



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. D. Abrahams

7th January, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

A HAPPY, BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

My first letter of 2020 comes with my very best wishes for a wonderful new year for all of you. I trust that you have all had a chance to relax, reflect and enjoy the company and love of your families over the Christmas holiday period. On behalf of all the team at Our Lady Catholic Primary school, I would like to thank you for your generosity over Christmas – it was truly appreciated by all of us. Thank you very much!

Our School Community:



We are delighted to welcome Maya to our Nursery class who joined our school this week. We are also looking forward to welcoming Jonathan to our Year 5 class, who will be joining us next week. We look forward to helping both Maya and Jonathan and their families to settle into life at Our Lady's as quickly as possible. I am sure you will join me in helping to make them both feel very welcome and part of the school community.

Reception Class Admissions for September 2020 (for children who reach the age of 4 between 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020):



We are delighted to say that our school is extremely popular, but we would not like any of our families to miss the deadline for applications for admission to our Reception class. If you have a child who reached or will be reaching the age of 4 between the above dates and you would like them to join our school, please ensure that your application forms are handed in before **January 15th 2020**.

Awards Assemblies:



We would like to remind parents and carers of our invitation to join us in the hall for our weekly Awards Assemblies. As you may be aware, each week children are presented with awards for good behaviour and good work. We also celebrate birthdays and award the weekly attendance cup. This assembly provides the school community with the chance of celebrating achievements in a positive environment and we would like to include all of our parents and carers into this important celebration.

Class Assemblies:



This term, we will once again be having special class assemblies, which will give the children the opportunity to share their work with an audience. The children are delighted when their parents attend and you are always welcome, whether it is to see your own child's class or another year group. Assemblies will begin at 2.45pm. The dates for the assemblies this term are:

Monday 3 rd February	–	Year 1
Monday 10 th February	–	Year 3
Monday 2 nd March	–	Year 2
Monday 9 th March	–	Year 4
Monday 16 th March	–	Year 6
Thursday 2 nd April	–	Year 5 (2pm)

Year 5 will be presenting a very special Lenten class assembly, based on the Stations of the Cross at **2.00pm** on **Thursday 2nd April, 2020**.

Information Sessions for Parents:

We are delighted to announce a number of training opportunities that we are providing parents and carers for in the coming weeks.

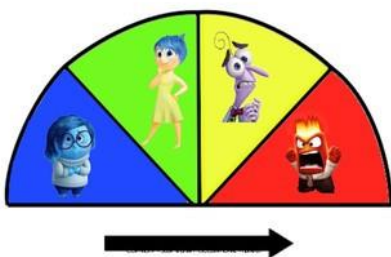
Family English Course (5 weeks):



Starting on **Wednesday 15th January**, we are running a 'Family English Course' for parents and carers of pupils in Reception and Year 1. On this course, which runs for 5 weeks in the school library (on a Wednesday afternoon), you will learn how phonics, early reading and writing are taught in school and you will be given lots of ideas on how to help your child develop these skills at home. You will also learn about how outdoor learning and messy play can benefit your child's learning. Using story sacks and props you will find out how to make books more exciting. You will also be provided with the

opportunity of practicing what you have learnt with your child when they join you during the session. The cost of this 5 week course, which is run by Hertfordshire's Adult and Family Learning Service, is only £15 for the full 5 sessions. Please contact the school office as soon as possible to book your place.

Zones of Regulation training:



On **Tuesday 21st January**, we will be delivering an information session on how to deliver the 'Zones of Regulation' programme. This session, which is free of charge, will be delivered by Vaneessa Sudan, an SEN Consultant, who is working with the school. 'Zones of Regulation' is an exciting programme that the school will be introducing to help children to self-regulate by recognising their emotional feelings by using colours and by exploring strategies/tools to

help them to move from one 'zone' to another. The training session will go through the lessons and explain how this will be delivered to children. This is particularly effective for children displaying high levels of anxiety or anger management difficulties. The training will take place in the school hall and will start at 9:00am and finish at 10:00am.

Phonics Workshop:



Finally, we are delighted to announce that we will also be running a Phonics workshop for parent and carers of children in EYFS and KS1. In this session, staff from EYFS and KS1 will be sharing strategies with you on how to support your child's reading and phonics skills. The team will also be showing you how the teaching of phonics progresses from one key stage to the other. Parents of children in KS2 are also welcome to attend. This workshop will be

take place on **Thursday 30th January** at 9.15am in the school hall and is also free of charge.

We are planning more parent workshops later on in the spring and summer terms and hope to further strengthen the positive relationships that the school has with our parent community. Working in partnership with our parents and carers will ensure that our children receive the very best education that they can at our school.

Birthdays:

We would like to wish all of the following children a very happy birthday during the month of January:

Nursery	–	Lily
Reception	–	Karola and Liliana
Year 1	–	Preeya
Year 2	–	Chase and Gabriel
Year 3	–	Michaela
Year 4	–	Oliver, Grace and Lucas
Year 5	–	Grace and Alex
Year 6	–	Harry, Bernadette and Sarah



Uniform:



We are really grateful to all parents for supporting our uniform code. Our school uniform can be purchased on-line from 'Your Team Sportswear' on the following website: www.yourteamsportswear.co.uk

Can I remind all parents to ensure that their child adheres to the following guidelines:

The uniform is as follows:

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo on.
- Sky blue polo shirt with school logo on.
- Grey trousers/skirt/or pinafore dress.
- Light blue and white checked dress (summer)
- Tights should be navy or grey.
- Black school shoes; no trainers, boots, high heels, sandals.

