St John's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Please remember to visit our website which is constantly being updated - www.stjohnskirkdale.co.uk

Issue: Autumn 1 2026

The children made a great start to the year. They have settled in extremely well and are working very hard. They have been enjoying a lot of curriculum enrichment and many positive and fun activities, as well as quality learning. May I say a huge thank you to all of our parents and children who bought tickets for our Fairtrade Raffle and also donated food for the Harvest Festival. Your generosity is incredible and is greatly appreciated. Our parents evening was also a huge success allowing our parents and carers quality time to discuss their child's progress. We look forward to seeing you and the children after half term for the run up to Christmas which promises to be very busy. Please click HERE to view our calendar of events taking place after half term to help you plan ahead.

Mr Davey



We are very proud to introduce to you our new **SCHOOL COUNCIL**.

Our Staff, Pupils and Governors have been very excited to hear their views and ideas. We look forward to the positive impact they will have on their **St John's Whole School Community**.

Harvest Festival



Our **Year 5 pupils** led a wonderful Harvest Celebration in Church, sharing prayers, poems and reflections with the school and parish community. The children explored the importance of giving thanks for God's blessings and learning about CAFOD's Family Fast Day, which encourages us to support families living in poverty around the world. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, respect and enthusiasm they showed throughout the service.

Thank you to all those who joined us in church and to all those who supported us by practising readings at home.







Stay and Play









Our Nursery Children were delighted to invite their families into our School Nursery to 'Stay and Play'.
Our Parents and Carers had the opportunity to learn about their child's progress whilst having fun in their child's nursery environment.

There is no automatic transfer from Nursery to Reception school and you MUST complete a local authority application form. CLICK HERE TO APPLY.

You can apply online from 1st September 2026.

The closing date for Reception applications is 15th January 2027.

Baptism Certificates/ Supplementary Faith Forms/ Letters from Mosques/ Temples of Faith confirming your child's religion must also be received in the school's office before 15th January 2027.

Learning about Baptism

Thank You *Father Peter* for visiting school to teach our Year 2 children about the Sacrament of Baptism.





PL Primary Stars





Some of our Year 5 and 6 boys' Football Team recently represented St John's at the PL Primary Stars Tournament, showcasing fantastic teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. Competing against several schools, the boys played some incredible matches, put their training into action, and made us all incredibly proud with their positive attitude both on and off the pitch. With the tournament now under their belts, the boys are full of confidence and incredibly excited to play in the rest of their upcoming league games. **Well done boys**!

Autumn 1 Sports After School Clubs



Year 2 Girl's After School Football Club coached by the LFC Foundation



Miss Wilson's Year 4 Cross Country After School Club

This term we have had lots of Afterschool Sports Clubs:

Year 6 Cross Country
Year 4 Cross Country
Year 3 Dodgeball
Year 2 Girls Football run by LFC
Year 5 and 6 Boys Football run by Coach in the Community
Year 5 Girls Football run by Coach in the Community

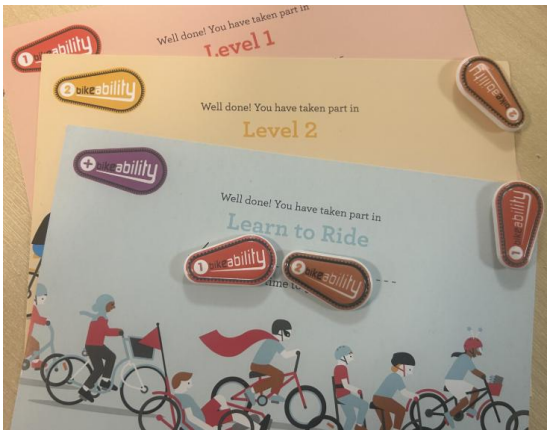








We had a wonderful turn out of Parents and Carers for our Autumn Term Parents Evening. Parents and Carers were given the opportunity to have some quality time with their child's teacher in our school hall to discuss how their child has settled in to their new academic year.



Our **Year 5** took part in **Bikeability** small group sessions. The sessions firstly took place on the playground, checking children can ride correctly, get on/off and can manoeuvre between cones etc. Then, under close supervision, they were taken onto their local side streets by specialist instructors, and shown how to ride safely on the public highway.

MHST Coffee Afternoon held in St John's Primary School - 16th October

A huge thank you to Mrs O'Connell for arranging our most recent Coffee Afternoon.
Hosted by Sofina, our School Educational Mental Health Practitioner,
All of our Parents and Carers were invited to have a relaxed chat and ask questions in a friendly and informal setting.



Braiswick Photographic Co Ltd

Braiswick Online Orders
www.braiswickdirect.co.uk

The children looked very smart on School Photography Day. There were a lot of smiles! The children behaved wonderfully whilst they queued and prepared for their photo shoots!
Your child should have brought home a photograph proof card with instructions of how to order your photograph online. If you need a replacement card please contact the schools office.

