



GOSPEL VALUE OF THE WEEK

LIGHT

LISTEN to the Word of God

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

"a light to reveal your will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."

Luke 2: 22-40

RESPOND to the Word of God

As we reflect, give thought to:

- ♥ What do Mary and Joseph bring to the Temple, and why is Jesus special?
♥ Simeon says Jesus is "a light". What do you think that means?
♥ How can Jesus be like a light in our lives?

GO FORTH with a mission from the Word of God

"Be a Light!"

Light a candle at home (safely) and say together: "Jesus, be our light and help us to be a light for others."

Create a "light list" together:

Who helps our family feel happy, safe, and loved? Thank God for them.



Good News for Families

The Wednesday Word is an outreach which shares Sunday's Gospel with all school families in a unique way. Click here for this week's latest Wednesday Word to discuss with your loved ones at home.

HOUSE POINTS

"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."

St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

Every child from Nursery to Year 6 has been assigned to one of our four houses: St George, St Margaret, St David, or St Brigid. Children can earn house points for going above and beyond, especially when they demonstrate our Gospel values:

Be Ready to Learn -> Diligence

Be Resilient -> Courage / Perseverance

Be Respectful -> Respect

Be Responsible -> Responsibility

Each week, points are totalled, and the winning house enjoys an extra playtime. The house with the highest total at the end of the half term will celebrate with a special afternoon celebration.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING HOUSE IS...

ST BRIGID

SPRING 1

Table with columns for St George, St Margaret, St David, St Brigid and rows for Week 1-6 and TOTAL POINTS. St Margaret has trophies in weeks 1-3, St Brigid has a trophy in week 4. Total points: St George 369, St Margaret 445, St David 391, St Brigid 377.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026



We are delighted to celebrate the personal achievements of our children this week! Each of these stars has been carefully chosen by their teachers for a variety of reasons—whether it's demonstrating outstanding behaviour, producing an excellent piece of work, mastering a tricky concept, showing kindness to others, or going above and beyond in so many ways.

In all they do, these children are shining examples of our school motto: *"Only my best will do. Be kind to one another."* Through their efforts and actions, they live out our Catholic values each day, inspiring those around them. As Pope Francis reminds us, *"Each of us is a masterpiece of God's creation."*
Well done to all our shining stars!

CLASS	STAR OF THE WEEK
Nursery	Ibrahim
Reception	Araathana
Year 1	Matewos
Year 2	Darius
Year 3	Aron
Year 4	Arsema
Year 5	Nathaniel
Year 6	Mason

	NAME
	Lyla
	CLASS
	Year 6

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

The national expectation for attendance is 97% and above, but at our school, we aim even higher! Guided by our values of care and responsibility, we monitor attendance and punctuality every day, working together as a school community to support our children in being present and engaged. By attending school regularly, our children can make the most of every learning opportunity and flourish in their talents and abilities.

	Weekly Attendance	Punctuality (Lates)	Attendance to date
Reception	96.9%	3	95.8%
Year 1	90.0%	8	93.3%
Year 2	94.5%	11	92.9%
Year 3	97.3%	1	96.0%
Year 4	97.3%	8	96.7%
Year 5	87.1%	10	92.1%
Year 6	95.8%	9	95.2%
Total	94.1%	50	94.6%

SPRING TERM I CLASS OF THE WEEK - ATTENDANCE STARS

	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Week 1					★		
Week 2				★			
Week 3				★			
Week 4				★	★		
Week 5							
Week 6							

As we move further into a season where weather can be unpredictable and illnesses are more common, we kindly ask all families to make a renewed and conscious effort this term to improve both attendance and punctuality. Our overall attendance to date currently stands at 94.6%, with each class falling below the national expectation of 97%.

In addition, punctuality continues to be a significant concern. Being in school every day, on time, is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging within our school community.

We would also like to remind families that poor attendance or persistent lateness is considered a safeguarding concern, as it can impact a child's safety, progress and overall welfare.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026



TERM DATES 2025 - 2026

Below are important dates for your reference in which children do **NOT** attend school

INSET 2 - STAFF TRAINING
Friday 13 th February 2026
SPRING - FEBRUARY HALF-TERM
Monday 16 th February - 20 th February 2026
EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 3 rd April - Friday 10 th April 2026
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
Monday 4 th May 2026
INSET 3 - STAFF TRAINING
Friday 5 th June 2026
INSET 4 - STAFF TRAINING
Monday 8 th June 2026
SUMMER - MAY HALF TERM
Monday 25 th May - Thursday 4 th June 2026
INSET 5 - STAFF TRAINING
Monday 20 th July 2026
SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Tuesday 21 st July - 31 st August 2026

Please ensure you check term dates carefully before booking any holidays as they will not be authorised.

TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We're excited to share the schedule of events for this term! Our aim is to give parents | carers plenty of notice so you can join in at family events (highlighted in yellow) and support your children whenever possible.

Information regarding specific child attendance, timings & location of events etc will be shared with families privately via school APP ClassDoJo.

