



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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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 fantastic school. We now look ahead to our final term of the academic year for 2018/19, and continuing our onward journey as one community, working together for to provide the very best outcomes for our children.

Holy Week:



Unfortunately, the way in which the Easter holidays have fallen this year has meant that we have been 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. Again, 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 Lady - 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.

On Thursday, our Year 5 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 5.

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	<i>Children's Way of the Cross (Stations):</i> 10.00am: St. Bonaventure 12.00pm: 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	9.30am: Morning Prayer at Our Lady's 10.30am: Confessions at St. Bonaventure 4.00pm: Polish Blessing of Food at Our Lady's 9.00pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at Our Lady's
Easter Sunday	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

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 it was incredibly pleasing to see the £626 that the school raised for out CAFOD, one of our Lenten charities, throughout this Lenten season. The community also drew together at our recent Quiz Night a couple of weeks ago and raised a fantastic £471 for the school. 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!

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.

Reception	Jack and Florence
Year 1	Nathan and Alice
Year 2	Julia and Maria
Year 3	Layla
Year 4	Thomas and Nina
Year 5	Aoife, Maya and Matthew
Year 6	Grace, Henry, Harry and Gabrielle
Staff	Mrs Lee and Mrs Sherwood

Our Lady's Art and DT Exhibition 2019:



It was an absolute privilege to be involved in my first Art and DT Exhibition at the school. As part of this creative celebration, Art and DT work was displayed to show friends, family and parents what talented children we have at our school! The theme of this year's exhibition was William Blake's famous poem, 'The Tyger', and all of the work on display represented the children's enthusiasm and

understanding of the processes involved in design in a variety of contexts. As you can see, the calibre of work on display was phenomenal and provided a real showcase of the creative talent that flows through our school. Thank you to everyone involved in this wonderful exhibition, including the children and staff. Thank you also to the numerous parents, carers and visitors who came to view the work on show. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed the experience!



Breakfast Club:



This is just a reminder that our breakfast club is open each morning and is proving to be very popular amongst our parent community. It is no longer necessary to pre-book your child into our breakfast club as you can now simply turn up on the day in order to complete a booking form. In the summer term, we are looking forward to using the outside grounds in our breakfast club, which will add a new dimension to the children's enjoyment. For more information, please just ask at the office.

And 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 year. 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!

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs Sherwood and Mrs Gilfrin will be staying with us at Our Lady's as the Year 5 class teachers for the rest of the academic year. Both Mrs Sherwood and Mrs Gilfrin have both worked together to provide such a wonderfully informative, enjoyable and inspiring curriculum to the Year 5 children and we are delighted that they will be continuing to do this in the coming term.

I would like to thank our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term. It has been a privilege to see the pupils of our school learning new concepts from an ever 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.

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 richly diverse community and I have really enjoyed seeing the school's partnership with parents and carers strengthen over the past two terms, 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!



The Easter period is always a special time for us. It is a time to reflect on what the 'good news' of the Gospel really means. It is a time that we should allow the joyful hope we share in Jesus Christ to be ever more evident in the way we practice our faith. It is very important that the world is able to see the face of Jesus at this moment in time.

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 at this time that we are a Christ-centred community with Gospel values at our core. Once again, 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 **Tuesday 23rd 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

