



Holy Infant & St Anthony RC Primary School

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

Headteacher: Mrs D Furlong

Newsletter

12th February 2026

Head Teacher's Message

Well, we have reached half term and it has been an especially busy one, starting with the OFSTED inspection on 6th and 7th January. We are now pleased to be able to circulate the report and it should be available to read on the OFSTED website from today. We are delighted that the inspectors recognised many of our strengths and we acknowledge the areas identified for improvement. These align with our own priorities, and the inspectors acknowledged that we have already identified these issues but that time is needed to see the impact of our actions.

We are grateful for the continued support of our children, families, staff and governors. Our focus remains on ensuring every child receives the very best education and opportunities to thrive.

Here are some of the wonderful comments within the report:

'Pupils feel a sense of belonging here. They enjoy being part of the positive environment that leaders have created.'

'Pupils enjoy their learning. They behave well during lessons and at social times. Pupils are respectful, polite and well-mannered towards others.'

'Children get off to a positive start in the early years. Staff build warm relationships with children and their parents and carers. From the outset, children settle quickly into well-established routines.'

'Leaders and governors act in the best interests of pupils. They have a sharp understanding of the strengths and areas for development in the school. Leaders have focused on identifying and improving many aspects of the school's work.'

'Leaders provide well for pupils' personal development, ensuring that all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, can access new experiences. They have ensured that pupils learn important information that prepares them well for their future lives in modern Britain.'

'Pastoral support is a strength of the school. Staff forge caring and nurturing relationships with pupils.'

Attendance

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Reception	98%
Year 1	96%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	96%
Year 4	91%
Year 5	100%
Year 6	96%

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 this half term ...

St. Francis.



Assembly this week

The E-Safety Champions delivered an assembly all about AI and how we can use it safely. The children have enjoyed learning about AI and have completed an activity relating to the safe use of it.



Stars of the week



Caritas in Action – St. Joseph's Penny Boxes



Today we are sending each child home with a Caritas St. Joseph's Penny Box. We have traditionally supported this worthwhile charity during Lent, which begins on 18th February.

Caritas Salford helps people across Greater Manchester and Lancashire experiencing poverty, homelessness, disadvantage and discrimination to transform their lives with dignity.

If each child in school managed to fill their box with £3.00 in loose change, that would be over £500 raised for the charity!

Could boxes be returned to school by Monday, 30th March.

Wheelchair Sports

On Monday, [A1MultiSport](#) introduced us to wheelchair sports. We had a very informative lesson which taught us all about moving around in a wheelchair. Children showed fantastic understanding about people who need to use wheelchairs in daily life.



[More photos on Facebook](#)

A Reminder About “Keep Clear” Markings Outside the School Gates



We kindly remind all parents and carers **not to pull up on the yellow “Keep Clear” markings** outside the school gates, even if it is just for a quick drop-off.

These markings are there to **keep sight lines clear**, ensure children can **enter and exit safely**, and prevent congestion at the busiest times of the day. When cars stop on the yellow lines - even briefly - it creates hazards for pupils crossing the road and makes it more difficult for families and staff to see approaching traffic.

Please ensure you **park safely and walk your child to the gate**.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and ensuring a calm, smooth start to the school day.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, Safer Internet Day, we linked staying safe on-line to Children's Mental Health Week. The theme is 'Smart tech, Safe choices-exploring the safe use of AI.'

Reminder, we are holding a session for parents on

Monday, 23rd February at 2.45 pm.

This will be led by a member of Bolton's Computing team and will explore the safe use of AI.



Year 1 – Art

To complete this half-term's art topic, the Year 1 children have been creating their own colour-mixing artwork.

Using paper plates and paint, the children explored how **secondary colours** are made by mixing **primary colours**. They produced some wonderful pieces and really enjoyed experimenting with different combinations.



Children's Mental Health Week

This week, as part of Children's Mental Health Week, our classes have been exploring their *happy places*. The children have created some fantastic artwork, and it's been wonderful to see the imagination and positivity in their pictures.



As part of Children's Mental Health Week, Year 2 have been thinking about different emotions they feel. We played a game where we had to guess an emotion our partner was feeling based on their facial expression. I wonder what emotion they were feeling?



Year 2 – Kier Construction Visit

Year 2 had an awesome time building bridges with Jess and Tess from Kier Construction. We tested which shapes were the strongest and experimented with how we could reinforce them. Every bridge passed the test and held the car. It's looking like we have some future engineers here - watch this space!



