



Caring for each other as we live, learn and grow in God's love.

NEWSLETTER

11th July 2025

DIARY DATES

Weekly Mass: Sacred Heart and St John Bosco Church - 9:30am every Sunday. All are welcome.

Thursday 17th July Year 6 Leaver's Mass 10am

Thursday 17th July 1pm - End of summer term

Year 6 to leave at 12:20pm

SUMMER

HOLIDAYS
17TH JULY
1PM

PE Days 2024-25

Nursery / Reception: Monday

Year 1: Tuesday & Wednesday

Year 2: Tuesday & Thursday

Year 3: Tuesday & Friday (swimming)

Year 4: Tuesday & Friday

Year 5: Monday & Thursday

Year 6: Monday

Attendance

THIS WEEK'S
attendance

96%

As of September, no holidays will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any holiday over 5 days will also be subject to a referral for a penalty notice. Lateness and absences must now be closely monitored too. There have been a number of children being collected early - please note that we are required to see a letter, email or text as proof of appointments.

always check
the website for
the most up
to date
holiday dates



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NEW STAFFING STRUCTURE



ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL CLASS ORGANISATION 2025-2026

Mrs L. Peart

Executive Head Teacher - St John Bosco Catholic Primary School
& English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

Mr P. Roddy

Acting Head of School - St John Bosco Catholic Primary School

Year Group	Class Teacher
Nursery	Mrs L. Adams (Foundation Stage Leader)
Reception	Mrs L. Grady
Year 1	Miss K. Robertson
Year 2	Mrs G. Gray
Year 3	Mr K. Bailes
Year 4	Miss B. Thompson (Mrs B. Joyce - Maternity)
Year 5	Mrs K. Collins (KS2 Leader)
Year 6	Mr P. Pickering

Goodbyes

There are not many school days left before we say goodbye to the following staff - Miss Askham, our Nursery teacher, who leaves us for a job in Peterlee Mrs Fox – who after many years as a lunchtime assistant leaves us to enjoy her retirement. I hope you help make their final days fun and enjoyable.



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NO DEBT POLICY

Reminder



If you haven't done so already, please ensure that you have paid any money owed. School are currently owed **£772** for school meals and **£429** for breakfast club. Reminder letters have been issued. Please help us with this matter. Thank you.

YEAR 6 CELEBRATION WEEK

Tuesday 15th July: Year 6 celebration picnic and games (food will be provided by school)

Thursday 17th July: Leaver's Mass **@10am** (parents and carers welcome)

12:20 pm Year 6 leaving parade (balloons, music and photo opportunities!) Parents to gather at the school gates to cheer as our 2025 graduates leave St John Bosco ready for their new adventure.



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STARS OF THE WEEK



Amazing children at St John Bosco!
Welcome to our two new-starters in Year 4
who've created a great first impression too!



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ONLINE SAFETY

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI-ENABLED SCAMS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER

Phishing scams – emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money – are not new, and do not rely on AI; however, AI has made them far more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails at speed, mimicking an organisation's tone, branding and language with ease. This makes phishing attempts harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know what to look out for.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD

Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or completely fake product photos and videos, and pressure buyers into paying deposits or full amounts upfront. These tactics are becoming more advanced, making it vital to pause, check, and verify the sale before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION

AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when given a small sample of someone's speech patterns. This is especially concerning where voice has been enabled as an alternative to password-based logins. One such example was the use of AI deepfake audio as part of a fake kidnapping scam: the criminals used an AI voice clone of a 15-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and elicit a ransom.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS

Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, asking for money to secure a visa or paperwork. In 2025, The Guardian reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, posing as TikTok staff.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS

AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology available that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to create convincing videos of well-known figures promoting fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Cryptocurrency scams are a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Once payment is made, the criminal simply disappears with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION

AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easier for criminals to build trust with young people – among other things, this can lead to fraud or sextortion. In 2024, the NCA's CEOP Safety Centre received 380 reports of sextortion. Alarmingly, in the first five months alone, police received an average of 117 monthly reports involving under-18s, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

Advice for Parents & Educators

THINK CRITICALLY

The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and show caution. Inform children that if something is too good to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and carefully consider what they are seeing and reading before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution; if content seems unusual, even from a known person, it may be that their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES

Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items; however, where possible, encourage children to use reputable companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber-security safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer legislation, enabling them to control how products and services are displayed and traded on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY

Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content; however, their approach will generally be limited to a single account, site or service. Where possible, show children how to verify information to check its legitimacy before proceeding. Small actions, such as phoning the person who is the subject of a suspicious email, or checking content via an individual or company website or social media sites can make the difference. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expend to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT

As the sophistication of scams increases, the likelihood of being tricked by them also increases, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media site, Action Fraud, banks, and other individuals or organisations linked or involved. If you are unsure of the most effective reporting channel, contact Action Fraud.

