

# St James' Catholic Primary

## "Great News"

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

### STAFF UPDATES

This week we are sadly saying goodbye to Miss Glynn, who has been an invaluable member of our office team in her role as School Business Manager. Her dedication, professionalism, and support have made a lasting impact on our school community, and she will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. Please join us in wishing Miss Glynn all the very best for the future.

We welcome Mrs Duffy, the Business Manager from St Anthony's Wythenshawe, who will be working alongside Mrs Boyce in the office on a temporary basis. She will be with us all day Monday, and then afternoons for the rest of the week.

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER

During our Lenten Retreat days, we took time to remember and reflect on the events of Holy Week. It was wonderful to see children working together in their Houses, with our older pupils thoughtfully supporting the younger ones. Our theme for the week, *Let Love Grow*, was brought to life through a range of engaging activities, including flower making, sowing seeds, and planting bulbs.

As always, the prayer trail provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection. The journey began with Palm Sunday, where children joyfully waved giant palm leaves. They then moved to Maundy Thursday, entering the Upper Room to reflect on the Last Supper, before continuing to the Garden of Gethsemane. The trail then led to the solemn Good Friday station. Children also had the opportunity to visit the church and explore the Stations of the Cross. Finally, the journey concluded in the Easter Garden, offering a peaceful and hopeful end to a special time of reflection.

### NEW DINNER MENU

We are pleased to inform you that we will be introducing a new school dinner menu starting after Easter. The updated menu has been carefully designed to provide a balanced, nutritious, and enjoyable range of meals for all pupils. We have taken pupil feedback into account to ensure the meals are both appealing and satisfying. We hope this new menu (a copy has been sent home today) along with the other changes we have made recently will enhance the overall dining experience. If you would like your child to go on to school dinners please speak to Mrs Boyce in the office. Ideally, we need at least one week's notice before children can change from packed lunches.

Our themed days continue to be a great success and our next one might just be our most popular yet! **On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**, we will be having a **KFC style themed dinner**. Children will be able to enjoy a variety of crispy coated chicken, fries and sides. A letter will be going out nearer the time so that those pupils on packed lunch can join us for this special day.

If your child has any specific dietary requirements or allergies, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can make appropriate arrangements.

### BOOK FAIR SUCCESS

We were overwhelmed by the fantastic response to our recent book fair. Thanks to your support, we raised an amazing £820 in rewards. This has meant that every class was able to receive £100 worth of new books for their class libraries.

Your encouragement and involvement helps foster a love of reading, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to continue promoting reading for pleasure among our pupils.

### EASTER BONNET PARADE

We will be hosting an **Easter Bonnet Parade** on **Thursday 16th April 2026** (the first day back after Easter half term). Children are invited to create and wear their own Easter bonnet or hat to school. They can decorate their bonnet in any creative way they like, using Easter themes such as chicks, eggs, flowers, rabbits, or spring colours.

During our Community Assembly at 9am, the children will take part in a special parade where they will have the opportunity to show their bonnets to the rest of the school. To celebrate everyone's creativity and effort, **every child who enters will receive a small prize** and there will be an overall winner's prize for one child in each class. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful and imaginative designs! Thank you for your support.

### EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS...AND ARRIVING ON TIME MATTERS TOO

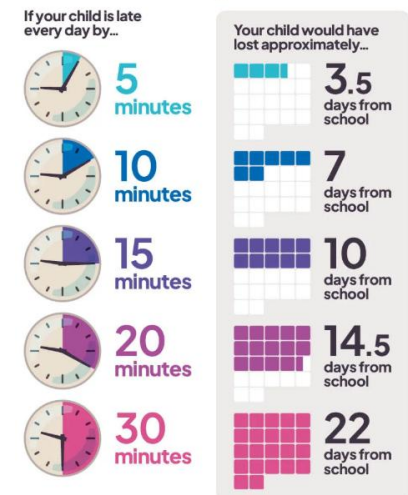
Every day in school makes a difference to progress and attainment. Please try to arrange appointments outside the school day. Holidays during term time cannot be authorised and may result in a penalty notice fine. If you need any support with attendance, please contact the school office – we're here to help.

Our weekly Golden Ticket attendance reward, announced in Community Assembly, is proving a big hit! Most classes have already won, with prizes including Just Dance parties, extra Golden Time, parachute games, movie afternoons, art parties and the ever-popular own clothes day.

Today, all pupils whose attendance is 96% or above received a special certificate to show our appreciation for their dedication and determination to attend school every day. These pupils' names were also added to our prize draw with three names picked out to win one of three amazing prizes.

