



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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*Headteacher: Mr. R. Curry*

28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

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 wonderful little school. We now look ahead to the summer term (with lots of bright sunshine!) as we continue our onward journey as one community, working together to provide the very best outcomes for our children.

## **Holy Week 2024:**



As a Catholic community, we find ourselves in the holiest week of the year: Holy Week. During this week, we remember the last week of Jesus' life, leading up to his Crucifixion on Good Friday and the huge celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. I have found it particularly rewarding being able to celebrate Holy Week together as a school community. Lenten preparations began at the school with our very successful morning reflections, which have been incredibly well attended throughout the term. I would just like to thank all of those who attended these reflections in order to strengthen their relationship with

God in this busy Lenten period of preparation - as we prepare for the resurrection of His son.

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 school - including leading our Ash Wednesday service. Fr. Norbert's commitment to embedding the Catholic ethos and identity of our school is such a strength and an essential component of our Faith journey.



*We Learn to Love and Love to Learn with Jesus*

Yesterday afternoon, our Year 4 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 4!



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:

<b>Good Friday (29<sup>th</sup> March)</b>	10.00am: Stations of the Cross      St. Bonaventure 12.00pm: Children's Stations      Our Lady's  <i>Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion:</i> 3.00pm: St. Bonaventure and Holy Family 7.00pm: Our Lady's
<b>Holy Saturday (30<sup>th</sup> March)</b>	9.30am: Morning Prayer at St. Bonaventure 10.00am: Confessions at St. Bonaventure 4.00pm: Polish Blessing of Food at Our Lady's 8.00pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at Our Lady's
<b>Easter Sunday (31<sup>st</sup> March)</b>	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

### **Food Bank:**



At Our Lady Catholic Primary School, we strongly believe that our community is at the very heart of all that we do. In response to the difficult and challenging times that many are facing, we have decided to open our very own food bank within our school. Our aim is to provide food, toiletries, cleaning products, uniform and books for the children and families who may be struggling within our community.

Our Food Bank will be available to anyone who needs it and any requests for help will be treated with respect and discretion. The Food Bank, which will be based in our school hall, will be open at certain points during the school day. The presence of the Food Bank at our school will allow us to focus on what is important to us as a community. More information will be shared in the summer term.

### **Spring Term Reports:**



Your child's report for the spring term has been emailed out to you this morning. Please do share and celebrate their achievements with them – they have all been working so hard throughout this busy term. All classes will also be offered a parent-teacher meeting in the summer term. Please feel free to send back any comments via email as we really appreciate your feedback!

### **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 we remain forever indebted to our very generous school community – especially in these challenging financial times. We have collected the following in recent months:

- Our Christian Aid collection raised a total of £333 (in September 2023).
- As part of our Harvest celebrations, we had numerous food items and toiletries donated for our local food bank (in October 2023).
- Anti-Bullying Day ('Odd Sock Day') raised £90.00 (November 2023).
- £449 was raised for Children in Need (in November 2023).
- As part of our homeless shelter project, over Advent, the children donated a number of essential items (December 2023).
- £110 was raised for 'Save the Children' on Christmas Jumper Day (December 2023).
- Year 6 fundraiser (Mercy Ships) raised £301 (December 2023).
- £185 was raised for Children's Mental Health Week (February 2024).
- £207 was raised for Red Nose Day (March 2024)

We are ever so grateful to our families for coming together to support all these worthwhile charities. Thank you!

## 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 term. 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!

## School Performance:



We are delighted to announce that this summer's School Production will be taking place for parents and carers on both **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July** at 1.45pm and **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** at 6.00pm. 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 next term.

## Parent Teacher Consultations:



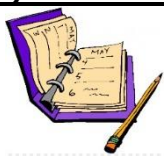
Another important date to put in your diaries is the summer term Parent-Teacher Consultations, which will be taking place on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** from 3pm to 6pm. These meetings will provide parents and carers with the chance to find out how their child is getting 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.

## Summer Piano Concert:



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 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

### Key Dates for the Calendar:



Please find a list of all other key dates for the summer term attached to the email. I hope you will find these useful. Further information about the school will also be uploaded onto our school website throughout the term.

### 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.

<b>EYFS</b>	Arabella, Albie and Freddie
<b>Year 1</b>	Aiyana and Aiden
<b>Year 2</b>	Marley
<b>Year 3</b>	Cara, Preslava, Ralitsa, Adam, Manuel and Henry
<b>Year 4</b>	
<b>Year 5</b>	Jack
<b>Year 6</b>	Nathan

### And Finally...



I would also like to thank our children for their continued hard work during this spring term. Each child has contributed to the school's continuing journey of improvement and they should feel very proud of what they have achieved. They can look forward now to a well-deserved rest over the Easter holidays so that they can return refreshed and recharged for the onset of the summer term.

I am sure that you would also like to join with me in thanking all of the staff for their continued hard work and commitment to the children of this school. Our dedicated team put so much into making this school what it is – and work hard to provide the very best educational experiences for each and every child in the school community! Thank you!

Finally, I would also like to thank our fantastically supportive parents and carers. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful parent community and it is by working together that we will be able to 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. You should all feel very proud of your children – we certainly are!

May this Easter season be one of great blessings and graces for the community of Our Lady's 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. Remember that our new term begins on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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