

# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## Weekly News Bulletin

Date – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### School Values Winners

#### EYFS & Key Stage 1

Faith – James  
Respect – Ronan  
Kindness – Albert  
Honesty - Joel  
Resilience -Azaan

#### Key Stage 2

Faith – Elsie  
Respect –  
Kindness –  
Honesty -  
Resilience -

### Whole School

## The Crowning of Mary

Today Year 3 led a wonderful celebration of the Crowning of Mary. This is a Catholic ritual held during May. During the procession, our statue of Mary is crowned with a crown of flowers honouring her as 'The Queen of May'. In order to make this a suitably bright and colourful celebration, we are asking for donations of potted flowers that can be planted afterwards. These plants are then planted around our school grounds to remind us of Mary's constant love. We will continue to accept donations from **all** year groups of their potted plants until the end of next week.

### Reading at home

This is a reminder that children are expected to read 5 times a week. This should be recorded into their Reading Diaries. Children receive certificates and rewards when they have read a specific number of times.

Key benefits of reading in primary school include:

- **Academic Achievement:** Reading is the "gateway to learning" and critical for understanding all subjects, not just English.
- **Language and Cognitive Development:** It exposes children to new vocabulary, grammar structures, and improves communication skills.
- **Empathy and Emotional Intelligence:** Engaging with stories helps children understand different perspectives, cultures, and emotions.
- **Imagination and Creativity:** It allows children to explore new worlds, strengthening their ability to think creatively.
- **Well-being and Focus:** Regular reading develops concentration and provides a, calming escape, fostering a lifelong love of learning.
- **Future Success:** Children who read for pleasure are more likely to achieve higher results, breaking the link between background and achievement.

### Oral Motor Chews-

If your child is using a regulation chew at home and would benefit from it being used at school then please contact the SEND team before sending it into school. We have been shown a website through local Occupational Therapy which provides a high grade of regulation aid and specialises in different strengths of oral motor chew. The website is [https://www.tinknstink.co.uk/?srsltid=AfmBOooXeCrVp\\_-zmB96scl3BY-ElykgdtEfQbuJbX8eOkEa3n4QEh](https://www.tinknstink.co.uk/?srsltid=AfmBOooXeCrVp_-zmB96scl3BY-ElykgdtEfQbuJbX8eOkEa3n4QEh). We would recommend ensuring the oral motor chews are of strong quality before you use them, in case of small pieces breaking off.





**Rights Respecting:** Article of the Week: Article 32 – protection from harmful work.

*Cultural Diversity Week:* Week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> May. Every year, we celebrate cultural diversity week and we would like to invite parents in to share information about their culture. It could be fashion, recipes, religion, information about your home country, traditions, etc. We welcome you to come in during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> May and share with your child's class. If you are unable to come into school, we can arrange for you to send information in electronically or even via a zoom call. Please get in touch with Mrs Whittet or your child's class teacher. We look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible!

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** children can wear their own clothes that represent their country or culture.

## Nursery

**Reminder:** Wellgate Farm is coming to visit Nursery and Reception on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**A contribution of £4.80 per child is requested, to help to cover the cost of the visit.** Please pay the £4.80 using the Schoolcomms system. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact Mrs Homes in the School Office as soon as possible. The contribution can be paid up to and including **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.**

## Reception

### Reception Phonics Meeting

The third and final reception phonics meeting will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2-3pm. In this meeting you will be provided with information about the end of year expectations for phonics and will be able to observe a phonics lesson. We look forward to seeing you.

Mrs Stone

### Changing home reading books

Your child will not have changed their reading books today (Friday) and will change them on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May instead.

All parents are welcome to attend Reception's year group assembly on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 9am.**

**Reminder:** Wellgate Farm is coming to visit Nursery and Reception on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

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## Year 1

### Changing home reading books

Your child will not have changed their reading books today (Friday) and will change them on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May instead.

### Phonics Screening Meeting

If you were unable to attend the phonics screening meeting on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May then please find a link to the Power Point that was shared during the meeting. This Power Point will give you information regarding the Phonics Screening check that will take place in June.

### Educational workshop –Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June - Where in the UK is Baxter Bear?

Following our Geography work on the United Kingdom earlier the year, the Year 1 pupils will be participating in an on-site workshop presented by **Freshwater Theatre**. The workshop is entitled 'Where in the UK is Baxter Bear'. The workshop will take place in school.

Baxter Bear has lived in London his entire life, but he is keen to discover what the rest of the United Kingdom has to offer. Under the supervision of the workshop facilitator, the children will join Baxter as he uses his trusty compass and handy maps to navigate his way around the United Kingdom.

The workshop will support the children's understanding of aspects related to Geography according to the National Curriculum:

\*Being able to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom;

\*Using world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries;

\*Using simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.

The workshop will take place during school time, with each class having a workshop slot before lunch.

**A contribution of £6 per child is requested, to help to cover the cost of the visit.** All payments should be made by **Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, using SchoolComms**. Without these voluntary contributions, we would not be able to offer these unique and valuable educational experiences. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact Mrs Homes in the School Office as soon as possible.

We look forward to exploring with Baxter Bear.

## Year 2

### Changing home reading books

Your child will not have changed their reading books today (Friday) and will change them on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May instead.

### Year 2 Visit to Southend and Southend Sealife Centre

We would like to take both Year 2 Classes on a visit to Southend and Southend Sealife Centre on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026**.

**Children will need to be in school prompt on the day, as we will be leaving just after 9.00am.** We are aiming to return to school by **3.15pm**, but any delays will be alerted via Schoolcomms.