It's always fun in …

Nursery

Room on the Broom





Enjoying a Story Together in our Reading Corner







We have been learning all about autumn when visiting our woodland area to collect fallen leaves and conkers to add to our autumn investigation table.

We have enjoyed scooping out and exploring pumpkins when talking about Halloween.

Our latest story focus has been Room on the Broom!



Thank you to Louise from Children's University for coming into school to help launch the Children's University programme for the new academic year. Children's University encourages children to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, both in and out of school, and rewards their participation with credits that contribute towards recognised achievements.

Further information about the programme, including how to purchase a Children's University Passport, will be sent to parents after half term.



Winter Woolies Collection

<u>After half term,</u> Faith Friends have planned to gather donations of hats, scarfs, gloves and socks for the homeless and most in need in our city. If you have any used (in good condition) or unused Winter Woolies to donate they would be greatly appreciated.

Welcome to Reception

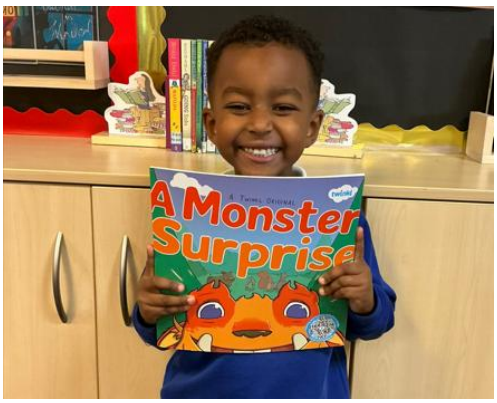


We are so proud of our Reception children, who have settled in extremely well!



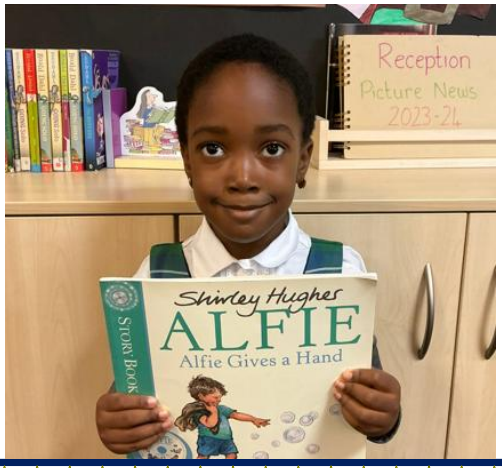
We all got our picture taken on our First Day in School





We enjoy going to our library each week to choose a book to bring home. Our library day is: Thursday





Year 3

Picasso

This week, Year 3 learned about the famous artist Pablo Picasso and his colourful Cubist style. The children explored how Picasso used different shapes, angles and viewpoints to create portraits before creating their own Cubist self-portraits.

They enjoyed experimenting with lines, shapes and colour while developing their drawing, observation and creativity skills. We were so impressed with their imaginative artwork and the effort they put into their finished pieces!













Artists in the making

LEST WE FORGET



Children can buy Poppies/ Bracelets/ Snap Bands in school after half term.

Please also be reminded that Year 2 Remembrance Assembly will be held in the school hall on Wednesday the 11th of November at 9.30am.

Year 2 Parents and Carers are warmly invited.

Stay Safe





A huge thank you to Ali from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for coming to St John's to talk to our children in KS2 about the importance of staying safe during the Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

Fairtrade Fortnight







During **Fairtrade fortnight** our school **Faith Friends** led an assembly about the important work Fairtrade do to ensure farmers are paid a fair wage for the work they do or produce they grow. The theme for this year was

"Do it Fair – for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay"

and it encouraged us to think about how the choices we make can help to shape the world. During the week, Faith Friends held a raffle to win a little hamper of Fairtrade goodies**.** They raised **£163.66**

Well done to our lucky winner!

Our School Rules

Show respect to everyone and everything

Join together in faith and with kindness

Care for each other and our community

Pride in myself and all that I do

Strive to do my best every day

'Christ is the Centre of our School Community where we live, love and learn together'

In PE this Half Term, a lot of our children have been exploring

movements with ribbons





Autumn has arrived in Early Years







In Reception we have been learning all about Autumn during Autumn walks in our woodland area, collecting leaves to make autumn rubbings and collecting conkers.

Year 6 - Making BLOOD












Year 6 got hands-on (and a little bit messy!) in Science this half term. To help them understand what flows through their veins, they created their very own 'blood' in class using different ingredients to represent the different components. This experiment really helped them visualise the composition of blood and remember the important job each cell does to keep us all healthy!

St John's was one of the lucky schools to be part of

Joe Wicks Latest Nationwide School's Tour

The children were so excited for Joe and his team to arrive. They made posters for a display to welcome them. Joe held an outdoor fitness session on the school yard with all of our children and staff. He then hosted a 'Question and Answer' session in the school hall with our children. Everyone had a brilliant afternoon!













