



Holy Infant & St Anthony RC Primary School

Inspiring each other to excellence, guided by the light of Christ.

Headteacher: Mrs D Furlong

Newsletter

19th December 2025

Head Teacher's Message

We have reached the end of term and there has been no 'let up' this week in terms of activities in school. On Monday, Mrs Kettle and I took the GIFT Team to the annual Carol Service at Thornleigh College for Catholic schools in Bolton. This is always a beautiful service and it was great to see past pupils, Hollie and Leo, taking part. It has been lovely, during the past few weeks in school, to feel the excitement of Christmas growing. The Christmas nativity productions and the Carol Service have helped us all to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas - God's gift of his son Jesus to the world.

I think we are all ready now for a much earned rest and some quality time with family and friends.

Wishing you all blessed and peaceful Christmas from all the staff!

Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception	100%
Year 1	87.19%
Year 2	98.91%
Year 3	93.30%
Year 4	99.58%
Year 5	97.41%
Year 6	89.45%

This week's winners are



Well done!

Is your child too ill for school? To help improve attendance we are working very hard to encourage children to attend if they are able to, please follow the advice in the link below, to determine, when your child should be off school. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Winning House Team

Well done to the winning House Team for this half term is ...

St. John Bosco.





Stars of the Week



Value Certificates

We believe every child's success deserves recognition - whether it happens inside or outside of school. From sports triumphs and music performances to community volunteering and personal milestones, these experiences help shape confident, well-rounded individuals. Here are some photos showcasing some of our pupils' amazing achievements this week.



Star in our School!

We had a very special assembly on Monday. 'Stars in our Schools' is an annual celebration of school support staff held by Unison. At Holy Infants, we recognise that it takes a whole team to make a school a safe and happy place for all children, however it is wonderful when someone's individual contribution is recognised. Mrs Kettle, who is both an amazing teaching assistant and pastoral lead was nominated by a parent and won a 'Star in our School' award, which she was presented with on Monday. We are delighted that her commitment to supporting children has been acknowledged in this way!



Farewell!



Today we say goodbye to Mr Hayes, who leaves us today for a new venture. Mr Hayes is much loved and will be greatly missed by staff, children and parents. He has made a great contribution to school during the four years he has been here, both as a teaching assistant and as a sports coach. He knows Holy Infants well, having attended as a child. We wish him all the very best as he embarks on the next stage of his career.

Year 5 visit to Hyde Lea

Well done to our amazing Year 5 who went over to Hyde Lea Dementia home this week. They sang carols to the residents and spread some festive cheer.

Christmas Party Day

DJ Steve was in school this week to help get our Christmas parties started. The children played lots of games and enjoyed plenty of dancing throughout the sessions.

They had a fantastic time, and we would like to say a big thank you to DJ Steve for bringing so much energy and fun to the celebrations.



More Photos on Facebook

Pantomime

Yesterday, the whole school embarked on a trip to Bolton Victoria Hall to watch the pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*. It was a fantastic show that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

We would like to thank all the staff for their hard work in making the trip run smoothly, and a big well done to the children, who represented the school beautifully throughout the afternoon.



A Very Special Visitor!

We had a very special visitor in school today - Father Christmas came to see all the children! He brought plenty of festive cheer and delivered a small present to each child, making the day feel truly magical.



Bolton Hospice Reindeer Run



We had a fantastic response to our Reindeer run in aid of Bolton Hospice, and the children loved taking part. Thank you to all the parents and children who supported it, we know it is a charity close to the hearts of many families. We raised an incredible £882.85. Thank you again!



[See Facebook for more photos](#)



Reception Class 2026 Admissions

If you know of anyone who is still looking for a school place, please direct them to contact school to make an appointment to look round.



Christmas Activities – Thank You

We understand that the Christmas activities this year have involved additional costs, and that at this time of year we have asked for a number of contributions and donations.

Going forward, we will aim to plan this more carefully and provide families with greater notice whenever there is a cost involved.

We would like to sincerely thank you all for your continued support - it is greatly appreciated and helps us to create special experiences for the children.

NEW - PE Days

Children can come into school wearing their PE kits on PE days. Please support us by ensuring the kit is as specified on the website. **Earrings should not be worn on PE days.**

<u>Class</u>	<u>P.E Day</u>
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Wednesday
Year 3	Thursday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Tuesday

Wednesday Word

Wednesday 17th December Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph; but before they could be married she became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary so he made plans to break the engagement privately. But the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that she is going to have a son. You must name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord had told him to do and took Mary into his home as his wife.

From the Gospel of Sunday 21st December 2025 - Matthew 1:18-24 (the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **MARY**.

2 "We go to Mary as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son." St Louis de Montfort

What two things did the angel tell Joseph to do? Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. The Gospel tells us something about Mary who was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son, Jesus (the name 'Jesus' means 'the LORD saves'). Ask your child what else they know about Mary. Do they know the 'Hail Mary' prayer? It may help your child to tell them something you know about Mary, or the Rosary.

3 "Mary is the first and most perfect model of Jesus." St Teresa Benedicte of the Cross

Mary accepted God's will with a thankful heart; she is a perfect example for all people - someone full of thoughtfulness, kindness and joy. How can you show thoughtfulness and kindness and bring joy to others in this final week of Advent? Perhaps you can: give lots of smiles; cheerfully do what your parents or teachers ask you to do; help someone who may be struggling in some way. You may like to finish your Family Time by saying together, on behalf of another person, a 'Hail Mary' or the Rosary.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, ...

