



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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20th December, 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Holidays:

On behalf of the staff and governors at Our Lady Catholic Primary School, I would like to wish all of the children and parents a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. As we approach the end of what has been a very busy but productive autumn term, the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. As we approach the fourth Sunday of Advent, it is inevitable that our minds may start to drift away from the hard work of our day to day school business, to the festive period itself. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing seasonal weather. I do hope that as parents you will encourage your child to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass during the Christmas holidays. It is our duty to proclaim and celebrate the birth of Christ and to ensure that the real message of Christmas is at the forefront of our hearts.

Reasons to be Thankful:



It was such a pleasure to see our team of Mini Vinnies in Years 5 and 6 leading the way in our support for the homeless community at the YMCA last week. The children, who were instrumental in arranging for the various donations that were generously provided by our families, packed the bags for the homeless visitors to the local YMCA centre. This project was such a wonderful opportunity for the children in our school to live out their faith and by providing them

with 'real life' experiences of following the teachings of Christ. I cannot express my gratitude to the people who run the YMCA for allowing our children to shine.



I would also like to mention our fantastic Year 5 children once again, who visited Chambers Grove to sing Christmas Carols to the residents. This small act helped to not only spread a little cheer and good will in this festive period - but also helped to promote the role of our school within our local community. The small act by our Year 5 children made a very big difference to the lives of the people at Chambers Grove. Thank you children! You are wonderful ambassadors for the school!

Being prepared to think of others is, of course, a particular strength of Our Lady Catholic Primary School. Raising money for charity is something that our children and staff do readily and willingly. This sense of community is something very special about our school; and it was incredibly pleasing to see the fantastic £390 that was raised for UNICEF this month. The community also drew together to raise a further £262 for Children In Need and £154 for Save the Children throughout the autumn term. We would also like to say a big thank you to our families for coming together to support our recent Book Fairs, in which we raised a wonderful £390 to help us purchase new equipment for the school. In addition to this, we were also extremely grateful for the generous donations during our Harvest Festival, in which we collected a wonderful range of food items for the local food bank.



I would like to thank both Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony for their continued support, guidance and dedication to providing our children with some much needed spiritual nourishment. Both Fr. Norbert and Fr. Tony have continued to come into school to work with the children of Our Lady, supporting them in lessons and developing their spirituality. Fr.

Norbert has also continued to meet with me on a regular basis to plan ahead for how we can further strengthen the quality of the Catholic teaching and the Catholic life of the school, which have been invaluable. His commitment to embedding the Catholic ethos and identity of our school is such a strength and an essential component of our Faith journey.

I would like to thank all our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term and for being such great ambassadors for our school. It has been a privilege to see our children adapting to their new classroom environments in September, learning new concepts from an increasingly challenging curriculum and making progress throughout the term. Each and every child has contributed to the school's improvement journey and they should feel very proud of their fine achievements.

We are also very grateful to our wonderful PTA for working so hard to raise much-needed funds for the school. In this autumn term alone, the PTA have organised a Family Party, Movie Night, Christmas Party and Raffle and personalised Christmas cards and have raised an astonishing £2514 for the school. I would like to thank the PTA for their continued commitment, hard work and careful organisation in arranging these wonderful events. The PTA has planned more exciting events in the spring term and we look forward to these with great zeal! Watch this space!



A huge gratitude of thanks also goes out to our fantastically supportive parents and carers. We are so lucky at Our Lady to have such a richly diverse community and I have really enjoyed seeing the school's partnership with parents and carers in action over the past year, which has helped to ensure the very best outcomes for our children. By

working together, we can ensure that our children enjoy their time at our school, make good progress and leave us as responsible, well-qualified, mature young people, ready to make a valued contribution to society. We have received so many positive comments about the children's behaviour and attitude from a range of visitors to the school and you should all feel very proud of them!

In our parent questionnaires earlier in the autumn term, our parent community spoke in very positive terms about the school. The results of the questionnaire can be seen in the table below:

	Agree/ Strongly Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school.	100%		
My child feels safe at this school.	100%		
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	97%	1.5%	1.5%
This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	90%	3%	7%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	98.5%		1.5%
The school has high expectations for my child.	94.5%	1.5%	4%
My child does well at this school.	98.5%		1.5%
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	93%	4%	3%

There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	94.5%	1.5%	4%
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	93%	4%	3%
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	96.5%	1.5%	3%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	98.5%		1.5%

Finally, I am sure that you would like to join with me in thanking all of the staff and governors for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children of the school during the term. Our dedicated team have put so much into making this school what it is – and for providing the very best education for each and every child in the school community. Thank you.

Welcome to the Sikora and Godfrey families:



We are delighted to welcome Maya Sikora to our Nursery class and Jonathan Godfrey to our Year 5 class in January. We are looking forward to helping Maya and Jonathan and their families settle into life at Our Lady's as quickly as

possible. I am sure you will join me in helping to make all of our new families feel very welcome and part of the school community.

Christmas Reflection:

To finish, we should reflect on the true magnitude of Christ's birth. Let us remind ourselves that this is the one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest and dearest to us and those less fortunate than ourselves. We hope that in all the preparations you are able to take time to remember the true meaning of Christmas and are able to join each other in fellowship over the Christmas period to rejoice and give praise on the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Please remember that our new term begins on **Tuesday 7th January** and we look forward to seeing all of our children return refreshed and eager to learn in the new calendar year.

Merry Christmas to you all! With very best wishes for the festive period,

Richard Curry