Wear what you love day 2026

The PTA have raised **£41.00** from our *Wear What You Love Day*. All funds will go towards improving the **outdoor area for our Reception class**.

Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the event.



If your child came to school in their own clothes,
it's not too late to make a donation via the **MCAS app**.

Kit Car Sponsorship Appeal



KIT CAR SPONSORSHIP APPEAL

**We are aiming to raise
£600**

to support the children who will be designing
and building our kit car, giving them a fantastic
opportunity to race it at Croft Circuit.



If you are able to donate any amount or know
any business willing to sponsor us, it would be
greatly appreciated.

We would also love to hear from you if you
have any amazing fundraising ideas - all
support is gratefully received.

office@holy-infants bolton sch uk

Class Assembly Dates

Class assembly dates are listed below. Parents are welcome to attend all assemblies.

All assemblies start at 9.00 am and last for approximately 30 minutes.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>
Year 3	6 th March 2026
Reception	13 th March 2026
Year 4	24 th April 2026
Year 2	21 st May 2026

Please note: due to class assemblies, if your child receives a **Star of the Week certificate** during that week, it will be presented in class. A separate parental invitation will not be sent for these certificates.

Year 4 Swimming reminder

Year 4, swimming programme continues until with the last session being on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

Please ensure your child brings their swimming kit to school on swimming days, including:

- Swimming costume
- Towel
- Swimming cap (required if hair is shoulder-length or longer)



As swimming is part of the National Curriculum, we are unable to exclude any child from participating in this activity. It is therefore essential that all pupils come prepared with the correct kit.

INSET day reminder



Friday 13th February is an INSET day and children are not in school.

School will re-open on Monday 23rd February after half term.

Reception Class

Reception class have really enjoyed 'Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle' time. We've done lots of movement and mark making to some great songs. We also made our own Winter Olympic ski slope in our outdoor area and later that day, we took part in an inclusive sports lesson with wheelchairs.



Year 5 PE

This half-term, Year 5 have been learning about **movement in dance** as part of their PE lessons. The children have been exploring different ways to travel, balance, and create sequences, developing both their coordination and confidence along the way.



myHappymind – Reminder



We are proud to be a part of the myHappymind family!

We are launching this whole school programme which has been designed and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing. myHappymind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. myHappymind also teaches children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their best selves!

myHappymind also has a parent app to support you as a parent in understanding what your child is learning and activities for you to do together at home, plus so much more! You will receive a separate letter with instructions on how to set up your app.



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.**

Class	P.E Day
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Tuesday
Year 3	Monday
Year 4	Wednesday – Swimming
Year 5	Thursday
Year 6	Thursday

Wednesday Word

Wednesday
11th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

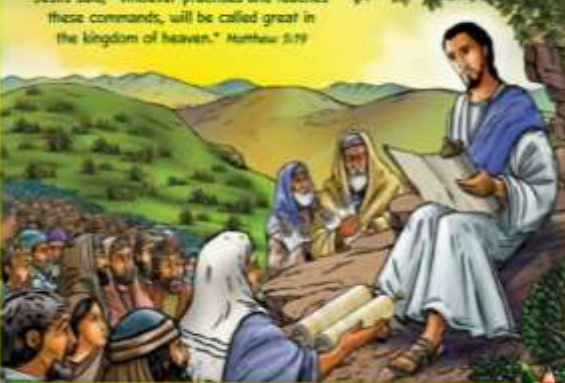
Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not imagine that I have come to destroy what the Law or the Prophets taught. No, I have come to make them complete - to show you what they meant. I tell you truly, until heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke of a pen, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 11th February 2026, Matt. 5:17-37 (the 1st Sunday of Ordinary Time)

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

Jesus said, "Whoever practises and teaches these commands, will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:19



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

2 Wednesday's Word
TEACHER

"The true teacher is within: Christ is the inner teacher of every soul." St. Augustine of Hippo

What did Jesus say that people who practise and teach God's commands would be called? In this Sunday's Gospel (taken from the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus teaches us how important it is to follow God's laws; our Catholic schools and parishes try very hard to do the same. Ask your child what the word 'teacher' means to them. Ask them which people teach them about God - at home, at school or in the community. What have they recently been taught about God? Who is their favourite teacher, and why? Perhaps you can tell your child about a person you know who is, or was, a good teacher, and say why.

