



December 2024

Dear Parents

Christmas Celebrations and Catholic Life

For those of you who have been able to join us over the past few weeks for some of our Christmas Celebrations, we thank you for your support and hope that you have been able to enjoy one of the most special times of the year at school. We wish all of our families a very happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on **Monday 6th January**.

Well done to our very talented children in Reception who performed a wonderful nativity for us all last week. It is remarkable to see our very youngest children being brave enough to perform in front of an audience for us all, we are very proud of them all! We hope that they have enjoyed their first full term at Our Lady's. Thank you also to the amazing staff in our Reception classes who do a remarkable job!

Our Christmas Fayre was wonderful and helped to raise an enormous £1500 for our PTFA! An enormous amount of planning went into this and we are so grateful to all of the members of staff and parents who gave up their spare time to organise this. We are also grateful to all of the local organisations who donated some fantastic raffle prizes.

We also enjoyed two beautiful carol services on Wednesday. The annual carol concerts always help us to remember how special Christmas is to our school and our parish. Additionally, we are so grateful to all of you who contributed a gift to our 'Love Christmas' campaign so that we can help to provide Christmas Gifts for those who may not be as fortunate as some of us. It is in the true spirit of Christmas and as ever, you have been enormously generous, thank you.

Each of our classes made their own advent wreath this year and we took them over to church for them to be blessed for us by Fr. Christopher.



Sacramental Preparation

First holy communion: for those parents who have enrolled their child at Our Lady's church for first holy communion preparation, this will begin in the new year at school and Mrs. Mellon will be conducting this.

Confirmation: For the children in Year 6 whose parents have enrolled them for Confirmation, please look out for further information from Our Lady's Parish regarding the arrangements for this.

Staffing

We say a sad goodbye today, to Mrs. Laura Hart who has been a teaching assistant with us for 6 years! Mrs. Hart is going on to work at a local secondary school and we wish her lots of luck in her new role!

We will be welcoming Miss Tanisha Reynolds as Mrs. Hart's replacement in January.

We will also be welcoming Ms. Roslyn McKay who will be taking over from Mrs. Wetherall in January as Mrs. Wetherall and her husband are expecting their second baby early in the spring.

Sporting News

Pool to School

I would like to say an enormous thank you to Mrs. Wilson who spent a great deal of time organising the arrival of the swimming pool this term as well as the organisation of all of the lessons! It was an enormous undertaking and we hope that the children benefited from and enjoyed their lessons. It was wonderful to see some of our children who were initially very wary of the water, improve their confidence and skills! Thank you also to Mrs. Blakey-Tew, Mrs. Boyles, Mrs. Caughey, Miss Doran and Mrs. Harvey for helping to make sure the timetable ran as smoothly as possible.

Boccia

Our Boccia team attended the Corby, Oundle and Thrapston partnership competition this week. They were very well as a team and managed to come second overall! The team have qualified for the County finals in the new year.



Cross country

We had 8 children qualify for the second round of the cross country after the initial competition held at West Glebe Park. Three of those children then went on to qualify for the third round which is held in Northampton in January. Well done to all 80 KS2 children who took part in the first round! Best of luck to our runners for their event in January!

Athletics

35 of our KS2 children attended an indoor athletics event. Year 3 and 4 came 4th and our 5 and 6 team came 3rd! A fantastic team effort from all of them.

PE kit reminder

plain black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings.

Plain white/school logo crew neck t shirt

The items may be worn until replaced with navy kit.

Or

Plain navy shorts, jogging bottoms, leggings

Navy school branded polo tshirt

Navy school branded hooded jumper

Polite Reminders:

Uniform

Please ensure that the children have the correct uniform next term:

- White/light blue shirt
- GREY trousers, skirt or pinafore. No leggings;
- Black shoes; No trainers
- School jumper or cardigan

We are seeing increasing amounts of children without the correct PE kit. Branded tracksuits, colourful football tops and character leggings and t shirts are not part of the school PE uniform.

When representing Our Lady's School at events children must be wearing correct PE kit. It is very important for identification purposes that children are in the correct uniform. Sadly, going forward if the correct kit is not worn children will not be able to attend the event.



Attendance:

Thank you to all the parents who ensure that their children are in school every day – other than the days where they are genuinely too poorly to attend. This makes such a positive difference to the children’s confidence, friendships and their achievement with their learning.

A polite reminder that if your child is not well enough to attend school, that you should inform us on every day of their evidence either via the My Child at School app or by phoning the school. Please do not use Class Dojo messages as these are not accessible by the staff who monitor school attendance.

Term Dates

School Opens to Pupils	School Closes to Pupils
Monday 6 th January	Friday 14 th February
Monday 24 th February	Friday 4 th April
Tuesday 22 nd April	Friday 23 rd May
Monday 2 nd June	Thursday 24 th July
Staff Training Days	3 rd January 7 th April 27th June – in the middle of the term. 25 th July

Events Next Term

Day/Date	Information
Monday 6th January	Children return to school
Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd January	The central team from our Trust will be visiting the school to spend some time with us.
11th and 13th February	Parents’ Evenings: more information to follow.
Friday 14th February	End of half term
Monday 24rd February	Children return to school.

