



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry

19th April, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, as we return to school, the Church has just celebrated the great feast of Easter – in which Jesus rose from the dead. This celebration now goes on until the feast of Pentecost (Sunday 28th May), the birthday of the Church. At Pentecost, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who empowers and enables us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. I trust that you have all had a chance to relax, reflect and enjoy the company and love of your families over the Easter holiday period. It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the first time in this final term of the academic year. As the warm weather begins to settle in, we are all looking forward to enjoying a successful and productive summer term at Our Lady's.

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY:



very welcome and part of our fantastic school community.

Over the course of the past term, we have been delighted to welcome Andrew, Jason and Louis who have all recently joined the Our Lady's school family. We are very much looking forward to helping our new children settle into life at our school as quickly as possible. It has been a pleasure getting to know the children over the course of the spring term and to see how quickly they settled into their new classes, making lots of new friends on the way. I am sure you will join me in helping to make them all feel

WRAPAROUND CARE UPDATE:



As you are aware, we have been working hard to set up extended after school provision to complement our breakfast club offer to ensure that our school can offer complete 'wraparound' care for our children. We are delighted to announce that from Tuesday 2nd May, we will be running an extended after school club from 3.15pm to 5.15pm for children from Reception to Year 6. Our 'after school' provision will be aimed at parents who cannot collect their children at the end of the school day (e.g. working parents) and will operate on **Mondays to Thursdays** from the end of the school day until 5.15pm. We are using this as an opportunity for gauging the success of the club before making it a permanent full time fixture with an outside provider. We will need to ensure that there are enough children in the club each day to ensure that it is financially viable for the school.

Our after school club will be run by our senior leaders (Mr. Curry, Mrs Avery, Miss McDonald and Miss Gajjar) and a teaching assistant (Mrs Green, Miss Mitchell, Mrs O'Donnell and Miss Woodman).

Parents will therefore have the peace of mind that their children are in a safe, secure environment in familiar surroundings and with familiar adults. The children will have access to most of the school facilities during their time in the after school club which will include the computing suite, library, classrooms, school hall, playground and field. The activities provided will be varied, engaging, safe, educational and child friendly. These will include:

- Physical activities in the hall and playground
- Arts/Crafts (including painting and sculpture)
- Computing Club
- Homework Club
- Recreational time
- Drama/Role play
- Reading Zone
- Gardening Club

Our new after school club will be starting on Tuesday 2nd May (the day after the additional bank holiday). If you would like to book a place for your child, please log onto the School Gateway App from Friday 21st April.

We hope that this additional resource will prove to be very useful for our parent and carer community and that it makes life that little bit easier for you! Please see the poster that is attached to this letter for more details.

SUMMER TERM MASSES:



We are delighted to announce that we have planned three school masses for the summer term – which will all be celebrated by Fr Norbert. We also, of course, have a very special Mass coming up, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols. The masses will take place on the following days:

- **18th May – Ascension Day Mass** in the school hall at 9.15am.
- **20th June – Our Lady Catholic Primary School's 70th Anniversary Mass** at the church. The Mass, which will be celebrated by Archbishop Vincent Nichols, will begin at 11am and will be followed by a whole-school celebration in the school afterwards.
- **29th June – First Holy Communion Celebration Mass** on the Feast Day of St. Peter and St. Paul. This will be led by the Year 3 children and the children who made their First Holy Communion this month will be invited to wear their communion clothes for this special service, which will take place at 9.15am in the school hall.

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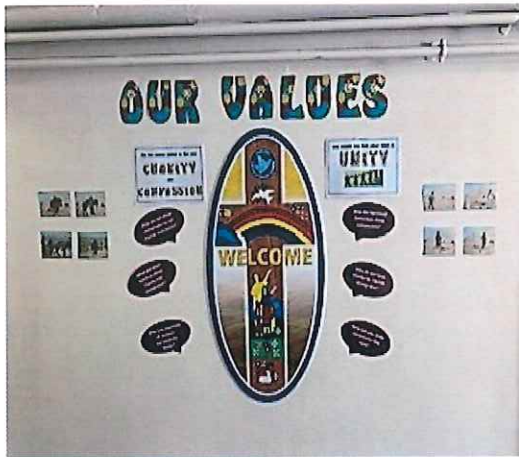
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- **17th July – Year 6 Leavers' Mass**, which will, naturally, be prepared and led by the Year 6 children. It will be taking place on Monday 17th July at 1.45pm in the Church. The Year 6 Leavers' Party will take place later on that same evening at the school (at 6pm).

Please also note that children from our Year 3 class will be celebrating their First Holy Communion on Sunday 30th April and Sunday 11th June at Our Lady's Church. This is the most important and memorable Sacrament as it allows us to receive the Body and Blood of Christ and, in doing so, Jesus becomes a part of us. It is also a gift we receive each week at Mass as we remember Jesus' sacrifice at his death. We wish all of the children the best for their very special day.

