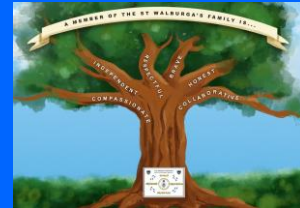


St Walburga's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter



Friday, 11th September 2026

Number 2

Dear Parent and Carers,

It has been so lovely getting to know our new Reception children this week – we are looking forward to them all joining us full-time from next Wednesday! It was great to see so many of you at our 'Meet the Team' drop in session on Wednesday.

On Thursday, Father Anthony joined us to celebrate Mass with all of Key Stage 2 to mark the start of the academic year. It was lovely to join together in prayer and offer up our hopes and plans for the coming year. Thank you to the Chaplaincy Team for reading so well. This week, the children have been exploring our learning value of Respectful. The children have produced some great work explaining what being respectful means to them, and how they can demonstrate this value in their day to day life. Albie in 5LS writes: 'The Respectful value means treating people equally and how you would want to be treated Being respectful helps others by boosting their confidence because it inspires them to follow the values.'

RE learning

This term, in line with diocesan and Catholic Education Service guidance, we are introducing a new RE scheme 'Lighting the Path'. I am attaching some further information about the scheme with this newsletter. Our first topic, which the children will be starting next week, is Creation and Covenant. In this topic, children encounter Bible texts where God creates and calls people. Children will explore the Christian belief that everything comes from God through the texts of the Book of Genesis and the reflective thoughts of the Psalms. Children will hear accounts of God's love for people expressed in the covenants (promises) found in the Old Testament.



Hair!

Just a reminder about hair styles, which should be suitable for school. Hair should not be coloured in any way, this includes with extensions. Children should not have any lines, swirls or shapes cut into their hair. If your child's hair is longer than their collar, they must wear it tied up for school – this is for safety during active lessons, and for hygiene. Hair accessories should be relatively small, and in the school colours of blue, yellow or white. This applies to all children, boys and girls. Please save the flamboyance for your child to enjoy during the school holidays!

Collection from Key Stage 1 playground

Please can I remind you to leave promptly with your child at the end of the school day, and not to let your child play on the play equipment. Staff are waiting to lock the gate so that after-school club children can safely access the playground. Pre-school children

should not play on the equipment at any time, as its use must be supervised by school staff.

Year 1 information evening

We have an information evening for parents of children in Year 1, to support them with their child's transition from Reception. The meeting is at 3.15pm on Tuesday, 15th September. **Children should not attend this meeting.**

Year 6

Just a reminder for Year 6 parents that the closing date for applications for secondary schools is **31st October 2026**. You will need to apply via the BCP website, but some schools may have individual requirements so please check the relevant websites! We are attaching information about an Open evening at St Peter's School for children in Year 6 and their families. The Open Evening for St Peter's will be held on Thursday 17th September from 5pm – 8.30pm at the Secondary site in Southbourne.

Music lessons

Guitar, violin and keyboard lessons will begin again next week for students who have signed up in Years 4-6. Please make your Autumn Term payments through WisePay, and ensure that your child brings their instrument on the correct day. For more information, please refer to the letter sent to you earlier this week. We still have one space for beginners' violin lessons, open to children in Years 4 or 5. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Clubs

Just a reminder that there is no Zumba club next week. Choir starts again next Friday, 18th September. Don't forget - Your child must be booked onto a club, and cannot just turn up! **All clubs end at 4.00pm. Please ensure you are on time to collect your child.** Thanks.

PSA/ School Council

Our first PSA/School Council event this academic year will be our Macmillan cake sale on Friday, 25th September at 2.50pm. The school council were keen to support cancer charities – so this is a great place to start. We will need donations of cakes on the day, and helpers to cut and plate up from 1.30pm on Friday 25th September. Please let us know via the office or let the PSA know via your WhatsApp groups. Please come along and join us if you are able to!

House Captains

This week, the Senior Leadership Team and the Year 6 children have worked together to select the new House Captains for each of our 4 Houses. They are:

St Annes: Elsie and Harrison

St Bernadette's: Imogen and James P

St Joseph's: Lily and Lucas H

St Francis': Alessia and Finn

Well done to all of them – we are looking forward to working with them in the coming year.

