



# 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  
*Deputy Headteacher:* Mr. D. Abrahams

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all in good health. I am writing to you after what has been a very successful re-opening of the school over the course of the past week. It was fantastic to welcome all of the children back last Thursday morning after two very successful and productive INSET days with our staff team. 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 and something that we all needed after the challenges of the past few months.

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who have followed our new morning and afternoon procedures very carefully, in order to promote effective social distancing within our class group bubbles. Your support with regards to this has been greatly appreciated by the staff team. We hope, as each day passes, that the new routines will become even more smoother and slicker as we work towards what has become our 'new normal'.

Despite the challenges, our vision at the school remains the same - 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 that they leave at the end of Year 6 feeling extremely confident, responsible and competent members of our 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, which is something that we will continue to promote through our virtual online assemblies this term.

In this letter, I hope to share with you some key information about the new term, which I hope you find useful.

## **Beginning of Term Reflections with Fr. Norbert:**



As we are currently unable to celebrate a whole school mass in the current climate, Fr. Norbert will be coming into our school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September to lead each class in a special reflection to mark the start of the new school year. The reflection (which will be based on the story of Jesus calming the storm at sea) will provide the children with the opportunity of thinking carefully about how they can help themselves and others – both at home and at school. More than ever, the importance of making time for God will be a key component in our faith-driven curriculum.

### **Our School Community:**



Over the course of the next two weeks, we are eagerly looking forward to welcoming all of our Nursery and Reception children into school. We look forward to helping all of our new children settle into life at the school 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.

### **Curriculum Information:**



This year, we have been thinking about what a curriculum might look like for children in this next phase of school and have used some guidance from a researcher of education for children with complex learning needs and difficulties to help us with this. We will be implementing for this period and into next term a “recovery curriculum” which acknowledges that there have been big losses to children as they have stayed at home and that these losses can contribute to pupil’s mental health with anxiety, trauma and bereavement playing a large role. Children will perhaps have experienced these aspects all at once and in a sudden and unplanned fashion which might leave them feeling vulnerable. Equally whether we have intended to or not, children will have been exposed to adults who are anxious and may not be acting in their normal way or maintaining the normal routines which they are used to. We have therefore been working hard to make improvements to our school curriculum to make sure that your children receive a high-quality education that puts them on a path to future success. Curriculum overviews of the topics that your child will be studying will be sent out to parents in the next week or so and will also shortly be available on the school website. You can be assured that, at Our Lady Catholic Primary school, we will strive to create the best education for your children whilst they are members of our school family.

### **Home-School Agreement 2020/21:**



At Our Lady Catholic Primary School, we have been working hard on strengthening the partnership that we have 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 2020/21 (which is attached to the email). Due to the guidance set out by the government in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, we will not be providing paper copies for you to sign and return. The aim of the agreement remains the same - to provide us all with an agreed framework through which your child can fulfil their full potential while at our school. 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.

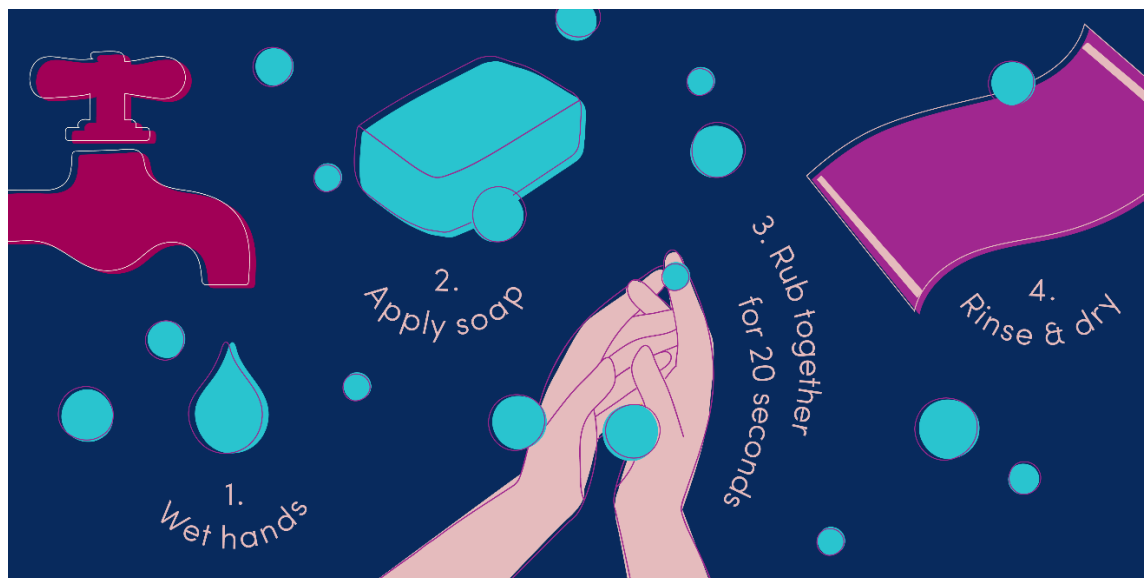
I ask that you carefully read through the Home School Agreement with your child and agree to the aims and objectives - so that we are all working in partnership to improve standards within an environment of trust. As always, a copy of the Home-School Agreement can be also downloaded from our school website.