THEMES AND VALUES FOR THE SUMMER TERM:



Just to remind you that our whole school theme for the first half term of our summer term is '**Respecting Those Around Us**'. The two values which we are associating with this are '**Honesty**' and '**Equality**' - so please feel free to impart your knowledge and thoughts with your children if they bring it up in discussion. We will be exploring these themes in both class and in our Gospel assemblies and linking it to the Bible story of Zacchaeus the Tax Collector. Perhaps you could remind your child of this story at home and think about how Jesus saw everybody as equal.

REFLECTION ON THE MYSTERIES:



As I am sure you are all aware, May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, at Our Lady's we will be marking this in two ways. From Wednesday 3rd May, we will be beginning each Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a short reflection in the school hall on one of the reflections of the Rosary.

The Mysteries of the Rosary are designed to help focus our prayers on the life, ministry, and Passion of Our Lord. We would like to invite parents, carers and other members of the school community to join the staff and children for these short 10 minute reflections in the school hall at **8.40am** each Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning until the half term break. We ask that you enter

the school through the front entrance at 8.40am. We look forward to seeing you there.

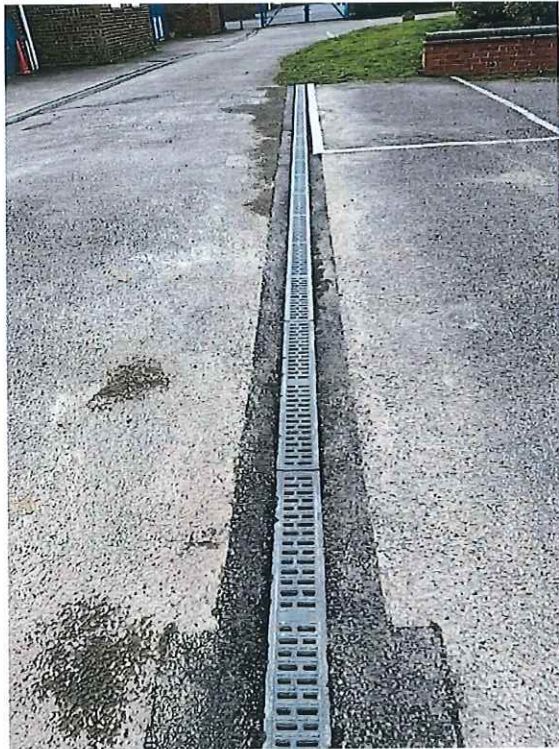
LUNCHTIME ROSARY PRAYER GROUP:



From Wednesday 3rd May, staff will also be leading the children in praying a decade of the rosary each day at 12.15pm. Children will have the opportunity of attending these prayer sessions and reflecting further on each Mystery. We are encouraging children to bring in a set of rosary beads to assist in their prayer. We would also like to encourage all parents and carers to share in these Marian devotions with the school and at home, for example, by saying a decade of the rosary together as a family.

CAR PARKS WORKS:

Over the course of the Easter Holidays, we have had some work done on the drainage system in the school car park. As you are aware, the old drainage vents were in very poor condition and made the car park unsafe for pedestrians. We are very happy with the high quality of the finished work and hope you agree that it has made our car park a much nicer area of the school premises. Can we please remind parents not to walk through the Car Park at drop off/collection. Thank you for your support.



SCHOOL PERFORMANCE:



We are delighted to announce that this summer's School Production will be taking place for parents and carers on both **Tuesday 11th July** at 1.45pm and **Wednesday 12th July** at 7.00pm. The children will all be able to watch a performance earlier in the school day so that we can maximise the invitation to as many parents as possible for the two performances. Please come and join us for this exciting event – the final time that our wonderful Year 6

children will be performing together as a class! The performance will be a ticket-only affair, with more information to follow after the half term. Please book the dates in your diaries.

PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATIONS:



Another important date to put in your diaries is the summer term Parent-Teacher Consultations, which will be taking place on **Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th June** from 3pm to 6pm. These meetings will provide parents and carers with the chance to find out how their child is getting on as they prepare to move to their next year group in September. The meetings will take place at the school and parents will be notified when they are able to book appointments shortly after the half term break.

THE RETURN OF THE DAILY MILE!



It is recommended that children should be doing 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Therefore, we will once again be offering children and parents the chance to participate in the Daily Mile each morning at 8.40am (weather dependent) starting from **next week**. Children, staff and parents can choose to either run or jog at their own pace, for just 10-15 minutes every day, outside with their friends. Taking part in regular physical activity has lots of benefits for children's physical health, mental health and wellbeing, and their learning. So come along and join in the fun with your children. Please note that this will be voluntary and you can choose whether you would like to participate or not...but it would be good to see as many of you there as possible!

ADDITIONAL BANK HOLIDAY:



As you may be aware, an extra bank holiday was announced to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on **Monday 8th May**. Please note that the school will be closed to all pupils in this day. However, we will be marking this important occasion in school with a number of themed events both before and after the coronation ceremony takes place.