School Attendance

Our whole school attendance was **96.72%** by the end of the last academic year (2025-2026). We are delighted to have exceeded our 96% target. Here is a breakdown of the final attendance for each year group:

Malvern Road, Bournemouth, BH9 3BY

Tel: 01202 528811

email:office@stwalburgasprimary.co.uk

Website: stwalburgas.bournemouth.sch.uk

Year Group 25-26	Attendance 25-26
Reception	96.69%
Year 1	96.61%
Year 2	96.49%
Year 3	96.44%
Year 4	96.83%
Year 5	96.98%
Year 6	96.69%
Whole School	96.72%

The DfE continues to make it clear that pupil attendance is a national priority. Regular attendance and good punctuality are vital for children's education, well-being, and their overall long-term development. The expectation is that pupils should have 96% attendance and any child whose attendance is 90% and below is considered a persistent absentee. If your child had 90% attendance at the end of last year, this equates to 3 weeks + 4 days of learning missed. Those who had 96% attendance missed 7 days of learning. We do understand that children do get poorly, and we would not expect, nor want, your child to come to school if they were really unwell, but it is important that you are aware of the expectations so that you can avoid unnecessary absences.

Please remember, if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you must contact the school office no later than 9.00am to report your child absent. You can do this by phoning the school office on **01202 528811**. If we don't hear from you, we will contact you ourselves and if unsuccessful, we will then contact the other emergency contacts we have for your child. If we are still unable to confirm a child's whereabouts, we are required to make a welfare visit to the child's home. This is to maintain confirmation of our pupil's safety & wellbeing at all times – and this is set out in our attendance policy. You can find a copy of our Attendance policy on our school website.

Gates open at **8.25am** and the bell goes for the start of the school day at **8.40am**, if your child arrives after this time, they will be marked as late. Registers close at **9.10am** – lateness after this is recorded as an 'unauthorised late', which is an unauthorised absence for the morning session, affecting your child's overall attendance rate. I would also like to remind you that the government guidance states that children **must not** take holiday during term time. Headteachers are only able to authorise time out of school in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised absences will result in a penalty notice. If you need to request time out of school in term time, whether you think it can be authorised or not, you must write to me with 10 days' notice, explaining the reason for the request and the dates. Penalty notices can also be issued if you take your child out of school without putting in an application beforehand. We have regular meetings to monitor pupil attendance and identify ways in which we can support children and families in achieving regular and punctual attendance. If at any point in the year you feel that you could benefit from support from our Pastoral Team with regards to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to ask at the school office.

Mission Statement hero and Stars of the Week

Our Mission Statement hero this week is Dolly Parton, who died recently. She was such a good role model to us through her kindness and compassion. Her Imagination Library initiative has brought and access to books to children throughout the world, and a very special way to honour her father, who never had the opportunity to learn to read.



Well done to our Stars of the Week – first ones of this school year!

Super Role Model:

1EM:Artur,1WH:Amelia;2IJ:Brianna;2NW:Pearl;3BM:Tori;
3JC:Verity; 4CN:Freddie; 4RH: Camille; 5JC:Kika; 5LS:Kobi; 6KB:Julia;
6KT: Lindsay

Learning Champion:

1EM:Matias;1WH:Nathan;2NW:Zara-Bella;2IJ:Freddie;
3BM:Lithus;3JC:Frances;4CN:Ben;4RH:Rio;5JC:Harley;5LS:Fahren;
6KB:Markas; 6KT:Max A

Dates for your diary:

Tues 15 th Sept	3.15	Year 1 workshop for parents and carers
Wed 16 th Sept	8.40	Reception children start full time
Fri 25 th Sept	2.50pm	Macmillan cake sale – more info to follow
Thurs 1st Oct	3.30-4.30pm	Stay and play session for children due to start school in September 26
Mon 5 th Oct	2.15pm	5JC Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Tues 6 th Oct	2.25pm	5LS Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Mon 12 th Oct	2.15 pm	3BM Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Tues 13 th Oct	2.15pm	3JC Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Thurs 15 th Oct		Harvest celebrations and Food Bank collection – more info to follow
Mon 19 th Oct	2.15pm	6KB Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Tues 20 th Oct	2.15pm	6KT Celebration of the Word – Parents and carers welcome
Thurs 5 th Nov	3.30-4.30pm	Stay and play session for children due to start school in September 26

Wishing you a lovely weekend with your family,

Veronica Woodward

Veronica Woodward
Co-Headteachers

Laura Crutchley

Laura Crutchley

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