Click HERE to see St John's School Uniform

Our uniform is more than clothing

Wearing the correct school uniform is a vital part of school life.

It is a symbol of

belonging, equality and pride.

When children wear their uniform correctly, they demonstrate respect for themselves, their school and the community they are part of.

We therefore expect that all pupils arrive at school each day wearing the full, correct uniform.

This also includes wearing appropriate footwear (plain black school shoes – NOT trainers)

A reminder that items such as jewellery also comply with our school policy *(no hooped or 'dangly' earrings – small retainers are allowed)*

When parents and carers support us with this, it massively helps to maintain consistency, reduces distractions and reinforces a strong sense of St John's identity and pride.

Year 4 Learned all about the Digestive System





Our Year 4 scientists got hands on with the digestive system this term. They used jiffy bags to mash banana as food, crushed biscuit for texture, orange juice as stomach acid, and added water. Using tights as intestines, they explored how our bodies turn food into poo!







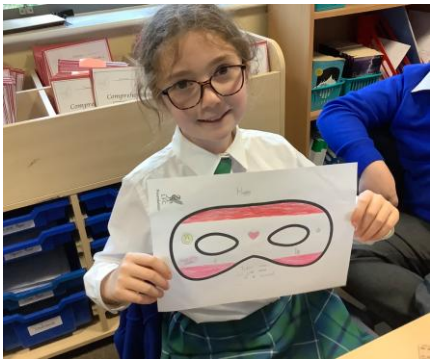
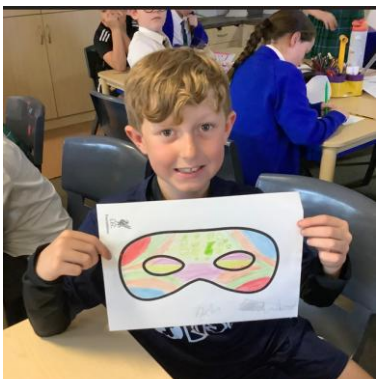


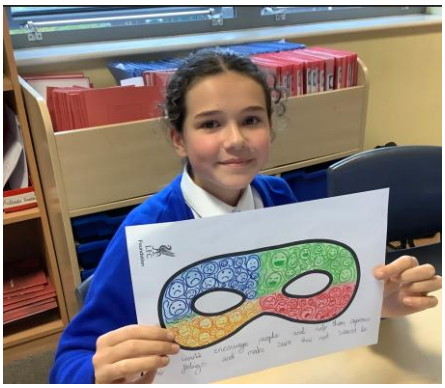




L.F.C. Foundation

Sound Minds






The Sound Minds programme is a six-week Mental Health programme for primary schools that uses drama, dance, art and music to explore the theme of mental health and wellbeing.






We would like to remind everyone that

St John's Catholic Primary School

is a

Nut Free School.

This is an important measure to help keep all of our children safe, particularly those with severe nut allergies.

In addition, in order to keep all children safe, we have decided that

No food items, including sweets, should be brought into school to share **on birthdays or other special occasions**.

This is because we have several children across the school with a range of allergies and dietary requirements, and we want to ensure that every child can participate safely in school life.

Click HERE to see further information - St John's is a Nut Free School

As part of the LFC Foundation free tickets to schools programme, three of our children went to the Annual LFC School's Ticket Draw to find out the games that some of our St John's children will have the opportunity to attend this 2026-2027 PL League.
We drew Everton, Leeds and Aston Villa.





Western Approaches

Year 6 visited Western Approaches Underground World War II bunker where they learnt all about life during WWII and how Liverpool supported the war effort. They had a tour around the bunker and took part in different workshops to learn about the impact of WWII on Liverpool.









Western Approaches Trip













Winmarleigh Hall

Year 6 will be going on our Annual Residential Break to Winmarleigh Hall in Lancashire.
The trip will take place:

Wednesday 9th June and returning on Friday 11th of June.

Year 6 - Winmarleigh Hall - Letter 1

Thank you to the LFC Foundation who came to school to deliver a 'Feed Your Mind' assembly. Feed Your Mind is an educational reading initiative run by the LFC Foundation designed to spark a love of reading and engage primary school pupils. As well as hosting the assembly, they donated lots of new books to our St John's Library.



Year 4 Holy Communion Reminder



We opened the process of Registration for Year 4 Parents wishing for their child to make their First Holy Communion. If you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible

Register for First Holy Communion



Liverpool City Council offer a wide range of practical help and support for our families. Please follow the link below to see the range of help, advice and support on available to families in Liverpool.

Liverpool Family Information & SEND Directory



Children in Need Day



Monday 16th of November



As part of Anti-Bullying Week, Children are allowed to come to school on **Monday the 16th of November** wearing their **School Uniform AND**

Odd Socks.

Dinner Menu for Autumn 2

We look forward to seeing you all when we return to school on

Monday 2nd of November at 8.45am.

2026-2027 TERM DATES