Whilst at Southend the children will be consolidating their learning about the history of a local area and looking at how Southend has changed overtime. They will also visit the Southend Sealife centre to link to their learning to how we look after the environment including seas and oceans.

A contribution **of £23.00 per child** is requested, to help to cover the cost of transport and entrance to the Sealife centre for the day. **Please note, payment can be made in instalments.**

Please pay via the Schoolcomms system. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact the school office as soon as possible. The payment can be paid up to and including **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**.

**Please provide your child with a packed lunch for the day in a backpack and a water bottle.** If you need a packed lunch to be provided by the school, please let the office know by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026**.

**The children will be required to wear full uniform on the day with trainers.**

## Year 3

## Year 4

## Year 5

## Year 6

### SATs Week

During S.A.Ts week (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May) we will be open for Year 6 children from 8:20am.

We will be providing hot chocolate, juice and toast for everyone in the hall.

We hope this will make the week less stressful and provide children with a good breakfast and a chance to chat to their friends, before beginning the school day.

The children have worked extremely hard over the past 4 years and SATs week is a fantastic opportunity for both the children and the school to show how extraordinary your Year 6 children are!

We kindly ask that parents ensure that their children are well rested and early to bed on

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, ready for an enthusiastic and punctual start on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

WEEKDAY	TEST
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test: Paper 1 English Grammar, Punctuation and spelling test: Paper 2 (Spelling)
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Reading Comprehension
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Maths paper 1: ARITHMETIC Maths paper 2: REASONING 1
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Maths paper 3: REASONING 2

### Water Bottles – SATs week

We encourage children to bring their water bottles in during SATs week, however please ensure that any writing or numbers are covered before bringing the bottles in otherwise children will not be allowed them in the exam rooms.

Masking tape/Duct tape work well as a temporary cover.

All writing including names, brands and time or amount measurements should be covered.

### Induction Days

We understand that pupils will be attending induction days at their secondary schools over the coming months. Please could you inform the school of your children's induction days as it may affect school trips and lesson plans.

**Leavers' photobook** - It is the time of year that we start to put together the Year book.

Each child will have the opportunity to purchase a book that has photos from their time at St Ursula's and messages from their friends. There will be pages for class bios, teacher messages and of course many of their key memories and milestones from their time at St. Ursula's. Please could you send any school related photos of the children from the ages of Nursery to Year 6 to the following email address: [yearbook@stursulascatholicfederation.co.uk](mailto:yearbook@stursulascatholicfederation.co.uk)

Photos will need to be sent in by no later than 12th June so as to allow for the year book to be put together.

### Art Project – Materials needed

Over the next few weeks, we will be beginning an exciting sculpture project in class. To support this, we kindly ask that children start bringing in small items from home that can be used creatively.

Items could include:

- Small cardboard boxes (e.g. shoe boxes)
- Corrugated cardboard
- String, wool or ribbon
- Coloured or patterned paper

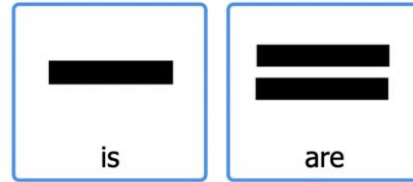
Any other recyclable materials that could be used for modelling or constructing

Please ensure items are clean and safe for classroom use.

Thank you for your support.

## Core Word of the Week-

Next week's core word of the week is 'is/are'.



## Wellgate Farm-

We have arranged for 'Wellgate Farm' to visit the school on **Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2026** to work with our Early Years children. Whilst the farm are at school we have also allocated a slot for the children who attend St. Joseph's. A letter went out a few weeks ago but just a reminder **A contribution of £4.80 per child is requested, to help to cover the cost of the visit.** Please pay using the Schoolcomms system. If anyone is having any difficulties signing up to Schoolcomms please contact Mrs Homes in the School Office as soon as possible. The contribution can be paid up to and including **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.**

## Supporting Faith At Home

### Supporting Faith at Home-

In school we use ten:ten to support our Prayer and Liturgy sessions in class. As part of this you have access to the parent portal to continue this Prayer and Liturgy at home should you wish.

To access this go to the following link: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

Username: parents-st-ursulas-catholic-primary-school

Password: StUrsulas#

## May 2026

The season of Eastertide continues in May, a joyful time when the Church celebrates Jesus' Resurrection and the new life He brings. During these weeks, our resources will focus on the Risen Jesus – who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Throughout May, the Gospel passages explore Jesus' close relationship with God the Father and the promise of the Holy Spirit, as we approach the feast of Pentecost. Children will reflect on how prayer helps us to stay close to God and how we can live each day in a way that gives glory to Him.

## THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM, IN HIM

In the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> May, children hear Jesus' words to His disciples (John 14:15–21) revealing His deep and close connection with God the Father. Children learn that through Jesus, we too can have a close friendship with God.

Through a simple rhythm activity, children reflect on what it means to stay connected. They are invited to think about how Jesus connects us to God's love and how the Holy Spirit is with us, guiding and leading us each day. Time is given for quiet reflection, helping children to consider how they can follow Jesus' commands and live in God's way.

Older children also reflect on how, in receiving Holy Communion at Mass, we are invited to share in Jesus' life and stay connected to Him.

*With your child/ren, you may also like to...*

- *Talk about what it means to stay "connected" as a family.*
- *Read the Gospel passage together and notice what Jesus promises.*
- *Pray the Doxology together, the prayer the priest says at the end of Eucharistic Prayer at Mass:*

*Through Him, and with Him, and in Him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen*

## Church Community