"The family is where parents become their children's first teachers in the faith. The family's strength lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love." Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

It's important to have good teachers. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their own children - others can also teach us so much about what really matters in life. Each of you choose someone who teaches you good and right things, and say a prayer for them. How can we show our appreciation to all those who teach us? Perhaps we can be a good learner by really listening to what they have to say; do the good and right things they have taught us; simply thank them for being a good teacher.

Dear Lord Jesus, please bless all the people in my life who **teach** me. Thank you for being my friend and **teacher**. Please help me to learn and grow in your love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHES FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

JESUS TEACHING

COMPLETES LAW

PRACTISE COMMANDS

GREAT HOLINESS

SUPERSEARCHES FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

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"Whoever teaches _____ commands, be called _____ in _____ kingdom of heaven."

Jesus stood out as a teacher.

Seeing the power and authority of God at work in Jesus' words and actions gave people confidence in his teachings. When we have Jesus as our teacher, we are being taught by God.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Sunday

This week I will try my best to...

Wednesday
18th February

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into loaves." But Jesus replied with God's word saying, "Scripture says: 'Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" The tempter then took him to the top of the Temple, "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down; for scripture says: 'He will put you in his angels' charge and they will come to save you.'" Jesus said to him, "Scripture also says: 'You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Next, the tempter showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "I will give you all these," he said, "if you fall at my feet and worship me." Then Jesus replied, "Be off, Satan! for scripture says: 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'" Then the tempter left him, and angels appeared and looked after Jesus.



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 22nd February 2026, Matthew 4:1-11 (the 1st Sunday of Lent, Year A)

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



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

2 Wednesday's Word
LENT

"Lent is a time for greater generosity - not just with money, but with love, forgiveness, and mercy." St. Leo the Great

How many days did Jesus spend in the wilderness? In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus relied on God's word to resist temptation. Lent is a time for us to make an extra effort to listen carefully to God's word, to try and make a change for the better by turning away from things which are wrong for ourselves or others. Ask your child what the word 'lent' means to them. You may want to tell your child something that you know about Lent. Each of you say if there is anything you would like to start or stop doing this Lent.

"Lent is the season for dispensing our love: love for Jesus, love for our family, and love for the poor." St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

The Latin name for the season of Lent is 'Quadragesima' which means 'forty days' or 'fortieth day.' This reminds us of Jesus' 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness, where he grew stronger through resisting various temptations. How can we strengthen ourselves to resist temptations throughout Lent? Perhaps we can set aside a few minutes each day to pray, asking God to help us; read God's word in the Bible or in the Wednesday word; regularly say the 'Our Father' together, thinking carefully about each sentence; go to church together; fast from a meal or snack and give the money saved to charity.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHES FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

WILDERNESS FASTING

TEMPTER APPEARED

JESUS SPOKE

GOD'S WORD

SUPERSEARCHES FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

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"Man does not _____ on _____ alone but on every _____ that comes from the _____ of God."

Today is Ash Wednesday.

Catholics throughout the world celebrate Mass today and receive ashes on their forehead to mark the start of the Lenten Season.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Sunday

This week I will try my best 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.

Parent Workshop: Supporting Children with Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance

On Friday 13th March, Woodbridge SEND Service will be hosting a parent workshop focused on supporting children who experience emotionally based school non-attendance.

Time: 9:30–10:30am

Cost: £15 per family

Please use the booking link here:

[Woodbridge SEND service / Training](#)



IThrive Parent Peer Support Programme

We understand that being a parent/carer can be difficult, and looking after a child with mental health difficulties can be challenging. It is important for parents/carers to get support and guidance for themselves.

Who is it for?

- Parents looking to improve their wellbeing and receive support and guidance.
- Professionals looking to refer families for emotional/ practical peer support.
- Parents can self refer or professionals can refer via the QR code below.

What do we provide?

- One to one sessions to provide support and guidance.
- Signposting parents to receive practical support.
- Providing emotional support parent to parent.
- Weekly Support Group to meet other parents and chat in a safe space.

All of our
services are
free

Parent Support Group

Wednesdays 10-11am
Oxford Grove Family Hub
BL1 3BH
Drop in, no need to book!

For More information please contact Families Together

Email: familiestogether445@gmail.com

Call: 07514484157

Go to: familiestogether.org.uk

Scan the QR
code to access
referral form