TOP TIPS FOR EYFS REFORMS ON FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

Top Tips for Nurseries on Understanding EYFS REFORMS ON FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

The upcoming EYFS reforms, set to take effect in September 2025, will introduce significant changes to food safety practices in early years settings. The reforms impact food handling, staff training, and allergen management, as well as nutritional requirements and menu development. As with all aspects of the EYFS, these changes are to ensure children's health and safety – but what do they mean for your setting?

SAFER EATING

The reforms introduce new requirements for safer eating practices. It's advisable to address each area of food safety in your setting's policies and demonstrate that appropriate actions have been taken for each. Some changes directly affect your kitchen, while others focus on mealtime supervision and staff training, such as on allergens, allergies and nutrition.



ALLERGY MANAGEMENT

The proposed changes enhance allergy and anaphylaxis management in early years settings, requiring robust policies that identify children with allergies and address their needs. Staff training is essential to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis – it should also cover emergency responses and adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) use. Anaphylaxis UK advocates for a comprehensive allergy awareness approach across the entire setting, promoting safety for all children.



INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS

As part of the reforms, settings will be required to have an individual healthcare plan (IHP) for each child with a known allergy. IHPs must clearly outline the child's specific allergen(s), their allergy symptoms, an emergency response plan, and their emergency contacts.



EMERGENCY PREPARATION

Settings should maintain spare AAIs for emergencies and conduct regular drills to review their procedures. Continuous staff training is vital, ensuring they can recognise anaphylaxis symptoms and properly administer AAIs. Settings may choose any government-approved training body that meets the standards for paediatric first aid, as there's no mandatory provider. This flexibility allows for tailored training that suits each setting's particular needs.



INTRODUCTION OF SOLID FOODS

The reforms place greater focus on the introduction and preparation of solid foods, requiring an individualised approach based on each child's developmental stage rather than just their age. Ongoing discussions with parents are crucial to understanding each child's readiness for solid foods, keeping both parties informed about the types of food at home and in the setting.



CHOKING PREVENTION MEASURES

Children must always be within sight and earshot of staff when eating in order to prevent choking incidents. Staff should monitor children for signs of distress and worrisome eating habits, ensuring they document any choking incidents to help them recognise patterns. A valid paediatric first aid certificate is a requirement for adequate meal supervision. Additionally, settings must follow specific kitchen safety practices to minimise choking risks and manage allergens effectively.



NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS

The changes to early years nutrition help settings understand the importance of menu planning for childhood development. Menus should support development, feature food items that enhance brain function and immunity, and include a colourful, balanced variety of foods. The reforms prioritise cultural relevance and require snacks that provide 10% of a child's daily energy needs. The changes also address health trends, choking awareness, allergy management, and the long-term impact of nutrition on children's development.





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SUMMER SAVINGS



Find out about any support you might be eligible for plus how you can save money over the summer holidays. From cheap cinema tickets and days out to travel and free kids meals, see how much you can save on keeping the kids entertained this summer.

Lightning Reach Financial Support Portal

Summer can be an exciting time, but we know it can also bring extra costs for families.

The **Lightning Reach Portal** helps you find and apply for financial support in one place. Whether it's help with food, utility bills, clothing, or other essential costs – there's support available for families with children.

It's quick, easy and confidential to:

- Check what you're eligible for
- Apply for support online – in minutes
- Get help from trusted providers

Get started today at **Lightning Reach**.

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/summer-savings>



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SAFEGUARDING

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!

If incidents involving children from our school are taking place in the local community, please report your concerns to **Together for Children**.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



- To report a child safeguarding concern (0 to 17 years old) contact Together for Children on **0191 5617007** (available 8.30am to 5:15pm Monday – Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday).
- Out of hours duty safeguarding officer: **0191 5205552**
- **For serious incidents, we would always advise contacting the police directly, 999 or 101 for non-emergencies**
- **Gentoo Housing co-ordinator for North Sunderland 07734597810**

Our Safeguarding Children Process



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JUNE 2025

'SENSORY TOYS / SQUISHYS'

We wanted to remind everyone about our expectations regarding toys in school. While we understand that toys can be a source of comfort and fun for children, we kindly ask that **they are not brought into school.**

We have seen an increase of children bringing in 'squishy toys' and teddies. This is leading to bigger and more expensive toys being brought in.

There are several reasons for this request to leave toys at home. Firstly, toys can be a distraction during lessons, making it difficult for students to focus on their work. We want to ensure that all children have the best possible learning environment, free from unnecessary distractions. Secondly, toys can sometimes lead to disagreements or conflicts among children, which can disrupt the harmony of the classroom and playground. By keeping toys at home, we can help maintain a positive and inclusive atmosphere for all.

Additionally, there is always the risk of toys getting lost or damaged, which can cause distress for the children. We want to avoid any upset and ensure that personal belongings are kept safe.

We understand that some children with special educational needs may require sensory toys to help them regulate. If this is the case, it should be agreed with the school SENDCo, Mrs Gray, and written into the child's support plan.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

