and friends a restful and wonderful weekend.

God bless,
Luke Gilhooly
Headteacher

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

September 2026	October 2026	November 2026
15th - Individual Photos	10th - Open Day for YR 27-28	3rd - Parents Evening
15th - FOSJ AGM	14th - Flu Immunisations	5th - Parents Evening
23rd - Other Faiths Day	16th - TTRS Rockstar Day	11th - Remembrance Day Mass
23rd - Mini Vinnies Mass	22nd - Harvest Mass	16th - Anti-Bullying Week
24th - Meet the Teachers	23rd - Training Day	23rd - Otley Light Switch On
26th - SMM Open Day for Y7	31st - Deadline for Y7 applications	

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

w/c 31.08.26

96.67%

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS



The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 15th September to take the children's individual photographs.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Loving God,

As we begin a new school year, thank you for bringing us together. Bless our children as they learn, grow and make new friendships. Give them courage, kindness and confidence. Bless our teachers and staff with patience, wisdom and strength. Help us to support one another and create a happy, safe and welcoming school community. May Jesus guide us throughout the year, helping us to learn, love and grow together.

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

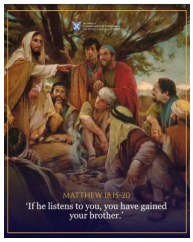
The Birthday of Mary

This week, we have been celebrating the Birthday of Mary, also known as the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is celebrated by the Church on 8 September. Mary holds a very special place in our Catholic faith as the mother of Jesus and a wonderful example of faith, trust and love. The children have been reflecting on Mary's life and thinking about how she listened to God and trusted in His plan for her. Mary's birthday gives us an opportunity to celebrate the gift of her life and to remember the important role she played in God's plan of salvation. Just as we celebrate the birthdays of people we love, this feast day gives us a chance to rejoice and give thanks for Mary, asking her to continue to guide us towards her Son, Jesus.



Together with Jesus – Matthew 18:15–20

Our Gospel this week comes from Matthew 18:15–20, where Jesus teaches His disciples about the importance of relationships, forgiveness and coming together as a community. Jesus explains that when difficulties arise between people, we should try to resolve them peacefully and with love rather than allowing disagreements to grow. He also reminds us of the special power of gathering together in His name, saying, *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* This Gospel connects beautifully with our theme, "Together with Jesus", reminding us that Jesus is present when we pray, learn, forgive, support one another and work together. The children have been encouraged to think about how they can help to build a happy and loving community by listening to others, saying sorry when necessary, forgiving mistakes and making sure that nobody feels left out. When we come together with kind and loving hearts, we create a community where Jesus can be at the centre of everything we do.



Our Virtue – Love of Learning

We have also been continuing to develop our virtue of love of learning. This is about being curious, asking questions, trying new things and having a positive attitude towards discovering something we did not know before. The children have been encouraged to see learning as a gift and to recognise that every new experience gives us an opportunity to grow. We are particularly proud when children persevere with something that they initially find difficult, ask for help when they need it, and celebrate their own progress. Our love of learning is not simply about getting the right answer; it is about being enthusiastic, inquisitive and willing to have a go. As a Catholic school, we believe that every child has been given unique gifts and talents by God, and we encourage them to use these gifts with confidence, recognising that learning helps us to discover more about ourselves, others and the wonderful world God has created.



What are the Gospels?

The children have also been learning about the Gospels and why they are so important to Christians. The word "Gospel" means "Good News", and the four Gospels in the New Testament are the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They tell us about the life, teachings, miracles, death and Resurrection of Jesus. The Gospel stories help us to learn who Jesus is and how He wants us to live. Each Gospel writer tells the story of Jesus in their own way, but they all share the Good News of God's love and the life of His Son. When we hear the Gospel at Mass, we listen carefully because we are hearing God's Word and learning more about Jesus. The children have been encouraged to think of the Gospels as a special way of getting to know Jesus better and discovering how we can follow His example in our own lives.



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

We are incredibly proud of how wonderfully our new Reception cohort has settled into school. The children have shown fantastic confidence, resilience and enthusiasm as they become familiar with new routines and surroundings. It has been lovely to see friendships forming, personalities shining through and children becoming increasingly independent each day. We are so proud of every child and excited for the learning and adventures ahead!

In RE, the children have been learning how to make the Sign of the Cross and beginning to understand why it is an important prayer for Catholics. We have also been learning to be reflective and reverent during our Celebrations of the Word, practising sitting quietly, listening carefully and thinking about what we have heard.

In English, we have been practising writing our names and developing pencil control. The children have worked hard to recognise and form the letters in their names. We have also enjoyed drawing pictures of our families and talking about the people who are special to us.