Please note that there may be additional activities, workshops, or competitions throughout the term that are not listed here yet, as we are waiting for confirmation of some events.

We aim to keep you updated as soon as new information becomes available.

SCHOOL CALENDAR - SCHOOL WEBSITE

Date	Year Group	Event
31.01.2026	Selected Pupils	Merseyside Primary Schools' Cross Country Championships (Wavertree)
02.02.2026	Selected Pupils	Y5 & Y6 Beacon Fire Project
02.02.2026	R - Y6	National Storytelling Week Book & Biscuit Family Session
02.02.2026	Nursery	EYFS Read with Me Session
06.02.2026	Selected Pupils	Y6 LSSP Inside Out Festival
06.02.2026	N - Y6	NSPCC Number Day
09.02.2026	N - Y6	NSPCC Number Day Maths Breakfast Family Session
09.02.2026	N - Y6	Children's Mental Health Week
09.02.2026	Selected Pupils	Y5 & Y6 Beacon Fire Project
09.02.2026	N - Y6	School Photographs
10.02.2026	N - Y6	Safer Internet Day
11.02.2026	N - Y6	I:I Parent Carer Meeting (1/2)
12.02.2026	N - Y6	I:I Parent Carer Meeting (2/2)
23.02.2026	Selected Pupils	Y5 & Y6 Beacon Fire Project
26.02.2026	Selected Pupils	LDPS Cross-Country - Race 5
27.02.2026	N -R	EYFS Stay & Play Session
03.03.2026	N - Y6	Beautiful New Beginnings Coffee Morning for parents carers
04.03.2026	Selected Pupils	LDPS Cross-Country - Race 6

EXTRA-CURRICULAR INFORMATION - SCHOOL WEBSITE



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

PARENT | SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

ClassDojo is for parents | guardians to keep up to date with what's going on in school and it allows you to contact class teachers directly. However, please be mindful that that staff are teaching throughout the school day.

Staff are only contactable during school hours:
Monday - Friday: 8.30am - 5.00pm.

Any queries | messages sent will be answered within 48hours

Please note: ClassDojo is not to be used as a tool to share your concerns. At St Sebastian's, face-to-face meetings are the preferred method in order to alleviate any concerns, resolve any issues and ensure that messages are not misinterpreted.

Should you wish to speak with teachers or senior leadership team directly regarding concerns etc, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We have noticed a number of children who are coming to school with either incorrect or incomplete uniform e.g. no ties, jumpers. In addition, multiple children are wearing jewellery & arriving at school with their hair untied.

Please refer to our school website regarding [school uniform](#).

Please let us know if providing uniform is a challenge for you and your family, we are always happy to help! We have free items of school uniform and would encourage families to take what they need!

MOBILE PHONES ON SITE

As part of our safeguarding practices, we kindly remind all parents and carers that the use of mobile phones is not permitted on the school site, particularly at home time while waiting for children. This helps us maintain a safe and focused environment for all children.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There will be no extra-curricular clubs wb: 9th February due to parent meetings.

All extra-curricular clubs for this term will finish on Thursday 5th February and resume on Monday 23rd February

NSPCC NUMBER DAY

Friday 6th February 2026



Number Day is the NSPCC's mega maths fundraising event. Every year, thousands of schools and nurseries across the UK

fundraise for the NSPCC by having fun with maths.

This year, our children (and staff!) will be given the opportunity to dress up as digits or a rockstar for the day - it can be something as simple as polka dots or a number to something creative like a TTRockstar

Throughout the day, children will be taking part in lots of numerical games and activities.

We kindly ask that children bring a donation of £1 to raise money for NSPCC and all the work they do to keep children safe.

PRIDE OF PLACE PROGRAMME

I have been informed that Fairfield West & Newsham has been awarded £2 million a year over 10 years from the Government as part of the new programme, Pride in Place.

Paula Barker (MP) is appealing to local residents to decide how it will be spent on your behalf by a local neighbourhood board with an independent chair.

Paula Barker (MP) will be holding a meeting on

**SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 2026
(9.00AM - 11.00AM)
at Hindu Temple, 252 Edge Lane, L7 9LB**

She invites as many people as possible to attend the meeting and share their views on how the money should be spent and what you see as the priorities for Fairfield West and Newsham so that the new government funding can make a positive difference to the lives of everyone who lives in our community.

There will be representatives from our Governing Body attending to share their views.

I strongly urge our families to attend so that you can have a voice in how funding is used to in our community to make a positive difference.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

PARENT MEETINGS: 11TH & 12TH FEBRUARY

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers to our February interim review meetings, which provide a valuable opportunity to meet with school staff to discuss your child's progress so far and to talk together about next steps in learning.

Meetings for children in Nursery to Y6 will take place over two evenings on **Wednesday 11th** and **Thursday 12th February** between **3.30pm and 6.00pm**.

Each child will have one 10-minute appointment.

Appointments should be booked via the [booking system](#) on the school website. Please ensure you have set up an account in advance of bookings opening.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS: 9TH FEBRUARY

Individual school photographs will take place on Monday 9th February 2026 for all children from Nursery to Year 6.

