

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

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School Newsletter

(for parents, pupils, governors, staff and parishioners)

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Governors and Parishioners,

Welcome back to Term 4 – the start of the second half of the academic year.

We welcome Mrs Searle who joined us at the start of Term 3. Mrs Searle will be teaching Year 5. Many of you may remember her from when she was with us previously. She has made a really positive impact on our school and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in many different areas of school life. Another welcome goes to Miss Mollie Boulton who has joined the team and will be teaching Year 4 until the end of the year. She has already built good relationships with the class.



Over the last couple of weeks, there have been various exciting and engaging activities which have enhanced the learning and experiences for our children here at OLOL.

This week, to make the start of Lent, we gathered as a school community and shared Mass with the parish for Ash Wednesday. This was a lovely opportunity to start the journey through Lent with opportunities to reflect and consider what we could do to prepare personally, this might be through giving something up or equally this could be an opportunity to do something extra- helping someone, being kind or helping a charity who help others. Mrs Searle will be leading our 'Big Lent Walk' this year which is another opportunity to prepare but also to get thousands of teams or individual walkers to join together, walking and fundraising and raising awareness of inequality across the world. Together means big change can happen.



We also came together as a school on Tuesday to celebrate Pancake Day by holding some races. The weather was kind and much fun was had under the spring sun on the playground. Following some fiercely fought races we had a KS1 winner and a KS2 winner- congratulations to Dominic in Year 3 and Pemisire in Y2. Thank you to parents and carers who supported this event by sending your child/ren in with a frying pan and pancakes.



Today, we welcomed M.P.Robertson who is a published author and illustrator. He held a whole school session at the start of the day with a guest appearance from a rather large dragon. Each class had a drawing session with Mark in the hall and EYFS had a more personalised story session in their classroom. I wanted to thank all families who entered into the theme of 'Dragons and Fairytails', the children looked amazing. A thank you also goes to our amazing staff who also entered into the fun of the day.

Mr Hamlen
Acting Headteacher

SCHOOL READY – As ever, we thank you for your active support in ensuring our children are as well prepared as possible for their day at school. This can be everything from ensuring they get a good night's sleep, wearing a clean uniform, eating a hearty breakfast, having their bag packed with all their equipment needed and a water bottle, as well as a warm coat for the winter breaktimes!

One significant way to help our children start the day positively is for them to arrive to school in good time. *The office team have noticed a recent rise in the number of pupils who are late almost every single day.* Even arriving just 5 minutes late daily can have a negative impact on our children. Even as adults working in the school, we all need time to get a cuppa, chat to our colleagues, ensure all our resources are prepared and go to the loo....it sets us up for the day. Our children need this same time to get themselves physically and mentally ready too. **Please ensure your child is punctual for the start of the school day.**

In addition to helping our children feel school ready, we continue to rely on your support in upholding the school uniform policy and ensuring holiday hairstyles and habits do not creep in to school. Recently, there has been a significant rise in children wearing many bracelets on their wrists, please could you remind your child/ren that this is not in line with our uniform code.

FOR SAFETY MEASURES, AS A REMINDER -

- No hoops or dangly earrings are permitted. Only studs, which must be removed or covered up with micropore tape for PE days.
- No other jewellery (rings, bracelets, necklaces) are permitted. Watches can be worn, but not Apple watches – that are valuable if lost or broken!
- No nail varnish or make up.
- Long hair (anything which touches the shoulder or longer) must be tied back at all times.

FINALLY, do help US to help YOU by ensuring that every piece of your child's clothing is labelled clearly with their full name.

LOL BEHAVIOUR APPROACH – SAFE.....READY.....RESPECTFUL

We thought that it might be timely to share with you our approach to behaviour at LOL.

In truth, these rules are not new, and when you look at the 'Top 5' for each key component of Safe, Ready and Respectful, you will see that these have always been behaviours that we have celebrated and promoted.

Our children and staff, however, continue to appreciate the clarity that the visuals have given us, and it continues to be so warming to see the common language being used by so many in the early stages.



safe, ready and respectful

We show we are ready to learn by:		
1	approaching our learning with positivity	
2	actively listening to adults with our eyes and ears	
3	following instructions first time	
4	asking if we need help	
5	bouncing back from mistakes	

Hopefully, you will notice that these are not a list of things not to do, but rather a positive list of ways that all children and staff can keep themselves and others safe, be ready to learn and act with respect, which will help to continue to make our school a thriving place to be!

