



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry

31st March, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

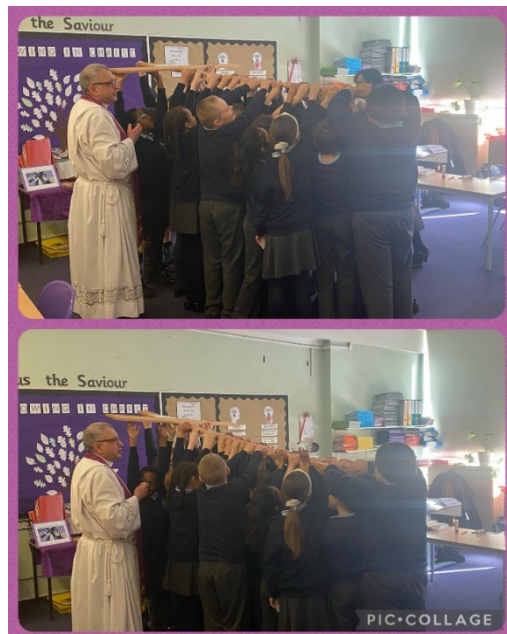
As we come to the end of what has been an incredibly busy but hugely successful and rewarding spring term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the pupils, staff, governors and parents for all of their hard work and commitment to our wonderful little school. We now look ahead to the summer term (with lots of bright sunshine!) as we continue our onward journey as one community, working together to provide the very best outcomes for our children.

Holy Week 2023:



Unfortunately, the way in which the Easter holidays have fallen this year means that we are unable to celebrate Holy Week together as a school community. Lenten preparations began at the school with our very successful morning reflections, which have been well attended throughout the term. I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout these reflections, in which we have been able to join together each day to take some much needed time out of our busy lives for spiritual enlightenment.

I would also like to thank Fr. Norbert for helping us to prepare for Easter through his continued service and dedication to the children of our school - including leading our Ash Wednesday service and the Stations of the Cross, in which we were able to imagine ourselves walking alongside Jesus on his journey to the Cross. His commitment to embedding the Catholic ethos and identity of our school is such a strength and an essential component of our Faith journey.



Yesterday afternoon, our Year 6 class treated us to a very special assembly that helped us to share in Jesus' Passion and Death as a whole school community. The children looked at each station carefully and produced a short reflection as one of the main people who were involved in Jesus' journey towards crucifixion. This very special presentation was the central focus of our Lenten preparations and allowed us the chance to reflect on specific events from Christ's last day on Earth. Thank you Year 6.

As you can see, at Our Lady we have used the Lenten season to help to fine-tune and develop our relationship with God as we prepare for the resurrection of His son. I would very much encourage all families to attend the Easter masses and services over the Easter weekend. The services in our local churches are as follows:

Good Friday (7th April)	10.00am:	Stations of the Cross	St. Bonaventure
	11.00am:	Ecumenical Service	Howardsgate
	12.00pm	Children's Stations	Our Lady's
	<i>Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion:</i>		
	3.00pm:	St. Bonaventure and Holy Family	
	5.00pm:	Our Lady's	
	8.00pm:	Good Friday Evening Service at Our Lady's	
Holy Saturday (8th April)	10.00am:	Confessions at St. Bonaventure	
	4.00pm:	Polish Blessing of Food at Our Lady's	
	8.30pm:	Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at Our Lady's	
Easter Sunday (9th April)	8.00am:	Easter Mass at St. Bonaventure	
	9.30am:	Easter Mass at Holy Family	
	10.30pm:	Easter Mass at St. Bonaventure	
	11.30am:	Easter Mass at Our Lady's	

Spring Term Reports:



Your child's report for the spring term has been emailed out to you this afternoon. Please do share and celebrate their achievements with them – they have all been working so hard throughout this busy term. All classes will also be offered a parent-teacher meeting in the summer term. Please feel free to fill out and return the comments section at the back of your child's report

and return it to the school once we reopen after the Easter holidays. Alternatively, if you want to reply via email, please feel free to do so if this is easier. We appreciate your feedback!

Reasons to be Thankful:



Being prepared to think of others, of course, is 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 we remain forever indebted to our very generous school community – especially in these challenging

financial times. In addition to the wonderful support we have received for our recent Earthquake appeal, we have also collected the following since September;

- Our CAFOD collection raised a total of £346 back in September;
- As part of our Harvest celebrations in October, we had numerous food items and toiletries donated for our local food bank;
- As part of our homeless shelter project throughout Advent, the children donated a number of essential items for the local homeless community;
- We raised £280.99 for Children in Need in November;
- Anti-Bullying Day ('Odd Sock Day') raised £90.00 in November.
- Our Year 6 fundraiser (Aid to the Church in Need) raised £338.93.

We are ever so grateful to our families for coming together to support all these worthwhile charities. Thank you!

The community also drew together at our recent Quiz Night a few weeks ago raising even more money for the school. This is in addition to the £251 that they raised this week with our giant Easter Egg Raffle! I would like to thank the PTA for their continued commitment, hard work and careful organisation of a range of wonderful events – including the successful school discos and cinema evenings that took place earlier in the year. The PTA has planned more exciting events in the summer term and we look forward to these with great zeal! Watch this space!

Twitter:



I just wanted remind parents and careers that our school Twitter account provides daily updates of any key news and events that may be happening. We also tweet a 'Thought for the Day' each morning to start your day with encouragement and inspiration; wisdom and ponderings from people of all walks of life. To follow us on Twitter, please use **@OurLadySchWGC** or follow the link on the school website.

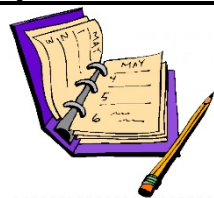
Birthdays in April:



We are delighted to share with you the names of the children and staff who will be celebrating their birthdays in April (including throughout the Easter holidays). We hope you all enjoy your special day with friends and family.

EYFS	Aiden
Year 1	Marley
Year 2	Cara, Adam, Manuel & Henry
Year 3	
Year 4	Jack
Year 5	Nathan
Year 6	Maria
Staff	

Key Dates for the Calendar:



A list of key dates for the spring term has been included in this letter for your reference. Further information about the school will also be uploaded onto our school website and in our newsletters throughout the term. I hope you find these useful.

AND FINALLY...



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

I would also like to thank our children for their continued hard work this term. Each child has contributed to the school's continuing journey of improvement and they should feel very proud of what they have achieved. They can look forward now to a well-deserved rest over the Easter holidays so that they can return refreshed and recharged for the onset of the summer term.

Finally, I would also like to thank our fantastically supportive parents and carers. We are so lucky at Our Lady's to have such a wonderful community and I have really enjoyed seeing the school's partnership with parents and carers strengthen throughout the course of the year, which has helped to ensure the very best outcomes for our children. Looking ahead, it is by working together that we will be able to 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. You should all feel very proud of your children – we certainly are!

May this Easter season be one of great blessings and graces for the community of Our Lady and may the peace of Christ, our Lord, fill each of us and those we love in the coming days, and throughout the Easter season. It is clear to all that we are a Christ-centred community with Gospel values at our core. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support for the ethos and mission statement of the school.

Remember that our new term begins on **Monday 17th April** and we look forward to seeing all of our children return refreshed and eager to learn in the summer term.

I hope you all have a happy, holy and peaceful Easter.

With very best wishes,

Richard Curry