If you would like your child to have an additional photograph with their siblings (who also attend St Sebastian's), please send a message to your child's class teacher via ClassDoJo.

Children should attend school wearing full winter school uniform in line with the [uniform policy](#).

Please ensure that long hair is neatly tied back. Thank you for your support in helping our children look smart and ready for their photographs.



MRS J MCCORMICK'S CELEBRATION SHOUT-OUTS

"Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable."

Philippians 4:8

Each week, I love to take a moment to celebrate and give a little shout-outs to children, staff or classes who have really shone this week. It might be for showing kindness, living out our school motto, working hard in their learning, being a brilliant team member, or simply making a positive difference in our school community. It's such a pleasure to recognise the efforts and kindness that make our school a special place.

Y6 MONTHLY MASS

A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils who attend mass on Tuesday. We have received lovely feedback from parishioners, who commented on how respectful and responsive the children were throughout the mass. In particular, they were noted for their reverence and sensible behaviour at Communion. Year 6 continue to be wonderful ambassadors for our school and a real credit to their families and our parish community.

Y3 & Y4 MATBALL

Well done to our Year 3 and Year 4 athletes who competed in the LSSP Matball competition today. They were fantastic competitors, showing excellent sportsmanship towards others throughout the event. It was lovely to speak with the children on their return to school at lunchtime and hear just how much they enjoyed the competition. Well done!

Y6 STAY & PRAY FAMILY SESSION

Thank you to our Y6 families who attended the Stay & Pray session this afternoon.

The focus was based on the theme Faith, with a reflection on Luke 5: 17 - 26, The Cure of the Paralytic.

It was a lovely opportunity to explore the importance of trusting in God and supporting one another in faith, just as the friends did in the Gospel.

What a lovely way to end the week by coming together, sharing prayer and reflecting on our faith as a school family.

NURSERY AFTERNOON SESSIONS: 15HOUR FUNDED PLACES

A gentle reminder to families that St Sebastian's has funded 15-hour Nursery places available for children aged three. Sessions run Monday to Friday from 12.30 to 3.30pm during term time only.

Please contact the school office for further information.

Only My Best Will Do. Be Kind To One Another. Amen



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER - FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

"Encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Our school is a hive of activity, with every class busy learning, exploring and growing together.

Each week, we share highlights from every class - this could be linked to exciting learning in a particular subject, positive behaviour, teamwork, kindness, creativity or a special achievement that the children are proud of. Take a look below to see what has made each class shine this week!

NURSERY

Ms Alderton & Ms Williams

This week we have loved exploring recognising our numerals, playing lots of fun games like going on a search for our hidden numerals in class! We even had a go of writing numerals to 5.

RECEPTION

Mrs Brewerton & Mrs Reynolds

This week the children have really enjoyed discussing and engaging in our celebration of the word. We have been exploring what faith means and looks like. Reception have enjoyed sharing examples of how they've shown faith and how others have been showing them our gospel values such as; kindness, love, and forgiveness.

YEAR 1

Ms Tabone, Ms Chan & Ms McKeown

This week we have immersed ourselves into the planning of our very own detective stories. We thought about what our new Pet Detective would look like and what they would do. We can't wait to turn our author brains on next week and begin writing our story. In RE, we enjoyed making lights to represent that Jesus is the light of the world.

YEAR 2

Mrs Rabbette, Ms Perez, Mr Morton & Ms McKeown

In History this week, Year 2 looked at newspaper articles taken from the 'Liverpool Echo' in the 1960's and found lots of information about buildings, fashion and music in our city!
In Maths, we have learned about multiplication and division facts for the 2 times-table. We made connections to doubling ($\times 2$) and halving ($\div 2$).

YEAR 3

Mrs Fitchett-Sabbagh, Mrs Oyewale & Ms Conway

This week, Year 3 really enjoyed discussing the ways we can help build the Kingdom of God here on Earth. In PE, we also had lots of fun working together to create our own dances, showing great creativity and teamwork throughout the sessions.

YEAR 4

Mrs Cooney & Ms Bullen

This week we have explored they amazing miracles performed by Jesus. We loved creating boats with selected scripture all about the miracle of Jesus walking on water. Year 4 were also great at performing and developing dances in PE.

YEAR 5

Ms Rozycka, Mrs L McCormick, Mrs Maguire & Mrs Xhafa

Year 5 this week have grown in confidence in their fractions topics! This has been so fantastic to see. In History, they have learnt about what life would have been like for the Vicotrians... children had some very interesting jobs, working in factories or as chimney sweeps! We have enjoyed making the artwork for 'Our Happy Place' activity. Such a pleasure to see the children love their environment as much as they do!

YEAR 6

Ms Kaur & Ms Doyle

Year 6 attended Mass this week and were given such lovely and positive feedback from the Parish community about how respectful, mature and reflective we were. We have also had so much fun writing about why we belong in school for Children's Mental Health Week project! To end our week, we planned a Celebration of the Word to share with our families during 'Stay and Pray'.