We keep ourselves and others safe by:		
1	using kind words, hands and feet towards ourselves and others	
2	staying in our classrooms during learning time with our adults	
3	using a safe space when we ask or when an adult tells us to	
4	behaving safely with school furniture and equipment	
5	protecting ourselves online	

We are respectful to everyone by:		
1	celebrating our differences and what makes us unique	
2	telling the truth	
3	looking after school equipment and the environment	
4	saying sorry and making right if I have hurt somebody with my words or actions	
5	standing up for another person who I see to be hurt	

SAFEGUARDING – Keeping ALL of our children safe.

CAR PARK SAFETY – As we start the second half of our school year, we would ask everybody to please strictly adhere to the rule that NO VEHICLE should be entering the school / church carpark during drop off and pick up times. *The only exception is if a driver has been given permission by the school for exceptional circumstances.* This **does** make it inconvenient for **all** drivers who need to park further away from school, but ensures that every single adult or child pedestrian is guaranteed to be safe at these busiest times. It will also prevent any upsetting confrontations between adults which we all seek to avoid in front of our children. Thank you in advance for playing your part.

DOGS ON SITE – We respectfully ask that you do not bring dogs on to the school grounds during drop off and pick up times. Whilst your dog may be generally very placid, we cannot predict the behaviour of over 150 children and adults – some of whom can be very anxious around dogs. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

IN TERM HOLIDAYS – Whilst we can be sympathetic to individual cases, the Local Authority and school policy for attendance states that there are no circumstances in which an in-term holiday can be authorised. As you are aware, we have a School Attendance Officer who comes in termly to monitor attendance and may seek to meet with families or even apply fines for unauthorised absence.

We would appeal to all families to please avoid booking in term breaks, but to approach the school / Attendance Officer in the most exceptional circumstances.

Term 3 round up!

Number Day: The Our Lady of Lourdes Number Day took place just before the half term break and it was a huge success. Tired of World Book Day always stealing the scene, numbers felt as though it was their turn to be celebrated and we did so in style. It was a day which gave us an opportunity to explore, understand and play with numbers in creative ways. The children were solving mysteries through whodunit activities; taking part in orienteering treasure hunts and creating number-based raps amongst a host of other tasks.

The amount of children attending school wearing number-themed clothes was impressive. I was overawed by the amount of effort made to design and create costumes for the children to parade. The school was a sea of number everywhere you looked; we actually had human-sized Numberblocks make an appearance! Furthermore, our kitchen staff even got in on the act, lighting the kitchen up with bright numbers as well as serving number themed cupcakes.

To sum up, the school's enthusiasm for number multiplied in its quest to become equal to (if not greater than) World Book Day. It was a welcome addition to our maths curriculum and we are all looking forward to celebrating Number Day 2026 next year.

Mr Hall



Roman Day- Year 3 had an action-packed Roman Day, immersing themselves in the world of ancient Rome. Many of the children and staff dressed up for the occasion, with togas, tunics and Roman armour filling the classroom, adding to the excitement of the day. We began by learning how to read and write Roman numerals before examining a range of fascinating Roman artefacts, discussing their uses and what they reveal about life in Roman times. The children were particularly excited to learn about gladiators, creating detailed wanted posters for these fierce fighters. We also explored maps to locate Rome and traced the path of the Roman Empire's invasions, discovering which countries came under Roman rule. To finish the day, we learned about the famous Roman military tactic, the tortoise formation, and put it into practice with our own Roman shields. The grand finale was a thrilling pretend battle between the Celts and the Romans, where both sides showcased their teamwork and strategy. It was a fantastic day, bringing history to life in a fun and memorable way!

Miss Cohen



DIARY

Wed. 12/03	Parent Consultation Meetings	Thurs. 27/03	PTFA Easter Disco
Mon. 17/03	Parent Consultation Meetings	Fri. 28/03	PTFA Year 2 Cake and Uniform Sale
Thurs. 20/03	PTFA- Mother's Day Secret Room	Fri. 28/03	Last Day of Term 4
Mon. 24/3 to Wed. 26/03	Year 5 Camp to Kilve Court		