### **Class Code of Conduct, Behaviour Contracts and Hygiene Charters:**



During the course of this first full week back at school, the children have been working with the staff to create a class code of conduct. They have also signed a class behaviour contract, which confirms that each child has agreed to follow the rules and guidelines set out in the class code. In addition to this, each class has also developed their own ‘Hygiene Charter’, in which they have identified the ways in which they can keep both themselves and others as safe as can be by following government guidance. These include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially during ‘key points’ in the school day (e.g. on entering the school building at the start of the day, before and after break and lunchtimes, at the end of the day, etc). It is also important to wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact and keeping a safe distance from other children and adults (as much as possible).
- Always covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Disposing of any used tissues in the rubbish bins in the classroom and around the school.



*Four steps for effective hand washing*

The Code of Conduct, Behaviour Contract and Hygiene charter will be displayed prominently in each classroom.

### **Procedures in place to prevent the spread of the virus:**



The leadership team have been working on devising a comprehensive plan to manage a safe re-opening of the school and how the school will function on your child's return. As part of this, we are following government guidance on what to do if any of our children (or staff) develop any of the recognised symptoms of the virus. Please take the time to read the following information very carefully.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms:**

- If your child develops symptoms of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia) please do not send them into school. Telephone the school office (as per your usual absence procedures) to let them know that your child will not be in school that day.
- If your child develops symptoms at school, they will be separated from the other children and will be sent home.
- If your child (or anyone in your household) develops symptoms, they must arrange a test as soon as possible and isolate at home for 10 days from the date of the onset of the symptoms (or until they receive a negative result).
- Everyone else in the household who does not have symptoms must isolate at home for 14 days (or until the symptomatic household member receives a negative result). You can arrange for a coronavirus test for anyone in your household with symptoms either online

via [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call NHS testing line on 119. The test must be done within five days of when symptoms start.

***If the result of the test is negative:***

- If your child's test is negative, he or she can return to school once they are feeling well (unless they are a contact of a case, when they will need to complete 14 days self-isolation).
- If your child is identified as having been in contact with a confirmed case, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they have had a negative test result.

***If the result of the test is positive:***

- You should inform the school or childcare setting as soon as possible even if outside opening hours. The child's close contacts within the school will also be advised to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Ensure the child who has tested positive completes the 10 day isolation period (from date of onset of symptoms) Household members without symptoms should also complete 14 days isolation.

**Communication with the school will be key in the coming months – so please make sure that the school office have the most up-to-date contact details for key family members.** Thank you for your support with regards to this.

**Key Dates for the Calendar:**



A list of key dates for the autumn term has been included in this letter for your reference. However, with social distancing still in place and schools being discouraged from inviting visitors into the school, a number of events will be provisional and possibly subject to change. Once again, we thank you for your understanding. Further information about the school will also be uploaded onto our school website and in our newsletters throughout the term. I have also attached a copy of our term dates for the academic year ahead for your reference. I hope you find these useful.

Despite the challenges that may lay ahead of us all, I, and all the staff at Our Lady's, 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.

As ever (and, in fact, more than ever) we thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,

Richard Curry

*Headteacher*