Please also remember that arriving on time is really important too. The school gates and doors open at 8:45am and close at 8:55am. Any time after this will be recorded as late. Registers are taken promptly at 9am. The first 15 minutes before register is time well spent, with pupils reading, or completing a maths task such as practising times tables.

### Did you know that in one school year...



### BREAKFAST CLUB – START THE DAY THE RIGHT WAY!

Our popular Breakfast Club runs daily with two convenient sessions: from 7:30 am until 8:45am- £2.50 or from 8:15 am until 8:45am – £1. Children can enjoy a choice of toast, bagels, or cereal, plus a drink. More than just breakfast, it's a chance for them to spend time with friends and enjoy fun activities before the school day begins. Breakfast Club is the perfect way to kick-start the day positively, leaving children happy, energised, and ready to learn!

### AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

All activities cost £1 per day. On the app you will have four options (for each of the activities on offer). The fifth option is for extended wraparound after 4:30pm. Many of our clubs are now at full capacity so please book early to avoid disappointment. **Please also note, that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday we only have a choice of three clubs** (due to less staff available on these days).

### WRAPAROUND CARE

Wraparound care is from 4:30pm-6pm. This costs £6 per session (which includes the £1 for after school club). Children will receive a choice of snacks and drinks each day e.g. wraps, sandwiches, bagels, crumpets, pizza, crackers, fruit and salad.

### TOP-UP PAYMENTS

In an emergency (e.g. an urgent appointment), you can book onto breakfast, after-school or wraparound clubs on the actual day. Simply pay the correct top-up on the app and inform the office.

### NEW ADMINISTRATION FEE FOR LATE BOOKINGS

In line with other schools, after Easter, we will be charging an administration fee of £1 for any late bookings onto Breakfast or After School Clubs. To avoid this fee, please remember to book all sessions in advance, at least the day before, using the app. If you do require the office to book your child on to a club the £1 fee will apply.

MONDAY	Activity 1 Infants (EYFS/Y1/Y2) Mini Scientists	Activity 2 Juniors (Year 3-6) Running & Team Games	Activity 3 Year 4/5/6 Crochet & Knitting	N/A
TUESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Stay & Play	Activity 2 Years 2/3 Cheerleading	Activity 3 Juniors Sports	Activity 4 Juniors Lego
WEDNESDAY	Activity 1 Infants Mini Explorers	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4/5 Computers	Activity 3 Juniors Stay & Play	N/A
THURSDAY	Activity 1 Infants Draw with Me	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4/5/6 Movie Club	Activity 3 Juniors Origami	Activity 4 Juniors Brass
FRIDAY	Activity 1 EYFS/Year 1 PE/Games	Activity 2 Years 2/3/4 Cooking Club	Activity 3 Years 5/6 STEM/Coding Club	N/A

### DID YOU KNOW?

Parents can get money back/support for Breakfast Clubs, After-School Clubs and Wraparound through Tax-Free Childcare. The Government adds £2 for every £8 you pay (up to £2000 per year per child). This is effectively a **20% subsidy**, not a full refund.

If you are eligible for Universal Credit, you can claim back up to 85% of childcare costs. This is paid after you report and provide receipts. Speak to Mrs Boyce if you would like to apply for this.

### EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Our Easter Egg Raffle was a tremendous success, with every child receiving at least one Easter treat. We raised an incredible £415 for our school fund. Thank you to all parents who donated eggs and other lovely gifts.

### FREE 30-HOUR NURSERY PLACES

We now offer free 30-hour Nursery places. Currently all children of Nursery age (3-4 year olds) are entitled to 15 hours per week. Some working families may be eligible for 30 hours funding. You can check your eligibility by going to Child Care Choices (click on view schemes). [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

Families who are not eligible for the 30 hours can still access these extra hours for a cost of £10 per afternoon session, including lunch time provision. The afternoon session will finish at 3:30pm like the rest of the school. We would encourage children to attend every afternoon. However, parents do have a choice of the number of afternoons they wish their child to attend. Due to staffing costs and pupil ratios, we require a commitment of a full term (12 weeks) and specific days without amendments otherwise you will still be charged for your child's place. All payable afternoon sessions, must be paid at least one week in advance.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 16th April	School Reopens – Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday 24th April	Sacramental Programme Parent Meeting 3pm
Monday 27th April	Key Stage 2 Spelling Bee
Friday 8th May	First Forgiveness at 6pm
Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATS Week
Thursday 21st May	Themed Dinner Day
Friday 22nd May	Race for Life
Monday 8th June	School Reopens

We would like to wish all our families a very Happy Easter. We hope you have a wonderful break filled with rest and special moments together.