



### Year R

#### Reading mornings

This half term parents have been coming in to share a story with their child at the beginning of the school day. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore books in this way and it has really helped to foster their early love of reading. Thanks to everyone who is contributing to the success of these events.



## RE update

We began November by having a very poignant remembrance service to mark 100 years since the First World War. We are grateful to everyone who contributed photos and prayers for the outdoor display, it was really lovely.



At this time we are preparing for Advent in school. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding an in school Advent Service from 9-9.30am. Parents are very welcome to attend.



## Reconciliation

Advent is a time for preparation, self reflection and reconciliation. In order to facilitate this in school, the theme for assembly on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December will be reconciliation. Following the assembly, the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity for their confession to be heard in school on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December by Fr Tom, Fr Euloge or Fr Andrew. Parents are welcome to attend either, or both, events. If you have a child in Years 4, 5 or 6 who is Catholic and you do not wish for them to participate in confession, please advise the school office in advance.

### Saint Oscar Romero

In assemblies the children have been learning about the life and work of Saint Oscar Romero. To celebrate his recent canonisation, the children have been asked to design a Romero cross for homework. Please spend time with your child on this task. Resources can be accessed via the CAFOD website at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Pri mary-teaching-resources/Romero>



# Our Lady Catholic Primary School

Issue

2



## A Catholic Academy

### Year 6 trip to RAF Hendon

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 6 pupils made an off site visit to RAF Hendon. The trip linked to in class work on World War Two and was hugely successful. Thanks to Mrs Barrett, Mrs Kinsella, Mrs Clarke and Mr Heath for making this trip possible. Educational trips provide excellent opportunity for enrichment of the curriculum and it is wonderful all the children could attend and experience the memorabilia first hand.



Thanks also to Miss Shannon for leading an information session for the Year 6 pupils last week on rationing during the war.

### Class assemblies

Well done to the children from Years 1, 2 and R for leading their class assemblies this month. We are extremely proud of the children and how much progress they have made in the first ten weeks of term. The feedback from parents to staff following assemblies was gratefully received.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 1 children enjoyed a Toy workshop led by staff from North Herts Museums in Hitchin. The children had the opportunity to play with traditional toys and games from days gone by.

### Developments this half term

**Following the feedback from the Local Authority at our recent visit, previously communicated via e mail, you will note staff were congratulated on the rapid improvements made this half term.**

**Particular areas of strength from scrutiny of pupil books and discussions included:**

- *In Years 1 and 2, strong progress is evident. For example, pupils are quickly learning how to use capital letters and full stops correctly and make good attempts to write at length. Books are consistently well-presented, showing that pupils are taking pride in their work.*
- *Throughout KS2 pupils are making good progress. Pupils are working productively and are producing a range of writing such as narrative pieces and poetry. The application of the new marking and feedback policy is developing well, although it is too early yet to evaluate its long term impact.*
- *Overall, current books show that disadvantaged pupils are making strong progress. Such pupils take a pride in their work and work hard to comply with teachers' expectations, such as in the correction of spelling and presentation*
- *Provision in the early years has improved considerably. As a result of recent investment and strong leadership the environment has seen a complete overhaul. Teaching and learning is stimulating and engaging and pupils thrive across all areas of learning*

**These comments reflect an accurate picture of the changes staff have worked relentlessly to bring about since September. We hope that you will join us for a celebration of the work from this term at our 'Show and Share' morning/afternoon on 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Early in the new year we will be running workshops for parents on our new feedback and marking system, further details in due course.**