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Sunday. This week I will try my best to ...

Wednesday 24th December Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up quickly; take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because King Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him." So Joseph got up and, taking Jesus and Mary with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. Then the angel of the Lord appeared once again to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Jesus and Mary back to Israel. Joseph did not go back to Bethlehem in case Herod's son, who was the new ruler, would try to harm Jesus. So Joseph took his family to Galilee and made his home in a town called Nazareth. In this way what God had said through the prophet came true: 'He will be called a Nazarene'.

From the Gospel of Sunday 28th December Matthew 2:13-23 (the Feast of the Holy Family, Year A)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **JOSEPH**.

2 "Let us love Jesus above all things, Mary as our mother - then how could we not love Joseph, so intimately united with both Jesus and Mary?" Pope Saint Pius II

Why did the angel tell Joseph to lead his family to Egypt? Rejoice - today is Christmas Day! This Sunday is also very special - we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family (Jesus, Mary and Joseph). In this Sunday's Gospel we read about St Joseph's openness and obedience to God. Just like Mary, he is a model for parents and children alike. Ask your child what else they know about St Joseph. It may help your child to tell them something you know about St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus.

3 St Joseph was the head of the Holy Family and he is the Patron Saint of Families

Christmas is a special time for families. Each of you say what you like best about your family. In what ways can we bring more of God's love into our families this Christmas? Perhaps we can: make an extra effort to be thoughtful; celebrate Jesus' birthday together in Church; be more self-giving, forgiving and patient. Jesus Christ came for everyone and his birthday is a celebration for everyone. Come and celebrate the joy of Jesus in Church today. All are warmly invited.

A daily prayer to St Joseph: Joseph, please pray for my family, that we keep growing in the same love, warmth and understanding which you brought to your family, Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Sunday. This week I will try my best to ...

Wednesday 31st December Good News for Families TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

From the Gospel of Sunday 6th January 2026 John 1:1-5, 9-14 (the 2nd Sunday after the Nativity)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **HOPE**.



2 Wednesday's Word HOPE

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!" Pope Francis (Pope from 2013 to 2022)

The real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ, the 'Hope of the World'. The Church reminds us that Christ is the Word who became flesh (he is both man and God) and came to live among us. This is known as the 'Incarnation'. It's a blessing to have hope. Ask your child what the word 'hope' means to them. Can they remember a time when they faced something difficult and someone (or maybe their faith) gave them hope? Each of you share who or what gives you hope when times are tough. Can you also remember a time when you were able to give hope to someone else?

Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to the world. His wonderful birth - and indeed his whole life, death, and resurrection - bear witness to the fact that He is the Son of God. He is our hope in this life and in the life to come. The hope Christ gives can sustain us through life's greatest difficulties, and we can grow in that hope through praying and learning about Him. As we are filled with hope and strengthened, we are then able to bring hope and good news to others. As we embark on a new year, let's consider if there is someone we know who is sad or troubled, and how we might bring hope to that person or those people. Blessings and best wishes to you and your family for 2026.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for coming into our world to fill our lives with Your light. Please help us to be open to receive - and to share Your hope with those around us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

BEGINNING WORD

MADE WORLD

LIFE LIGHT

GRACE TRUTH

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

WORLD TRUTH G

I S J M B L U L T T N

F A M A E O X U H Z I

E J Z D G F R G G D N

D J G E I T I N G N N

R L R X N L I G H T I

O R A G N M G J O V G

W O C Y I Q A R H D E

K W E H N A J D A X E

U O X Z G K M N E C J

E F I L W O R L D D E

Chips and the letters

dxwukitq gqiorbyx kfiexqsh huxvvaq

"And the word became _____ and _____ among us, and we _____ have seen his _____"

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Sunday

My New Year resolution for 2026 will be to _____

Facebook

Our page is a fantastic way for you to stay up-to-date with all the latest news, events, and updates from our school community.



Why Follow Us on Facebook?

- **Timely Updates:** Be the first to know about school events, important announcements, and any changes to schedules or procedures.
- **Celebrating Achievements:** Join us in celebrating the achievements and successes of our pupils and staff. From academic awards to sports victories, we'll share it all!
- **Fun and Informative Content:** Look out for fun posts about school trips, interesting visitors, and behind-the-scenes glimpses of school life.

How to Follow Us:

1. **Visit Our Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61568209816401>
2. **Click 'Like':** By liking our page, you'll start receiving our posts in your newsfeed.
3. **Share Our Page:** Spread the word! Share our page with other parents and family members so they can join our growing online community.

We hope to see you on Facebook soon!



Please look out for our #WakeUpWednesday posts on Facebook, which provides the knowledge and skills parents and carers need to keep up with the latest information and issues when it comes to online safety and mental health & wellbeing.

Flu vaccination clinics

If your child has missed their Flu Vaccination in School and you would like them to receive their vaccination before Christmas, please do not hesitate to contact us 0333 358 3397 and press Option 1 for Greater Manchester and Option 2 for Bolton.

Flu Vaccination Clinics:

Tuesday 23rd December (09:30 -2:30pm)
Monday 29th December (09:30-2:30pm)

Flu vaccination clinics are being held at Capitol House, Churchgate, Bolton, BL1 1LY on the above dates.



All the staff at Holy Infant and St Anthony RC Primary School wish you a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Enjoy the break and we will see you on Monday 5th January 2026.