CONGRATULATIONS:

We have also had some new-born babies amongst our school community. Congratulations to Mrs Weaver, who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy during the Easter holidays. The child is healthy and safely home with mum and dad, enjoying his new life with his new family. We would like to offer Mrs Weaver, and her husband Mark, our most sincere congratulations on this wonderful news.

Congratulations also to Emilie in Nursery and Bella in Year 5 on the birth of their new baby brother, Huxley George Williams-Flynn who was born on 1st April and weighed a healthy 10lbs.



Baby Weaver



Huxley George Williams-Flynn

PIANO RECITAL:



We would like to welcome the parents and carers of our budding musicians to come and watch our grand Summer Piano Concert, which will be taking place in the school hall on Thursday 6th July. Mrs Ameryk has been working hard, teaching the children how to develop their piano-playing skills and the children are very excited to show you how far they have all come. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the children's musical achievements in a very enjoyable and relaxing way. We can't wait! All are welcome!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:



Below is a list of dates for your diaries – please make a note of them!

APRIL 2023	
17 th	Term starts – children back at school
17 th	National offer day for primary schools
18 th	Full Governing Body Meeting (6.00pm)
19 th	Year 2 begin swimming lessons this term
23 rd	St. George's Day
24 th	Curriculum information to be handed out to parents
30 th	First Holy Communion Mass at Our Lady's Church

MAY 2023	
1 st	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
2 nd	Key Stage 1 SATS assessment window opens throughout May
3 rd	Morning Reflections begin in hall (8.40am)
8 th	BANK HOLIDAY FOR KING'S CORONATION
9 th - 2 th	KS2 SATs
w/c 15 th	Walk to School Week
18 th	Ascension Day Mass (9.15am in the school hall)
w/c 22 nd	Whole School Fieldwork Activities (EYFS to Year 6)
26 th	Sports Day: EYFS/KS1 (9.30am) and KS2 (1.15pm)
28 th	Pentecost Sunday
w/c 29 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY

JUNE 2023	
w/c 5 th	Hinduism Week (as part of our RE curriculum)
5 th	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check period begins
8 th	EYFS trip to Paradise Park
11 th	First Holy Communion Mass at Our Lady's Church
w/c 12 th	Year 1 Phonics tests take place this week
12 th	Whole School Photograph for King Charles' Coronation
13 th	Parent-Teacher Consultations (3pm to 6pm)
15 th	Parent-Teacher Consultations (3pm to 6pm)
18 th	Fathers' Day
19 th	School photographer in for class photos
20 th	70 th Anniversary Mass and Celebration (with Cardinal Nichols)
20 th	Governor Committee Meetings (8.00am and 4.30pm)
25 th - 28 th	Year 6 Residential Trip to Marchant's Hill
29 th	Year 3 Holy Communion Celebration Mass (9.15pm at the school).

JULY 2023	
4 th	Year 6 taking part in Healthy Relationships programme
4 th	Full Governing Body Meeting (6.30pm)
6 th	Summer Piano Concert (2pm)
7 th	Reserve Sports Day: EYFS/KS1 (9.30am) and KS2 (1.15pm)
11 th	Year 6 School Performance (1.45pm)
12 th	Year 6 School Performance (7.00pm)
13 th	Transition Morning (children meet new teachers for next year)
13 th	Year 6 Transition Day across Herts
17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (1.45pm)
17 th	Year 6 Leavers' Party (6pm)
18 th	EYFS Graduation (11.00am)
19 th	End of Year Assembly (9.30am)
19 th	END OF TERM (School closes at 1.00pm)

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

As you can see, there is an awful lot to look forward to in the coming weeks and months of this summer term. Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our school over this academic year. Your commitment to the school has been an essential part of our success. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Richard Curry

Gardening



Games

After School Club

Computing

Teamwork

Cooking

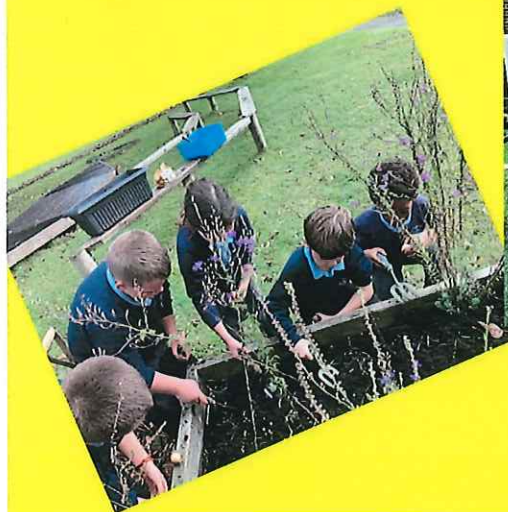


Designing

Reading

Artwork

Friendship



Come and join in the fun at our **NEW**
After School Club at Our Lady's

3.15pm – 5.15pm Monday to Thursday

£5 for 3.15pm – 4.15pm)

£10 for 3.15pm – 5.15pm

£5 for children who attend a current after school club until 4.15pm and want to stay until 5.15pm