

Our Lady Catholic Primary School

A Catholic Academy



October 2021

NEWS from Mrs. Snowball

We are half way through the Autumn term and what a busy start to the new academic year it has been. The highlights for this half term have to be welcoming family and friends back into school. The Year 3, 5 and 6 class assemblies have brought smiles to everyone's faces. It was lovely to see the school hall packed out with parents (socially distanced of course!). Teachers have met with all the parents without the use of a zoom and this week marked the first Mass of the academic year led by Fr Tom and the Chaplaincy team. Again, it was wonderful to share this special event with family and friends.

Well done to all of our Mission Winners from this half term:

Year R: Isla & Leonardo

Year 2: Sammy & Annabelle

Year 4: Riley & Caitlin

Year 6: Oisin & Amber

Year 1: Michelle & Cassius

Year 3: Frankie & Eoin

Year 5: Dominic & Madeline

Staff winners: Mrs Kinsella, Miss Neal & Mr Nicholson

House points: As it stands so far...

Fisher - 901

More – 836

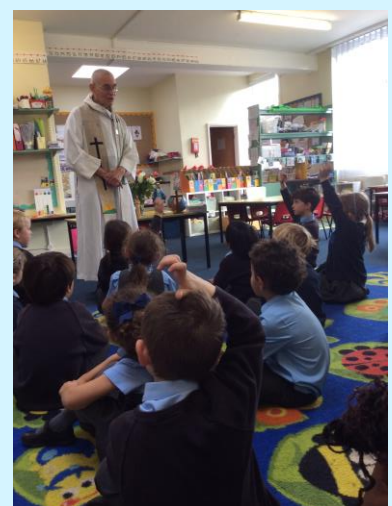
Campion – 689

Alban – 605

Well done to everyone who has earned house points this half term. Keep working hard!

Our Lady Mass

Thank you to Fr Tom and the Chaplaincy Team for leading our Mass dedicated to Our Lady. During this month of October we honour the Holy Mother, Mary and give thanks for all she gave to the Church. We reflect on all we can learn from Mary in how caring and giving she was to others.



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Rosary assemblies

Throughout the month of October, all the children have been praying the Rosary in our weekly assembly. We have been reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries and the children have been learning about these special events in Jesus and Mary's life.



Key dates for parents for the half term ahead

WC 25th October – Half term

Friday 5th November – Year 2 assembly

Monday 8th November – Remembrance service

Thursday 11th November – OLS Poppy field display

Thursday 11th November – Admissions evening

Friday 12th November – Year Reception/1 assembly

Friday 12th November - Y4 Cake sale

Saturday 13th & 20th November – Stay and Play session for perspective Reception children

Friday 19th November – Year 4 class assembly

WC 22nd November – Enterprise week

Monday 29th November – Advent service

Friday 3rd December – Occasional day (School closed to pupils)

Tuesday 14th December – Early Years and Key Stage 1 Nativity

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas jumper day & Christmas dinner day

Tuesday 21st December – Awards assembly

Tuesday 21st December – End of term. School finishes at 1:30pm

Charity work

Harvest collection

Thank you for the generous donations towards our Harvest collection. The Hitchin food bank were extremely grateful.



Go Green Day

The children looked fantastic in green as they raised awareness for CAFOD's 'save the rainforest' campaign. We raised a total of £159

Staff Challenge

We are 22 days into the staff challenge and so far a total distance of 428km has been covered. That means the staff are nearly in Paris...still quite a distance to go!

Thank you for all of the generous sponsorships. So far we have raised £650



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School Improvement Priorities

Following a very successful year for the school in 2020-21, the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team met in September regarding school improvement priorities for the year ahead. It was excellent that all stakeholders could be represented through parent and staff governors, foundation governors, and members of the school leadership team. External reviews, progress against priorities from last year, and new and emerging developments, all formed a part of the discussion and shaped thinking for the year ahead.

The agreed overarching priorities will be:

- To embed a whole school approach to the implementation of the curriculum.
- To develop existing practice within Maths to include more emphasis on teaching for fluency and mastery.
- To further develop the role of mental health lead and ensure all staff are skilled in supporting children with social or emotional barriers to learning.

As a school we want a renewed focus the implementation of our curriculum within live lessons ensuring classroom practitioners (teachers and TAs) deepen knowledge sufficiently within each subject. Our key aim is to commit learning to long term memory and embed knowledge and skills so that they are deeply consolidated for the child. We will have this focus within every subject and lesson.

An outcome of the COVID disruption and remote learning has meant that too often children have not had the opportunity to apply learning and deepen knowledge to the extent they would've had without the disruption; therefore, we want to ensure that we prioritise providing opportunities for committing learning to long term memory this academic year. We aim to teach to a mastery level.

In relation to mental health we want our children to be confident, resilient and happy individuals. We aim to promote positive mental health, as a whole school focus, and promise to have some exciting projects ahead. It may be time for another dance!

Wishing you all an enjoyable half term.

Mrs Nicholson