



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden City  
Hertfordshire AL7 3TF  
Tel: (01707 324408)

Email: [admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourladys527.herts.sch.uk)

Website: [www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys527.herts.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry

7<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **PRAYER FOR THE START OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR**



*Loving God,*

*Our creator, our saviour, our companion,  
Bless this journey of a new school year that we undertake today.*

*Refresh our souls and renew our spirits  
as we embrace the beautiful ministry you have called us to.  
We welcome those who are new to our school community and  
ask that you strengthen them to share the wonderful gifts you have given them.  
Lord, make our hearts pure as we prepare for the return of our children to this  
school, and may you guide them to return with open hearts  
and minds eager to learn.*

*We ask this in Your name,  
Amen*

I hope that you all had a peaceful and restful summer. It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school this week after the summer holidays that have just passed. Looking at the school community together again and looking so smart, with so many smiling and enthusiastic faces, was really inspiring for us all to see.

It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the very first time as the Headteacher of Our Lady Catholic Primary School and I consider it an absolute privilege to have been appointed. I am eagerly looking forward to continuing the hard work that has taken place in the school under the leadership of Mrs Corr and I am proud to be able to say that I can continue leading Our Lady on our onward journey. Being a Headteacher is a huge responsibility and also an awesome privilege. There is simply nothing greater than being with the children and seeing their love of life. Therefore,

everything should be geared towards driving standards forwards in our community centred on our faith – for God is at the heart of all we do.

I have been so impressed with both the children and staff in my first week in the school and I have made it clear to them that to become an even greater school we will all need to work together and try our very best every day! Every child can do amazing things and it is our job to help make this potential a reality. With an outstanding education, every child has the freedom to choose their own future. I have been fortunate enough to work in a range of schools that believe education is about developing the whole person, socially, emotionally and spiritually - as well as academically. These are the principles that I bring to Our Lady Catholic Primary School.

My vision for the school is to ensure that the needs of all our children are met in all areas of school life and that each child is given a wealth of experience and opportunities. This in turn, will guarantee they leave Our Lady at the end of Year 6, feeling extremely confident, responsible and competent members of society, ready for the next step on their educational journey. True excellence comes in schools when all concerned want to challenge themselves, take initiative and grow because they are inspired, excited and motivated. I firmly believe in celebrating success and making sure everyone knows they are loved by God. My overall goal as Headteacher is simple – to ensure that each and every child, in Christ's image, develops their full potential to become the very best that they can be.

As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you feel you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school. I will be holding termly coffee mornings, in which, parents/carers can chat to both myself and the senior leadership team to express opinions on what the school is doing well and/or any areas that may need addressing.

### **Beginning of Term Mass:**



Our mass to celebrate the start of the new school year will take place on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm**. The mass will be in the school hall and it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible there to celebrate with us.

### **Our School Community:**



Over the next week, we are eagerly looking forward to welcoming all of our Nursery and Reception children into school. I am sure you will join me in helping to make all of our new families feel very welcome and part of the Our Lady school community. We are also delighted to welcome Maya Wawak to our Year 4 class. We look forward to helping all of our new children settle into life at Our Lady 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.

### **Home-School Agreement 2018/19:**



At Our Lady Catholic Primary School, it is our aim to work in partnership with our parents and carers to ensure that every child is supported with their learning and is encouraged to achieve their full potential - both inside and outside of the classroom.

At the start of this new academic year, I would like you to carefully read our Home School Agreement for 2018/19 (which is attached). The aim of the agreement is to provide us all with an agreed framework through which your child can fulfil their full potential while at Our Lady. The agreement, which will help to further strengthen our home school links, highlights the importance of the school, the parents and the children working together to achieve the very best outcomes.

I would like you to read through the Home School Agreement with your child and ask that all children and parents sign the agreement, along with a school signature, so that we are all working in partnership to improve standards within an environment of trust. I would be grateful if you can sign the relevant sections and return to the school office by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September** at the latest. A copy of the Home-School Agreement can be also downloaded from our school website.

### **Class Code of Conduct and Behaviour Contracts:**



During the course of this first week back at school, the children will be working with the staff to create a class code of conduct. They will also be signing a class behaviour contract, stating that each child agrees to follow the rules and guidelines set out in the class code. These will be displayed prominently in each classroom.

### **Curriculum Information:**



Curriculum overviews of the topics that your child will be studying will be handed out to parents next week and will also be shortly be available on the school website. You can be assured that as Headteacher, I will strive to create the best education for your children whilst they are members of our school family.

### **Twitter:**



I just wanted to let you all know that I will be using the school's Twitter account each day to update you with any key news and events that may come up. I will also be tweeting 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.

### **Key Dates for the Calendar:**



A list of key dates for the autumn 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 fortnightly newsletters. I have also attached a copy of our term dates for the academic year ahead for your reference. I hope you find these useful.

I, and all the staff at Our Lady, are very much looking forward to the year ahead, working in partnership with you and your children as we continue to build on the successes of the past year. We clearly have a wonderful community at our school and, as last year demonstrated, when we all work together as one community, inspire and foster a love of learning and endeavour to follow our gospel values, we see our children flourish academically, spiritually and morally.

I look forward to seeing you all over the coming days in the playground.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Curry

*Headteacher*