



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school today after the Easter holidays, despite it following the very sad news of the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. Throughout his ministry, Pope Francis repeatedly challenged us to live the values of the Gospel by ensuring we reach out to those on the peripheries of society; the marginalised, the poor and those without a voice. Pope Francis engaged a generation of children and young people to put their faith into action, possibly like no previous Pontiff, to care for our world and for those in greatest need through prayer, love, justice and above all hope.

This morning, we gathered together as a school community to remember Pope Francis in our prayers and to give thanks for his life and inspiration. We ask you all to keep Pope Francis firmly in your thoughts and prayers in the coming days.

Loving God,



*We give you thanks for the life of Pope Francis,
a true voice for the voiceless,
a faithful steward of your creation,
and a man dedicated to dialogue and peace.
Through his example, he taught us what it
means to be a living witness of your boundless
mercy and a true pilgrim of hope.*

*We pray that you welcome him into your
eternal peace and grant him the reward of
everlasting joy.*

*May we, your Church, in this Jubilee Year,
commit to living our lives with faith, optimism,
and a deep commitment to creating a better
world for all.*

Amen

THEMES AND VALUES FOR THE SUMMER TERM:



Our whole school theme for the first half of this 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.

SUMMER TERM MASSES:



Please note that children from our school will be celebrating their First Holy Communion on **11th May** at Holy Family Church, **18th May** and **15th June** at Our Lady's Church and **25th May** at St. Bonaventure'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.

We are delighted to announce that we have also planned the following whole school masses for the summer term – which will all be celebrated by Canon Norbert. The masses will take place on the following days:

- **25th June** – Our *First Holy Communion Celebration Mass*, which will be led by the children who made their First Holy Communion throughout the summer term. The children will be invited to wear their communion clothes for this special service, which will take place at 2.00pm in the school hall.
- **15th July** – *Year 6 Leavers' Mass*, which will, naturally, be prepared and led by the Year 6 children. It will be taking place on Tuesday 15th July at 2.00pm in the school.

Classes will also be attending Monday morning services at the church at 9.30am on the following days:

- **Monday 19th May** – EYFS and Year 6
- **Monday 23rd June** – Year 4 and Year 5
- **Monday 30th June** – Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3

Parents, carers and friends will be welcome to join us for any of the above services. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

REFLECTION ON THE MYSTERIES:



As I am sure you are all aware, May is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and, at Our Lady's, we will be marking this in two ways. From **Friday 2nd 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. This will help us to 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:



Throughout May, our Chaplaincy team will also be leading the children in praying a decade of the rosary during lunchtimes. Children will be provided with 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.

THE RETURN OF THE DAILY MILE!



As you may well be aware, it is recommended that children should be doing 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Therefore, we are once again offering children and parents the chance to participate in the Daily Mile each morning at 8.40am (weather dependent) **starting from next Monday**. 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!

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.

APRIL 2025	
23 rd	St. George's Day
24 th	Chaplaincy team visit to John Henry Newman School
28 th	Curriculum information to be emailed to parents
29 th	Year 4 trip to Whipsnade Zoo

MAY 2025	
2 nd	Morning Reflections begin in hall for Month of Mary (8.40am)
1 st	PTA Meeting in the school hall (9.00am)
5 th	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
8 th	VE Day (80 th Anniversary)
11 th	First Holy Communion Mass at Holy Family Church (10.30am)
12 th – 15 th	KS2 SATs Week
14 th	Year 2 Castles Workshop in the school hall
18 th	First Holy Communion Mass at Our Lady's Church (12.00pm)
19 th	Mass for EYFS and Year 6 at Church (9.30am)
25 th	First Holy Communion Mass at St. Bonaventure's Church (9.00am)
w/c 26 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY

JUNE 2025	
2 nd	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check period begins
2 nd – 6 th	Hinduism Week (as part of our 'Other Faiths Week in RE)
5 th	World Environment Day
5 th	Year 6 Residential Trip Information Meeting (3.30pm)
6 th	80 th Anniversary of D-Day
8 th	Pentecost Sunday
9 th – 13 th	Year 1 Phonics screening take place this week
10 th	'Stay and Play' session for new Reception parents
10 th	Parent-Teacher Consultations (3pm to 6pm)
12 th	Parent-Teacher Consultations (3pm to 6pm)
15 th	Fathers' Day
15 th	First Holy Communion Mass at Our Lady's Church (12.00pm)
18 th	Governor Day at Our Lady's School
22 nd	Windrush Day
22 nd – 25 th	Year 6 Residential Trip to Marchant's Hill
23 rd	Mass for Year 4 and Year 5 at Church (9.30am)
24 th	Festival of Hope at Westminster Cathedral (Chaplaincy team)
25 th	Year 3 Holy Communion Celebration Mass (2pm in the school)
30 th	Mass for Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 at Church (9.30am)

JULY 2025	
3 rd	Community Mass at Nicholas Breakspear School (Year 5)
3 rd	Full Governing Body Meeting (5.00pm)
4 ^{yh}	Community Mass at John Henry Newman School (Year 4)
5 th	Summer Fair
7 th	Year 6 Dress Rehearsal (1.45pm)
8 th	Year 6 School Performance (1.45pm)
9 th	Year 6 School Performance (6.00pm)
10 th	Transition Morning (children meet new teachers for next year)
10 th	Year 6 Transition Day across Herts
11 th	Whole School Sports Day
14 th	EYFS Graduation (11.00am)
15 th	Year 6 Leavers' Mass (2pm)
16 th	Summer Piano Concert (2pm)
17 th	Reserve Sports Day
18 th	End of Year Assembly (9.30am)
18 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