Ideally there should be no jewellery worn at school. If jewellery is worn, please take note of the following guidelines:

- Small plain studs, one in each ear.
- Small watches (at your own risk).
- No logos or shapes in boys' hair or eyebrows.

- All girls with hair below the shoulders **must** be tied back.
- Hair bands; **white**, **red** or **black** scrunchies or elastic bands.
- No make-up or nail varnish.

We ask children to keep their PE kits in school during term time (apart from swimming kits).

PE kits should be as follows:

- White T-shirt (ideally with our school logo).
- Plain navy blue school shorts (plain black jogging trousers for the colder months).
- Black plimsolls.

Dates for the Diary:

Below is a list of dates for your diaries – further information will be given later in the term with regards to upcoming class trips.

JANUARY 2020	
6 th	Epiphany – INSET Day
8 th	Wellbeing classes start for Years 1, 3 and 5.
13 th	Year 3 swimming lessons begin
14 th	Beginning of Term Mass (2.15pm)
15 th	Family English Training sessions begins for parents (1pm)
21 st	Parent training for 'Zones of Regulation' in hall (9am)
25 th	Burns Night
25 th	Chinese New Year (Year of the Rat)
27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
29 th	Mini Vinnie filming for SVP website (1pm)
30 th	Parent Reading Workshop for EYFS/KS1 in hall (9.15am)

FEBRUARY 2020	
3 rd	Year 1 Class Assembly (2.45pm)
7 th	PTA Valentines Disco (4pm)
7 th	Charles Dickens' Birthday
10 th	Year 3 Class Assembly (2.45pm)
11 th	Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day Assembly in hall (2.45pm)
11 th	Resources and Teaching and Learning Governor Committee Meetings
14 th	Lenten Promises to be completed in school
w/c 17th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
24th	INSET DAY – School closed for children
25 th	Shrove Tuesday
25 th	Full Governing Body Meeting (6pm)
26 th	Ash Wednesday – Lenten Reflections begin this morning (8.40am)
26 th	Fr. Norbert distributing ashes in classes (1pm)

MARCH 2020	
1 st	St. David's Day
2 nd	Year 2 Class Assembly (2.45pm)
4 th	Children's Lenten Promises to be completed
5 th	World Book Day
w/c 9 th	British Science Week

w/c 9th	Bikeability begins for Year 5 children (all week)
9th	Year 4 Class Assembly (2.45pm)
13th	Sport Relief Fundraising Day
16th	Year 6 Class Assembly (2.45pm)
17th	St. Patrick's Day
20th	PTA Quiz Night (tbc)
21st	World Poetry Day
22nd	Mothering Sunday
27th	Fr. Norbert to lead Stations of the Cross for the classes (9.15am)

APRIL 2020	
1 st	Reports to be handed out to parents
2 nd	Year 5's Easter Assembly (2.00pm)
2 nd	Parent-Teacher Meetings (following reports)
3 rd	END OF TERM (School closes at 1.30pm)
10 th	GOOD FRIDAY
12 th	EASTER SUNDAY

Please note that events may also be subject to change. If this happens, you will be informed as soon as possible.

Please remember that our summer term begins on **Monday 20th April, 2020.**

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our school over this academic year and wish you the very best for 2020.

This promises to be a very fruitful and successful year. Thank you for supporting us on our journey!

Kind regards,

Richard Curry



SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2019/2020

AUTUMN TERM 2019

	From	To
FIRST HALF	Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Friday 25 th October 2019
HALF TERM	Monday 28 th October 2019	Friday 1 st November 2019
SECOND HALF	Monday 4 th November 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019
Occasional Day	Friday 6 th December, 2019 (School closed)	

SPRING TERM 2020

	From	To
FIRST HALF	Tuesday 7 th January 2020	Friday 14 th February 2020
HALF TERM	Monday 17 th February 2020	Friday 21 st February 2020
SECOND HALF	Monday 24 th February 2020	Friday 3 rd April 2020

(Good Friday 10th April/ Easter Sunday 12th April, 2020)

SUMMER TERM 2020

	From	To
FIRST HALF	Monday 20 th April 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020
HALF TERM	Monday 25 th May 2020	Friday 29 th May 2020
SECOND HALF	Tuesday 2 nd June 2020	Friday 17 th July 2020

N.B. TEACHER TRAINING DAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED ON THESE DAYS PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES

MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2019

MONDAY 6th JANUARY, 2020

MONDAY 1ST JUNE, 2020

MONDAY 20th JULY, 2020

TUESDAY 21st JULY, 2020

SCHOOL CLOSING AT 1.30pm: 20th December 2019, 3rd April 2020 and 17th July 2020

Bank Holidays – SCHOOL CLOSED ON THESE DAYS

8th MAY, 2020

25th MAY, 2020 (during half term)