



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Holidays:

On behalf of the staff and governors at Our Lady Catholic Primary School, I would like to wish all pupils and parents a very happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year. As we approach the end of what has been a very busy but productive autumn term, the whole school community is looking forward to a well-earned rest.

Christmas Services in Welwyn Garden City:



As we approach the fourth Sunday of Advent, it is inevitable that our minds may start to drift away from the hard work of our day to day school business, to the festive period itself. The prospect of Christmas cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing seasonal weather. I do hope that, as parents, you will encourage your child to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass during the Christmas holidays. It is our duty to proclaim and celebrate the birth of Christ and to ensure that the real message of Christmas is at the forefront of our hearts. Here is a list of the services in Welwyn Garden City over the Christmas week:

Sunday 21st December:

- 9.00am - St. Bonaventure Mass
- 10.30am - Holy Family Mass
- 12.00pm - Our Lady Mass
- 6.00pm - Holy Family Mass

Wednesday 24th December:

- 9.30am - Holy Family Mass
- 5.00pm - Our Lady Children's Christmas Mass
- 6.00pm - St. Bonaventure Christmas Mass
- 8.00pm - Holy Family Christmas Mass
- 9.00pm - Our Lady Christmas Mass

Thursday 25th December:

- 9.00am - St. Bonaventure Christmas Morning Mass
- 10.00am - Holy Family Christmas Morning Mass
- 11.00am - Our Lady Christmas Morning Mass

Marking Advent:

Advent began on 1st December and it marked the beginning of a season of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As each week passed throughout Advent, it seemed that the busyness of life began to step up a gear, so we were pleased to mark this important season in the liturgical calendar at our school in a number of different ways, which allowed us all to reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent Reflections:

Children, staff and parents were invited to join us each Monday morning throughout Advent in which we were able to quietly reflect on the messages of Advent and prepare ourselves for Jesus' impending birth. Thank you to everyone who attended these sessions, in which the increasing light of the lit candles signified the light of Christ getting closer and closer each day.



Thank you to all of the children, staff and parents who joined us each week for our reflection

Advent Mass:

On Monday 1st December, we celebrated our special Advent Mass in the school with Canon Norbert. Parishioners were also invited to attend this mass so our special celebration was a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish communities to join together to mark the start of this important season. The children read and sang beautifully throughout the service.



Canon Norbert celebrated our Advent Mass in the school hall. It was a beautiful service

The Nativity Story:

On the 10th and 11th December, our EYFS children presented their version of the Nativity Story to our school community and it was such a joyful and beautiful occasion – and one that the children really enjoyed participating in. It provided us all with the opportunity of reflecting on the true meaning of the Christmas Story through the children's actions, songs and narration. The children's reverence was truly humbling and the singing was equally as wonderful. It was great to see so many parents and carers in the audience and we truly hope you enjoyed every moment! Well done to the children and the staff team for putting on such a great show!



We were blown away by the quality of the singing and dancing by our EYFS children

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 that is very special about our school and it was incredibly pleasing to see the £407 that was raised for Children In Need in November. The community also drew together to raise a further £106 on 'Odd Socks Day' on 10th November (for the Anti-Bullying Alliance), £560 for Young Minds (thanks to Year 5's fabulous sponsored walk on 26th November), £126 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day, £458 at the Year 6 Christmas Fair (which was raising money to buy Chrome books for the school) and a further £280 for our EYFS department at the Christmas Nativity. Thank you one and all for your generosity. It is truly appreciated!



Mini Vinnie's Food Bank Project:

It was such a pleasure to see our team of Mini Vinnies, once again, leading the way in our support for the local New Zion Food Bank in Welwyn Garden City this December. The children were instrumental in asking our families for donations of key items, including toiletries and non-perishable food items, to support the most vulnerable members of our local community. This enterprise proved to be another wonderful opportunity for the children in our school to live out their faith by providing them with 'real life' experiences of following the teachings of Christ – especially in this cold, winter season. I cannot express my gratitude to Ian Matthews and his colleagues at the New Zion Food Bank for allowing our children to shine in the way that they do!

Christmas Carols in the Community:

I would also like to mention our fantastic Year 4 and Year 6 children, who visited the Adult Care Centre at Ludwick Way and Oakview Lodge (our local residential home for the elderly) to sing Christmas Carols to the residents on Monday. This small act helped to not only spread a little cheer and good will in this festive period but also helped to promote the role of our school within our local community. The children made a very big difference to the lives of the residents at both centres. Thank you!



Our pupils were a credit to the school at the Care Centre in Ludwick Way and Oakview Lodge

Getting in the Christmas Spirit:

We celebrated Christmas a little early at Our Lady's this year. On Monday 8th December, the whole school were treated to a festive pantomime in our school hall. The children (and adults) got into the Christmas panto spirit by watching a hilarious performance of Beauty and the Beast (oh yes they did.....sorry, I couldn't resist!) The show had the audience laughing out loud – and it brought such joy to our school community in the penultimate week of term.



Christmas Fair:

On Thursday 11th December, Year 6 ran their annual Christmas Fair after school. The Year 6 children worked so hard making all of the items to sell at the fair in order to raise money to buy Chromebooks for the school. I am delighted to announce that they raised a whopping £458 for their endeavours and deserve a HUGE pat on the back. Well done!



Christmas Carol Concert:

On Wednesday 17th December, the whole school, performed our annual Christmas Carol Concert to the school and parish community. The story of Jesus' birth was told through a mixture of traditional Christmas Carols, some more modern festive classics and some beautiful reflective readings and prayers. It provided an opportunity for parents, carers, friends and family to come together during Advent to prepare themselves for Christmas and to share in the joys and happiness that this time of year brings. Well done, children!