In Maths, we have been exploring subitising. The children have been learning to recognise small amounts without counting each object. We particularly enjoyed using dice and recognising the number shown by the spots. The children are becoming increasingly confident in identifying numbers and noticing different arrangements and patterns.

YEAR 1 NEWS

What a fantastic start we have had to Year 1! We have been very busy learning, exploring and having lots of fun together. Mrs Wainwright and Mrs Tremlett are so proud of us all. We have settled into our new routines brilliantly and have shown that we are ready to learn, try new things and help each other.

In English, we have started our new book, 'The Lost Property Office', and we have loved reading it together! We have been making predictions about what might happen next and developing our oracy skills by sharing our ideas and talking with our friends. We have also started to write labels and captions for different items of lost property.

In Maths, we have started our first Maths unit on number and place value. We have been doing lots of counting and sorting activities and have particularly enjoyed exploring numbers through our continuous provision and play. We have been using lots of different resources to help us develop our mathematical thinking.

In RE, we have been learning about the Creation story. We have been practising retelling and sequencing the story, acting it out together and creating our own artwork to show what we have learned. We have really enjoyed bringing the story to life!

In Art, we have started our new unit on portraits. We have been looking closely at our facial features, which links closely to our Science topic on humans. We then had lots of fun making funny faces using paper! This also gave us the opportunity to practise our cutting and fine motor skills while being creative.

YEAR 2 NEWS

It has been a busy and exciting start to the school year as we have been revisiting and strengthening our foundational skills across the curriculum.

In English, we have been recapping our Phonics knowledge, helping us to build confidence with recognising sounds, blending and reading words.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of number bonds, place value, addition and subtraction, using practical activities and problem-solving to deepen our understanding of number.

In Science, we have been exploring habitats and learning how plants and animals have adapted to survive in different environments. We have enjoyed thinking about the amazing ways living things are suited to where they live.

In RE, we have been learning about our class saints, St George and St Peter. We have explored their lives, their faith and the ways in which they showed courage and commitment to following Jesus.

YEAR 3 NEWS

What a wonderful fortnight we have had in Year 3! I am incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their new class. They have shown enthusiasm, kindness and a fantastic attitude to learning from day one.

The children have already produced some wonderful work across the curriculum. We have been particularly impressed with their writing as they retold the story of Saint Paul, demonstrating creativity and excellent effort. It has also been lovely to see the children truly living out our school virtues each day through their actions and attitudes.

We have enjoyed some exciting new experiences too. The children had a fantastic first ukulele lesson with Billy, impressed Pete with their excellent ping pong skills, and Mr Rickson was blown away by their rhythm work and musical talent!

A special well done to all those children who have remembered to read regularly at home. Thank you, parents and carers, for your continued support with reading and learning. Working together makes such a positive difference.

YEAR 4 NEWS

In Year 4, we have been developing Foundation skills that help us show positive learning behaviours. This week, we have focused on posture and pencil grip, handwriting and presentation, checking our work carefully, and using good manners, especially please, thank you and being considerate of others' learning.

In English**,** we have explored Anglo-Saxon and Viking creation stories through Reading Comprehension. In Writing, we have investigated strange and mysterious artefacts and written our 'Chest of Secrets' extended write, focusing on presentation, punctuation and description.

In Maths, we have assessed confidence with number bonds, times tables and arithmetic before beginning Place Value. We have explored different ways to represent numbers and how ones, tens, hundreds and thousands work.

In RE, we have explored the virtues of our class saints, St. Brigid and St. John Paul II, including kindness, courage, forgiveness, love and service.

YEAR 5 NEWS

Year 5 have had a busy and exciting week of learning! In RE, we have been learning about our class saints and writing autobiographies from their perspective. We have also created some beautiful artwork inspired by a saint, incorporating our own interests and virtues. We reflected on how we can use our own gifts and talents to make a positive difference, following the examples of St Cecilia and St Oscar Romero.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value up to 10,000 and learning to read, write and use Roman numerals up to 10,000.

In French, we have been learning the days of the week and practising using them in simple sentences.

In English, we listened to a piece of music and made predictions about which creature it might represent, using clues from the music to justify and explain our answers.

YEAR 6 NEWS

It has been lovely to see all of Year 6 again after the summer holidays, and the class have been getting used to their exciting new classroom in the bungalow - including lockers!

Over the course of the first two weeks, the children have been looking in depth at the lives of our class Saints, St Maximilian Kolbe and St Josephine Bakhita. They have read and answered comprehension texts about them, created timelines and maps of their lives, and created their own biographies and artwork.

We have also been hard at work in preparation for School Council elections. The class split into parties and elected their party leaders and deputies. They then worked on creating manifestos, presentations and posters ready for our presentations to the school on Tuesday.

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)