All classes performed so beautifully at the church for our annual Christmas Carol Concert

Christmas Dinner:

On Wednesday 17th December, children also enjoyed their special Christmas lunch – roast turkey with all of the festive trimmings. Children loved coming together to share their Christmas meals (or packed lunches) and they had a very merry time together. It really was the most joyful lunch of the year and the smiles were there for all to see!

And then, to top it all off, during the Christmas lunch, we were treated to the arrival of a very special visitor to the school – who came all the way from the North Pole to give each and every child a lovely little gift. It was such a surprise for the children to see Father Christmas himself coming into the lunch hall. We hope this helped to spread a little Christmas cheer to one and all!



Children enjoying their Christmas lunch



A special visitor from the North Pole!

Thank You Children, Staff and Parents:



I would like to thank all our wonderful children for their hard work throughout this term and for being such great ambassadors for our school. It has been a privilege to see our children thriving each day – learning new concepts from an increasingly challenging curriculum and making progress throughout the term. Each and every child has contributed to the school's improvement journey and they should feel very proud of their fine achievements.

I am sure that you would also like to join with me in thanking all of our fantastic staff team for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the children of the school during this term. Our dedicated team have put so much into making this school what it is and for providing the very best education for each and every child in the school community. Thank you for all that you do!

Finally, I would also like to thank our fantastically supportive parents and carers. We are so lucky at Our Lady's to have such a richly diverse community and I have really enjoyed seeing the school's partnership with parents and carers in action over the past term, which has helped to ensure the very best outcomes for our children. By working together, we can 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. We have received so many positive comments about the children's behaviour and attitude from a range of visitors to the school and you should all feel very proud of them!

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 2026	
5 th	First day of term
5 th	Cricket lessons begin for Year 1 to Year 6
6 th	Epiphany Mass at the Church (2.15pm) <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
7 th	MHT Coffee Morning in the school hall (9.00am) <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
7 th	Swimming lessons begin for Year 3
11 th	Mayor's Civic Service at Our Lady's Church (3.00pm)
w/c 12 th	Curriculum information sent out to parents
12 th	Reception Screening Session (9.00am)
12 th	Cricket lessons for all classes (Year 1-6)
18 th	World Religion Day
19 th	Dr Martin Luther King Jr Day
19 th	Cricket lessons for all classes (Year 1-6)
20 th	'Mini Police' programme starts in Year 5 (2.00pm)
21 st	Year 5 Tudor workshop (in school)
23 rd	Swallow Dell v Our Lady's football match (3.30pm)
26 th	Cricket lessons for all classes (Year 1-6)
26 th	Year 1 History of Toys Workshop (in school hall)
27 th	Holocaust Memorial Day
27 th	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
28 th	Year 1 Class Assembly at 2.45pm <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
30 th	PTA Quiz Night (7pm)

FEBRUARY 2026	
2 nd	Candlemas
2 nd	Year 3 Trip the Roald Dahl Museum
2 nd	Cricket lessons for all classes (Year 1-6)
3 rd	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
4 th	Year 2 Class Assembly at 2.45pm <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
w/c 9 th	Children's Mental Health Week
9 th	Cricket lessons for all classes (Year 1-6)
10 th	Safer Internet Day
10 th	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
11 th	Year 3 Class Assembly at 2.45pm (Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day) <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
14 th	Valentine's Day
w/c 16 th	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
18 th	ASH WEDNESDAY – Start of Lent
23 rd	INSET DAY – School closed for children
w/c 23 rd	Other Faiths Week in RE - Islam
24 th	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
25 th	Lenten Reflections begin in hall at 8.40am <i>Parents invited to attend each Monday, Wednesday and Friday throughout Lent</i>
25 th	Swimming lessons begin for Year 2

MARCH 2026	
1 st	Women's History Month begins
1 st	St. David's Day
2 nd	National Offer Day for Secondary Schools
3 rd	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
4 th	Year 4 Class Assembly at 2.45pm <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
5 th	World Book Day
8 th	International Women's Day
9 th	Reception Screening Session (9.30am)
10 th	Year 6 trip to the RAF Museum in Hendon
10 th	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
11 th	Year 6 Class Assembly at 2.45pm <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
15 th	Mothering Sunday
17 th	St. Patrick's Day
17 th	'Mini Police' programme in Year 5 (2.00pm)
18 th & 19 th	Whole School Art and DT Exhibition (3.15pm) <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
21 st	World Poetry Day
21 st	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 nd	World Water Day
25 th	Year 5 Stations of the Cross at 2.15pm (in school hall) <i>Parents are invited to attend</i>
26 th	Reports emailed to parents
27 th	END OF TERM (School closes at 1.00pm)

APRIL 2026	
3 rd	GOOD FRIDAY
5 th	EASTER SUNDAY
13 th	FIRST DAY OF THE SUMMER TERM

Christmas Reflection:

To finish, we should reflect on the true magnitude of Christ's birth. Let us remind ourselves that this is the one time of year when it is commonplace to find the spirit of human kindness alive and well. Let us embrace this by ensuring that we enjoy ourselves safely but also take time to look out for those nearest and dearest to us and those less fortunate than ourselves. The true joy of Christmas is the love of Christ, shared with family and friends. May you find His peace, love and joy in the coming new year.

Please remember that our new term begins on **Monday 5th January** and we look forward to seeing all of our children return refreshed and eager to learn in the new calendar year. Merry Christmas to you all!

With very best wishes for the festive period,

Richard Curry